



## Letter from the Editor

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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.

Unlike other publications, *Reach Out, Columbia* doesn't work from a formal theme list. We don't decide in advance what each issue should focus on. Six years ago, when ROC's beloved second editor, Sue Duffy, passed on the editorial baton, she explained it this way: "We trust God to bring the articles we need, when we need them. Somehow they always fit together."

I'm naturally wired to plan and organize, so this approach has stretched me. It has also grown my faith. And made me pray—even more.

What I've discovered is that Sue, and our publisher, Sandra Byrd, were absolutely right. God does bring just the articles we need, when we need them. And he fits them together beautifully. Every time.

Sometimes I don't realize this until I sit down to write my editor's letter for the month. By this time I've read the articles four or five times, edited them, polished them, and prayed over them. Like beloved children, I've smoothed a wayward curl with a lick of my finger or nudged a slouching spine into perfect posture. I want to do everything I can to help each writer and each article put their best face forward.

By the time I write my letter, I've become so familiar with the issue's content that I feel as though I wrote it myself. As I scan the titles and mull them over, I look for the golden thread that connects them. In this month's issue, it glistens like treasure.

Up front, our cover story is as contemporary as it gets. New England Patriots' chaplain Jack Easterby shares tips to help athletes and their parents take their faith onto the field. Our Community feature contains modern-day stories of how a relationship with Christ can break the chains of drug and alcohol addiction. Dial the chronometer back 500 years to the eve of the Reformation in Will Honeycutt's piece, and you'll read how God used one man to launch a spiritual atomic bomb that continues to impact our lives today. Scroll back even further to the dawn of civilization in Dawn Gonzalez's article, and you'll marvel at how God took Adam and Eve's colossal failure and set in motion a plan of redemption that continues to this day.

The theme—one God chose, not I—sings triumphantly that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He's always at work. He faithfully pursues mankind and invites us into a relationship with himself. He orders the circumstances and seasons of our world for his purposes and for his glory. And he allows frail humans like you and me to be part of his plan. Imagine that.

I hope you enjoy the articles God has pulled together this month. He planned them with you in mind. I'm privileged to be part of the process, but God alone gets the glory.

Lori