

On Friday, 3/1/24, my local church family suffered the loss of a long-time member, [National Girls Ministry](#) leader, and trustee named Dawn. I am grateful for the time I knew her, and admire her dedication to Christ, whom she faithfully served while working with children—I attended her wake on Tuesday, and was inspired by the tributes from teenagers and young adults who had her as a teacher when they were kids. I grew up calling funerals “Homegoing Services.” In the Baptist churches I attended as a kid, especially my grandmother’s church, homegoing services were a time of mourning and celebration, weeping and praising—they were also a time of eating at the repast after the service.

I started the weekly Temple Network newsletter this year because I had been talking about doing something like this for some time, and I did not want to live with regret—so I made this year my breakout year. I hope to die peacefully at a ripe old age as there is still a lot I want to do on this side of heaven. I find life to be harder than death. Certainly, there are some people that go through a lot of pain before they die—a serious illness, a car accident, etc.—and others who don’t—like those who die in their sleep.

One of the things that is really cool about technology, social media, books, recordings, etc. is the way that they can allow a person’s thoughts, voice, perspectives, etc. to live on long after the person has died. The discipleship pastor at my church spent [an hour interviewing Dawn](#) two years ago, and through Youtube anyone with an internet connection can learn about Dawn although she is no longer physically with us. Similarly, I was able to find my rendition of “Your Goodness is Running after Me” at my grandmother’s homegoing service on Facebook.

Better than living on through artifacts of your life on earth is the reality of actual eternal life through Jesus Christ. What many people do not realize is that for the Christian there is only one death, but for the non-Christian there are two deaths. The first death is the separation of the body from the spirit; the second death is the separation of the spirit from God. Gotquestions.org is a great resource for understanding many questions people typically have about God. As someone who used to be an atheist, I encourage you to ask questions. As I told my dentist recently in response to an evolution statement he made—mind you, I was in a vulnerable position during a crown replacement on a wisdom tooth—I am “afraid” of people (Christian or not) who don’t ask questions and posture as if they have absolute certainty in their beliefs.

Regardless of your beliefs, you’re welcome to attend my homegoing service if I die before you. I already started curating songs for my playlist: [He’s in the room \(Maverick\)](#), [O but God \(Worship Initiative\)](#), [I shall wear a golden crown \(Richard Smallwood\)](#), [Nothing Else \(Cody Carnes\)](#), [Worthy of my song \(Maverick\)](#), and [Thank you Jesus for the blood \(Charity Gayle\)](#).

### **The Temple Takeaway:**

Are you prepared for [life after death](#)? If you were to have a homegoing service playlist, what songs would be on it?