



Cec gave three keynotes at the Florida Christian Writers Conference at the beginning of March. He holds *60 Seconds to Greatness*, a book he wrote with Eddie Long. The book released in January and is #10 on the ECPA bestseller list.



Cec's blog for writers has been well received and appreciated by writers. "I'm so glad he finally listened to me," Twila said. "Of course I'm too kind to say I told you so."

Good Things About Myself

I handed ten young adults pens and paper and assured them that no one would see their responses. "On one side of the paper, write five things you don't like about yourself." Within one minute all ten had their answers.

"On the second side write five things you truly like about yourself."

After what seemed an appropriate time, I asked how many had filled out the first side with five answers. Every hand went up. "How many of you wrote five things you like about yourself?" Six of them raised their hands.

That experiment proved to me that we're able to tick off the negatives. We remain conscious of our shortcomings. That thought reminds me that in many churches they have a time called "confession of sin," which is done silently. Afterward, the leader follows with an "assurance of pardon."

Christian theology reminds us that we all fail. But we do little in the church life to help people look at the positives in their personalities. Some would say that to do so would lead to pride and boasting.

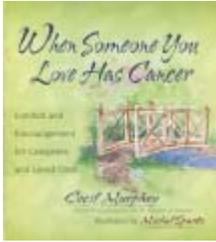
Maybe they're correct. But somewhere between "God, be merciful to me a sinner" and "In Jesus Christ we are forgiven," wouldn't it be nice to have a segment called "affirming ourselves"?

Too often we're reluctant to acknowledge our good qualities. We'd like them to be true, but to admit them seems as if we're bragging. And yet if they're true and we don't admit them, aren't we denying the grace of God in us?

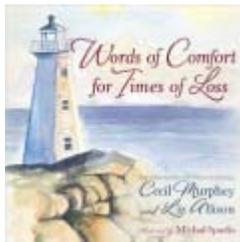
Have you ever wondered how difficult it must have been for Moses to write that he was the most humble man in the world? (See Num. 12:3.) He did it because he realized he hadn't made himself humble. He merely admitted what God had already done in his life. Maybe we need to think like Moses.

If there are good parts of ourselves we haven't accepted, isn't that saying we haven't fully received God's gifts to us?

Here's my self-affirmation statement: I accept every part of myself—even the good parts.



Cec understands what it's like to love someone who has cancer. In this book, his from-the-heart messages are combined with beautiful watercolor illustrations. He includes many practical helps at the end.



We've received notes from many people telling us how grateful they are for this comforting book. Some have read it multiple times. It's a nice gift for someone who has lost a loved one.

Personal News

Many have asked about my wife. Shirley is doing well and getting used to the limited diet, but she still struggles to guzzle down 80 ounces of water every day.

April 8-13 I'll move from teaching/speaking in Chanute, KS to Tulsa, OK.

April 24 I'll speak for the Church and Synagogue Library Association in Tucker, GA.

April 28-29 I'll be a featured speaker and do a keynote for the [Presbyterian Writers Conference](#) in Nashville.

The Twila Zone—Words from my assistant, Twila Belk

Although it's hard to admit, Cec realizes that I was right about the need for him to launch a blog for writers. We get positive feedback every day. If you're a writer or a writer wannabe, check out www.cecmurpheyswritertowriter.blogspot.com.

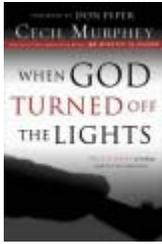
I'm the director of two writers conferences that take place this month (both thanks to Cec). The 7th annual Quad-Cities Christian Writers Conference in Eldridge, Iowa, is April 9-10. (www.qccwc.com) [Click here to experience a Taste of the QCCWC](#). And the Presbyterian Writers Conference is in Nashville, April 28-29. Visit www.presbywriters.org for details.

Does someone in your life have cancer? Do you work with cancer patients? [Watch the book trailer for Cec's beautiful gift book *When Someone You Love Has Cancer*](#).

Wondering what to do to help a grieving friend? Cec and Liz Allison offer help. Here are [Practical Tips to Comfort and Encourage Those Who Grieve](#).

Have you felt as if God has turned off the lights in your life? Cec has, and he talks openly about it in [his interview with Moira Brown on 100 Huntley Street TV](#).

Congratulations to Cec! [60 Seconds to Greatness](#), the book he wrote with Eddie Long, is #10 on the ECPA bestseller list. It's a great book to read with a highlighter.



What do you do when the lights go out? Cec talks about dark times in his life and what he learned through them in *When God Turned off the Lights*. [He also offers ten suggestions for you in this downloadable resource.](#)



Cec went "home" to Davenport, Iowa, a couple weeks ago for several speaking engagements. He was able to spend time with John Ludtke and his wife, Lois. John was Cec's boss and father figure when he was a teenager.

In the picture below, he's with some of his high school classmates (Davenport High School class of 1951). They came to hear him speak at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

