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**A REMEDY FOR “TAKE TWO VERSES
AND CALL ME IN THE MORNING”
Counselor’s New Book, *CrossTalk*, Helps People
Apply Scripture to Real Life Problems**

Counselor Michael Emlet is well aware that Christians struggle with real life problems. And he believes the Bible offers divine wisdom for life’s challenges. But Emlet discovered that effectively applying (ancient) scripture to (modern) life is challenging, sometimes resulting in simplistic prescriptions, which resemble: “Take two verses and call me in the morning.” Because he and others needed a tool to help bridge the gap between biblical text and contemporary life, Emlet has penned ***CrossTalk: Where Life & Scripture Meet*** (November 2009, New Growth Press). Emlet’s new volume is designed to help pastors and lay Christians who disciple, mentor, and counsel within their circle of influence. Ultimately the book targets all Christians who are serious about applying Scripture to the realities of life.

CrossTalk provides a unique perspective, combining a concern for individual human stories with a focus on God’s much larger story of redemption. “***CrossTalk’s*** approach to reading the Bible and ‘reading’ people is designed to promote gospel-centered, context-specific use of Scripture in ministry to others,” Emlet explains. He reveals how the new book sprang out of two separate streams: his counseling experience and his teaching of a masters-level course in biblical interpretation. “The complex tapestries of people’s struggles, sufferings, sin, triumphs and joys that I encounter in the course of my counseling, and the unfolding story of God’s redemption, meet head-on in the pages of this book.”

As a faculty member and counselor at the Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation, Dr. Emlet spends his days at the intersection of theology and real life. ***CrossTalk*** benefits from Emlet’s expertise as he provides not only specific guidelines for using Scripture in ministry, but also illustrates how it might look, by providing examples (case studies) of Scripture effectively applied to life struggles. Emlet summarizes: “***CrossTalk*** is not a comprehensive approach to biblical interpretation, nor is it a comprehensive approach to discipleship, counseling or pastoral care. Consider this book a hybrid of sorts, a resource to help you understand both people and the Bible more thoroughly. Both are necessary for effective ministry.”

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CrossTalk has received early praise from a number of respected pastors, counselors and theologians. Dr. Tim Clinton (president of the American Association of Christian Counselors), Mark Driscoll (pastor and author), Tremper Longman (professor and author) and David Powlison (CCEF faculty and author) all agree that Emllet's first book is a valuable resource. Reverend Sinclair Ferguson summarizes what many have shared, "If you want to see how the gospel works in your life, transforming you by the renewing of the mind (the principle on which Jesus and the apostles 'fixed' broken lives) then here is a very good place to begin. Rather than offering a prescription 'to get you through the next few weeks,' Dr Emllet writes one that transforms deeply and lasts a whole lifetime."

Michael R. Emllet, M.Div., M.D., practiced as a family physician for twelve years before becoming a counselor and faculty member at the Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation (CCEF). He is a Lecturer in Practical Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary (Philadelphia). He has written numerous published articles and is the author of several CCEF booklets including *Asperger Syndrome*, *Angry Children: Understanding and Helping Your Child Regain Control*, *Help for the Caregiver: Facing the Challenges with Understanding and Strength*, and *OCD: Freedom for the Obsessive Compulsive*.

New Growth Press is committed to publishing materials that apply the truths of the gospel to the details of people's lives, so they grow in their love for God, their love for others, and their ability to bring hope and healing to our broken world. New Growth Press is the official publisher for the Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation.

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CrossTalk: Where Life & Scripture Meet

By Michael R. Emllet

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