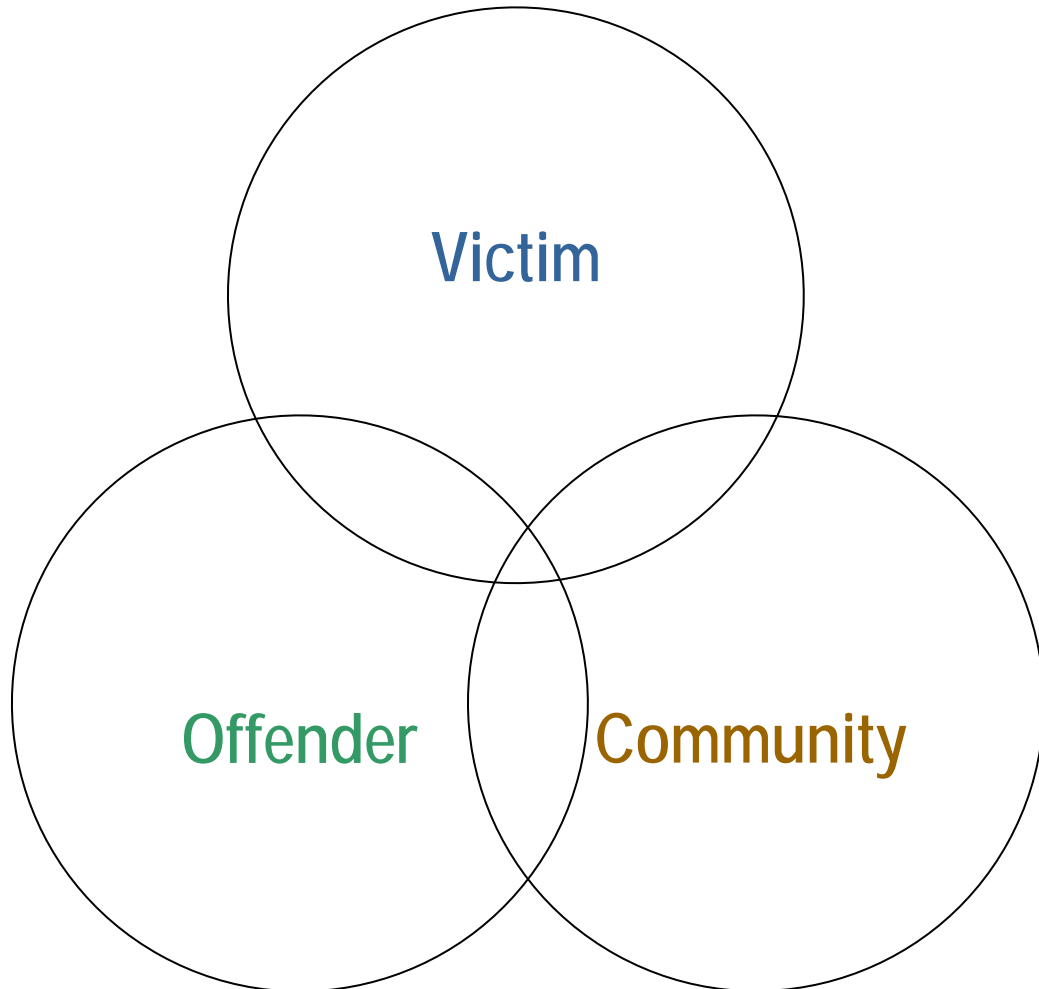


Therese Bartholomew

"In order to address crime, we have to admit and fully understand that crime not only harms the victim, but the offender, and the community as well."



Restorative Justice
a victim perspective



About Therese Bartholomew

It was her brother's 2003 death that drastically changed her path. A former high school dropout and teen mother, Therese is now a writer, filmmaker, and activist for victims and offenders. Bartholomew resides in Charlotte, North Carolina and holds a Masters in criminal justice from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. *"I wanted to genuinely understand crime, those who commit it, and how our system and our*

society respond to it. I saw humanity in the man who killed my brother, and that was unexpected. Over the past few years, I have increasingly become a strong voice for victims, and yes – offenders.

Speaking from her heart and her experience ~

*"Hearing Therese speak at our school and read from her memoir **Coffee Shop God** was simultaneously wonderful and gut-wrenching. A woman of amazing courage, she shared the agonizing story of her brother's senseless death and the compassion that arose in her for his killer. She is a powerful role model for all of us who are caught up in the societal dichotomy of 'good vs. evil.' Her profound message will change anyone who is willing to hear. Our students were deeply affected and wanted to know when she would return to speak again."*

~ Lisa Kendall, Leadership Professor at Johnson & Wales University

"Therese chose to use personal adversity to affect positive change in individuals and in the larger community. Her genuineness cannot be overlooked and will serve as inspiration for those far and near."

~ John P. Comer, NC Coordinator for People of Faith Against the Death Penalty

"Therese's ease of relating to our clients with such plain-spun honesty, undeniable zeal for life, humor and creativity - in total - delivered such a powerful, meaningful message. Hope is such a valuable commodity, and it's clear that Therese has it in spades."

~ Rick Spreitzer, Clinical Counselor for Anuvia Prevention and Recovery Center

"I'm always trying to improve 'me' and to 'grow' as a human being. Her words opened my eyes to the power of forgiveness and understanding..."

~ Caroline, Event Attendee

Therese Bartholomew

Prior Speaking Engagements and Appearances

Capital Restorative Justice Project, Durham: Restorative Justice: What is it, and why do we need it *now?*

Campbell University Law School: The Aftermath of Murder: Can Justice Heal?

Charlotte School of Law: Restoring Victims, Offenders, and Community

Malaprop's Book Store: Discussion: The Aftermath - Shared Victim Voices, sponsored by MVFR

The Regulator Bookshop: The Victim's Voice Discovered: *Coffee Shop God*, sponsored by MVFR

Raleigh Television Network's *The Artists Craft*: Interview and Conversation: *Coffee Shop God*

Anuvia Prevention and Recovery Center: Grief

Johnston and Wales: *Coffee Shop God* in Discussion

Myers Park Presbyterian Church: Faith and the Criminal Justice System

Florence Crittenton Services: Power in Voice

Summit House: Power in Voice

Survivor Fest: Victim's Stories of Survival

Operation Freefall: Victim's Stories of Survival

UNCC: Teen Pregnancy and Educators

Upcoming Engagements

Mecklenburg Ministries: Restoring Victims, Offenders, and Community

UNC Charlotte: National Victim's Week Panel Discussion

Speaking Honorarium

Honorarium is used to support advocacy and education in our community.

For additional information about honorarium and travel expenses or to schedule an interview, arrange a speaking engagement or book signing:

Therese Bartholomew

therese@thefinalgiffilm.com or 704-806-1732

At your request, honorarium may be donated directly to the film project, *The Final Gift* currently in production. Film donations are **tax deductible** and administered through

Southern Documentary Fund

For additional information about Southern Documentary Fund, its mission, and fiscal sponsorship please visit: www.southerndocumentaryfund.org

Therese Bartholomew

About the memoir, *Coffee Shop God*

The impact of crime

a victim's voice

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 Steve.

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."

Coffee Shop God offers a roadmap to anyone who has experienced loss and gazed uncertainly into the future.

About the forthcoming documentary film, *The Final Gift*

The impact of Restorative Justice

While completing the memoir, Therese was drawn to the story and voice of her brother's killer. She questioned – what was his life like before the night he shot Steve? What is life like now in prison, and what will life be like for him once he is released? Bartholomew's film, *The Final Gift*, currently in production seeks to answer these questions and to make sense of the tragedy that will forever link her to the young man who killed her brother. The film addresses universal ideas of forgiveness and redemption as well as the larger societal questions – how do we make peace with crime, support the victims, and restore the offenders? *The Final Gift* is currently in production and release is anticipated 2010.