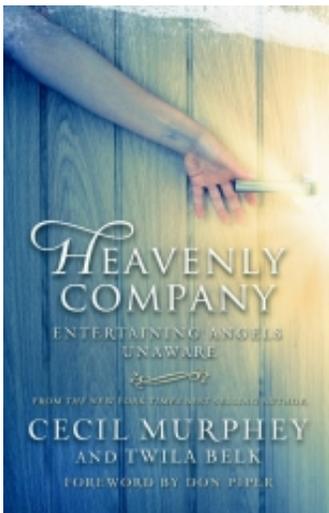


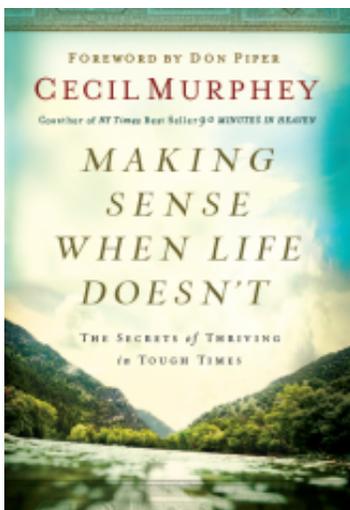


Cecil Murphey

WRITER * SPEAKER * TEACHER * SURVIVOR

Guideposts will release
*Heavenly Company:
Entertaining Angels
Unaware* at the beginning of
August.



Cec has more than 20
interviews lined up in July for
Making Sense When

Just Surrender?

"I realized I was going the wrong way so I surrendered to God."

I frequently hear statements like that, but I question them. They imply they see the wrong, decide to stop, and it's over.

Really? Is it that simple?

I can decide Coke isn't good for my health, so I choose to give it up. No big problem there because I don't drink much of it. But what about the big topics?

My friend Ron Hieber defines surrender as giving up *under pressure*. Those last two words sound like my experience.

I became a serious Christian at age 21, because my life was a mess. I didn't know how to fix myself and finally admitted I needed God's help to straighten out.

Nearly two decades later I faced my physical condition. My blood pressure had sneaked into the high ranges and I'd been hospitalized twice with an ulcer. Again, it was a choice forced on me because I wanted to be healthy.

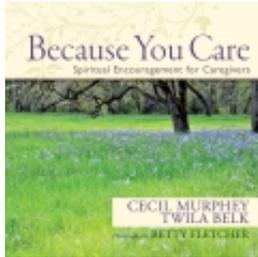
When I left the pastorate to write full time, it involved an inner hassle to exchange a people-filled lifestyle for a solitary occupation. After months of anxiety, I recognized I couldn't be happy unless I moved into my new career.

Surrender hasn't been easy for me—at least not with the significant issues of my life.

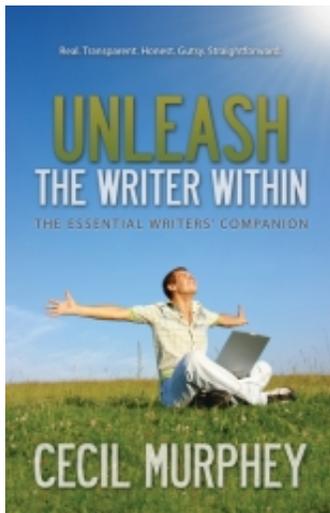
I chose *only* after I felt forced. To give in under pressure has come to mean that I have to become dissatisfied, feel miserable, or hit a dead end before I give in. Those are painful experiences.

I decided that when I fight until I give in, it tells me the problem is

Life Doesn't. It's an important topic.



Do you know a caregiver who needs encouragement? *Because You Care: Spiritual Encouragement for Caregivers* is a beautiful gift book.



Three spots are still available for Cec's [Unleash the Writer Within seminar](#) in West Palm Beach, FL July 13-14.

important. Maybe that's the difference. Like those in 12-step programs, I surrender only when I feel helpless.

Giving up the insignificant doesn't take much effort; it doesn't count for much either.

Personal News

I have 22 radio or TV interviews in July. I've not had that many in a single month.

I'll conduct an [Unleash the Writer Within seminar](#) in West Palm Beach, July 13–14.

I'll attend ICRS (International Christian Retail Show) in Orlando, July 15–18.

At ICRS I'm scheduled to do signings for 3 books. Twila Belk and I will sign [Because You Care](#) (Harvest House) and [Heavenly Company](#) (Guideposts), and I'll do [Making Sense When Life Doesn't: The Secrets of Thriving in Tough Times](#) (Summerside/Guideposts).

[90 Minutes in Heaven](#) starts filming in September with big production values, and Sony Pictures will distribute it. We expect to announce more later.

I head for the [Oregon Christian Writers Conference](#) August 13–16.

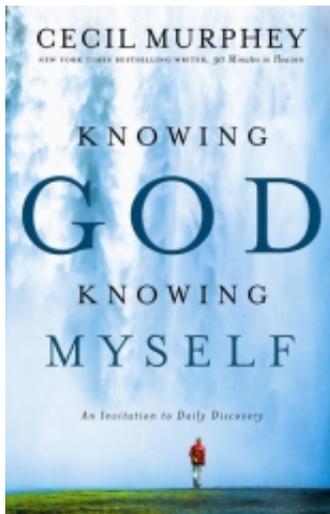
The Twila Zone—Words from My Assistant, Twila Belk

Have you dreamed of the day that you could attend a Cec Murphey seminar in an intimate setting? We have three openings left for his Unleash the Writer Within seminar in West Palm Beach, Florida, on July 13–14. [Click here for more details.](#)

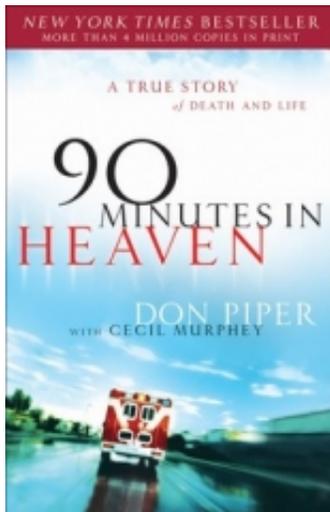
I had a great response to my quiz in last month's newsletter. The big winners of a copy of [Making Sense When Life Doesn't](#) are: Jean Hall, Lisa Greer, Jan Collins, Herb Wagner, and Jim Hamlett. The cyberspace gold star winners are too many to mention. As promised, here are the answers:

1) Cec has collaborated with many well known people on book projects. Can you name three? **Don Piper, Ben Carson, Shaun Alexander, B. J. Thomas, S. Truett Cathy, Franklin Graham, Salome Thomas-EL, Michael Youssef, Joyce Meyer, and many more. A few people included my name in their answer, which is silly, but I gave extra credit for that.**

2) Before becoming a professional writer, what did Cec do? **Missionary, teacher, pastor, volunteer hospital chaplain**



Be one of the first two to submit correct answers for Twila's quiz and win a copy of *Knowing God, Knowing Myself*.



Sony Pictures will distribute Don Piper's amazing story of death and life. Filming begins soon.

3) Will Cec ever slow down? **Do I need to answer that question?**

I had fun with that, so let's have another quiz to keep you fresh with your Cec Murphey trivia. The first two to send correct answers to me (twilabelk@mchsi.com) will receive a copy of *Knowing God, Knowing Myself*.

- 1) Cec wrote a book for a woman on death row. What was her name?
- 2) Name two things Cec enjoys other than writing and speaking.

Cec Links: (1) [Blog for writers](#), (2) [Blog for male survivors of sexual abuse](#), (3) [Twitter](#), (4) [YouTube](#), (5) [Facebook—Cec and Me. with Cecil Murphey and Twila Belk](#), (6) [Facebook—Because You Care: Spiritual Encouragement for Caregivers](#), (7) [Facebook—When Someone You Love No Longer Remembers](#), (8) [Facebook—When Someone You Love Has Cancer](#), (9) [Facebook—Christmas Miracles](#), (10) [Facebook—Men Shattering the Silence](#), (11) [Twila's website](#), (12) [Twila's email](#)

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