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## For Immediate Release:

### North Carolina 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.

**What:** Author Event: Book Discussion and Signing  
**Hosted by:** Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation-NC  
**When:** Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 3pm-4:30pm.  
**Where:** The Regulator Bookshop  
720 Ninth St., Durham, NC 27705

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](http://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](mailto:therese@thefinalgiftfilm.com) Books are available for purchase at [thefinalgiftfilm.com](http://thefinalgiftfilm.com) and [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).



Founded in 1976, **Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation (MVFR)** is a national organization of family members of victims of both homicide and executions who oppose the death penalty in all cases. MVFR includes people of many different perspectives. Because violent crime cuts across a broad spectrum of society, our members are geographically, racially, and economically diverse.

[www.MVFR.org](http://www.MVFR.org)