



*by this*

# NAME

John R. Cross

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# By this Name

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This book is an adaptation of *THE STRANGER ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS*—it “stands on the shoulders” of that product. All those who helped me with *THE STRANGER* are really part of *BY THIS NAME*—the artists: Matthew Almy, Adah Biggs, Don Dolton and Ian Mastin; the staff at *GOODSEED* and many, many more. Once again, thanks so much. In addition, I want to express my appreciation to Mitch Kary, Jim McCulley and Scott McGhee for their part in creating the cover.

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Last, but not least, I wish to thank my wife, my faithful companion for more than three decades. She has worked tirelessly, a full member of the team. Her support and understanding have been limitless.

To my wife, Janice E. Cross, I dedicate this book.

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To maintain ease in reading and to remain consistent with the Bible text chosen, in most cases I have used small initial letters for pronouns and certain nouns that relate to God. In areas where there might be confusion about who is being referred to, I have used capital letters consistent with traditional grammar rules.

All Bible portions are italicized and indented. Where Scripture text is boldfaced, an emphasis has been added. Square brackets in the Scripture text indicate additions for explanatory purposes.

*BY THIS NAME* introduces the reader to nine different translations of the Bible. None of the translations differ in content communicated or affect the accompanying commentary.

# PREFACE

We live in a world of many different belief systems. Whether you call them *religions, faiths, or cults*, what people believe cannot be ignored. History is strewn with wars and scrapping over religion. In the past these battles were fought on a local level. Now, with the advent of the global village, people of very different beliefs are being pressed up against each other, and the potential for major conflict is enormous.

It is important to know what our neighbours believe and why they believe it. Though we may never agree with them, when we know what others believe, we can disagree without being disagreeable.

*BY THIS NAME* is about "The Holy Bible." If you are one of those who seriously wants to understand the central message of the Bible, then this book is for you.

In communicating the Bible's message, I've tried to be as objective as possible. That is not easy. By its very nature, the Bible demands a response. Nonetheless, I've sought to explain the Bible clearly, allowing it to speak for itself, but letting you draw your own conclusions. What you believe is up to you.

Some may accuse me of losing objectivity because I've communicated the Bible as fact. I've felt that it was a risk I must take as the Bible presents itself that way. To do otherwise would not be true to the text. The Bible is quite direct in what it has to say, and I was determined to avoid watering down its message or resorting to vagueness.

So read on. There is a reason for the Bible being the all-time best seller. It's a fascinating story, a story you really must know for yourself.



The Holy Bible says:

*... "Come!" And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wants it take the water of life free of charge.*

*Revelation 22:17 NET*