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What we're all about

Reach Out, Columbia is committed to presenting the heart and works of Jesus Christ in clarity and purity. We strive to encourage a deeper, more steadfast love toward others as well as provide a vehicle for the body of Christ to come together as one voice in corporate agreement and expression of faith.



Letter from the
Editor

When the theological clouds part, and I finally understand something that has plagued me for years, it's a good day. Last Sunday was a good day.

My pastor, who is also my husband, was warming up for his sermon. Like a batter in the batter's box, he was tossing a few spiritual pitches to his listening congregation. One of those lobs was Psalm 34:3: "O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together."

Without knowing, he'd tossed me a theological curve ball. A conundrum of sorts. This verse has always bugged me. How, I've wondered, can mere mortals *magnify* the God of the universe?

God is loftier than the highest heavens. He is wiser than the most learned teacher. He is more powerful than the greatest army. He embodies every characteristic we desire but fall woefully short of. He is faithful, kind, patient, tender, creative, loving, and just. He is everything we are not, and he never sleeps, falters, or fails.

How can *I* magnify God? How can I make him any bigger than he already is?

And then, as if he was reading my thoughts (which I've heard pastors can do), my husband said the words that parted the curtain of my understanding.

"A magnifying glass doesn't make an object bigger. It just brings it closer so others can see it better."

That's it. When I share how God has answered my prayers, met my needs, and cleansed my sin-sick soul, I bring God closer so others can see him better.

March ushers in the Lenten season. Whether you observe Lent or not, the weeks before Easter present marvelous opportunities to magnify the Lord. It's springtime, and everywhere we look we see evidence of God's almighty hand. Creation testifies of new life, new beginnings, and hope. It is our privilege to point these out and connect the dots back to God—so others can see him better.

In this month's issue of *Reach Out, Columbia*, Pastor Mike Turner shares wise and insightful tips for rescuing Easter. Bill Edmonds shares the story of his own personal "resurrection," and our cover story spotlights the South Carolina Prayer Breakfast. It is my hope that each article will magnify the Lord and bring him closer so you and others can see him better.

"O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together."

Lori