

Charlotte Author's New Memoir Tackles Grief and Forgiveness

When Therese Bartholomew's younger brother Steve was shot and killed in Greenville, SC, she wondered how she would survive without him. Bartholomew's powerful new memoir, *Coffee Shop God*, details her struggle to adjust in the weeks and months following her brother's untimely death.

In this collection of essays, Bartholomew questions her spirituality in the midst of bond hearings, debilitating grief, and a new marriage. As she heals, she strives to connect with the family she has left—the mother who always has a joke, the father who cannot show affection, the ex-drug-dealing brother who is now an evangelical Christian, and the talking bird she inherits from her brother—while learning to forgive the young man who killed her brother.

Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, calls *Coffee Shop God* “a moving account of the author's struggle to make sense of life, faith, and humanity after the tragic loss of her brother.” A featured selection in Central Piedmont Community College's ArtsFest 2009, *Coffee Shop God* offers a roadmap to anyone who has experienced loss and gazed uncertainly into the future.

Release Party

**When: Sunday, April 26, 2009
6:30 – 8:30**

**Where: The Evening Muse
3227 N. Davidson St.
Charlotte, NC 28205**

Bartholomew's forthcoming documentary film, *The Final Gift*, explores the life story of her brother's killer and the broader issues of the criminal justice system. For more information on *The Final Gift*, please visit www.thefinalgiftfilm.com.



Therese Bartholomew, a former high school dropout, is now a writer, teacher, speaker and activist for victims and offenders. She holds a MS in criminal justice from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

To schedule an interview or a speaking engagement, please contact Therese at: 704-806-1732 or therese@thefinalgiftfilm.com

Books available for purchase April 26, 2009 at thefinalgiftfilm.com, local booksellers, and Amazon.com.