

Rooted at the Cross

Lenten 2026

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3, NKJV).

Theological education, at its most essential core, seeks the integral formation of ministerial leaders, guided by a solid biblical foundation, contextual relevance, and the Spirit’s direction for the transformation of lives and realities through the power of God. However, amid the whirlwind of our times, between teaching responsibilities, the demands of academic administration, and the multiplicity of ministerial obligations, there is a risk of falling into inertia that dilutes the message of the cross and minimizes the power of the resurrection.

Jesus’ ministry was profoundly marked by the cross. A journey through the New Testament narratives reveals numerous references to the crucifixion and the suffering He would endure. Within this lies a deep and challenging invitation: leadership aligned with the message of the cross highlights the importance of self-denial, self-emptying, loving surrender, relational horizontality, and human sensitivity.

To form and influence others, it is necessary to embrace this unpopular model, which dismantles prevailing notions of power and removes us from the pedestal, bringing us face-to-face with those who suffer, standing in the equality that comes from recognizing our own processes and transformations. There, at the cross, emerges the image of a leader who draws near, accompanies, places themselves in the other’s position, identifies with pain, and intercedes before the Father. In that surrender, the deepest meaning of the mission is fulfilled.

Nevertheless, it is essential to remember that the cross cannot be understood apart from the resurrection. To be born again, one must first die. Through the resurrection, Christ’s credibility reaches its fullest expression. His legacy is strengthened, and His word becomes a living hope for restoration and freedom. This hope is not merely eschatological; it also has the power to transform the present. The resurrection marks the beginning of abundant life. To be born again is to begin anew, to receive fresh opportunities, to long for and live what is best, it is the experience that moves us from vulnerability toward transcendence.

Thus, to lead according to Jesus’ proposal means laying down our own motivations and purposes, allowing models and paradigms to be reshaped by the illumination of the Spirit in order to project pathways of mission, transcendence, and hope. We dedicate ourselves to the theological formation of emerging leaders because we believe in a Kingdom where the cross and the resurrection enable us to interpret who we are and what we do.

Blessed God, we pray with gratitude for leaving us, in Your death and resurrection, a meaningful example of ministry. We ask that You help us to be leaders filled with wisdom, humility, and spiritual power so that others may desire to serve You; may our witness radiate hope and proclaim Your power to save and restore. Thank You for the mercy that grants us new opportunities each day. Amen.



Tamar Montilla Olmos is Venezuelan and currently resides in Chile. She serves as Academic Dean of the Baptist Theological Seminary of Chile and as a professor of Bible and pastoral theology courses. In addition, she is part of the pastoral team at the Evangelical Baptist Community Church of Providencia in Santiago, Chile. She has completed studies in special education pedagogy, a master’s degree in human behavior counseling, and a master’s degree in theology, and she is currently pursuing doctoral studies in psychology. Her primary pastoral and theological calling is to support the formation of leaders who provide holistic care to vulnerable children and women.

LENTEN 2026
Theological Reflections

Rooted at the Cross

New Horizons of
Resurrection

Arraigados en la Cruz,
Nuevos Horizontes
de Resurrección



Learn more → aeth.org | [f](#) [@](#) [X](#) [▶](#) [aeth_org](#)

#WeareAETH