

# Short & Sweet: Cross Guard, by Mary Kane



Nourishment and  
Refreshment for your  
soul.

*34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"*

*37 And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last.*

*38 Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. 39 So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!" Mark 15:34, 37-39*

When I was in elementary school, I attended a neighborhood parochial school a couple of blocks from my house. Back in the halcyon days of my childhood, we played for hours outside with the kids on our block, we set up lemonade stands, we came home for dinner when the church bells rang, and we walked to school by ourselves. At the corner of Brookfield and State Street, was a **Cross Guard**. The **Cross Guard**, who wore a bright orange belt across his chest, manned his post in the morning, at lunch time, (yes, we did walk home for lunch) and in the afternoon. His job was to safely conduct us across the street. He took his job very seriously and could REPORT us if we didn't obey his every command.

When I reached 5th grade, I too became a **Cross Guard**. One time, while on duty, I was caught goofing around. My indiscretion earned a lecture from my father. Thankfully, he gave me a second chance.

In the Bible, another kind of **Cross Guard** is mentioned, the centurion. He stood watch at the foot of the cross. The **Cross Guard** had one job – to watch the cross. As the **Cross Guard** watched the cross and the Son of God as He poured out His life's blood, he could only say one thing: "Truly this man was the Son of God.

We are now the **Cross Guards** of the 21st Century. Like the **Cross Guard** of my childhood, we must take our job very seriously (we don't want a lecture from our Father); it is a matter of life and death. We stand at the foot of the cross and call out to all who will listen, "Truly this Man is the Son of God." By our witness, may we safely conduct many to a saving faith in Christ.

Action Points:

1. How are you witnessing for Jesus Christ?
2. How do you guard the message of the cross in your life?
3. Who needs you to be a **Cross Guard** so they can safely find Jesus?

Life is sweet.

*Mary Kane*