



A Screaming Place

I wish places of worship would provide a screaming room.

Most of the time, I like going to worship services. My reasons include feeling a sense of the divine presence, connecting with other believers, and learning more about God and about myself.

Most of the sermons and Sunday school lessons encourage me and remind of God's faithful and everlasting love. They're aimed to uplift me and that's awfully good and extremely comforting.

But I wish places of worship would provide a screaming room. Sometimes I need a place to scream at life and yell at its unfairness. It has to be a private place where I can roar at the top of my lungs, "I hate this!" "Life is a garbage pit!"

But our place of worship can't provide screaming rooms. After all, we're the good people, the religious people, those who meekly accept life as it comes and start every week with praise on our lips and joy in our hearts. Sometimes that truly is the way I feel. But now and then . . .

Because I didn't know how to find such a place among the spiritually minded people, I found my private screaming place.

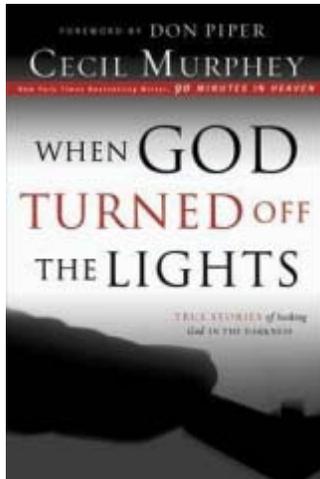
These days, I don't go there often, but in the past, I visited about once a week. My screaming place was inside my Honda Accord and I used it ten years. I got inside my car, rolled up the windows, and drove down the street. I yelled. I bellowed. They were the loudest sounds I could make. A few times I shook my fist. I honestly didn't care if other drivers looked at me. If they did, they probably assumed I was mouthing the words of a CD.

Usually it took only three or four minutes to finish my emotional outburst. Sometimes I verbalized my anger at the injustices in my life. One time I yelled at God for failing me. (I had to believe in God in order to get mad and confront the Creator.) Most of the time, I let out what some have called the primal scream—a total release of tension and emotion.

Each time, I felt better.

I still go to my screaming place. Three or four yells at the loudest decibel I can reach seems enough. After I've done that I can sit among the good, righteous people again. Until now I haven't talked about my screaming place. But I finally decided there might be one or two people like me who need the liberation I discovered.

Yes, I wish places of worship would provide a screaming room.



When God Turned Off the Lights
Publisher: Regal Books
ISBN: 978-0-8307-5155-6
Retail: \$14.99

Personal News

I plan to be home in Atlanta all of August. I'll teach Sunday school for three of those Sundays and begin to teach an on-going adult class beginning in mid-September.

My new book, [When God Turned off The Lights](#) (Regal) has just come off the press.

The book I wrote for Bishop Eddie Long, *60 Seconds to Greatness*, comes out in January.

In 2006, Don Piper and I co-authored [Daily Devotions Inspired by 90 Minutes in Heaven](#). In January 2010, Penguin will bring out the paperback edition. The paper usually follows about a year after publication. This means the book sold extremely well so they delayed the paper edition for three years.

Shirley and I plan to fly to England next month. I'll teach writers one day, preach one Sunday, and have the rest of the time for a real vacation. It will be the first time Shirley has been able to fly overseas in five years.

Several writers have written nice reviews of [When Someone You Love Has Cancer](#) on their blogs.

The Twila Zone

(words from my assistant, Twila Belk)

The awards keep coming for Cec. I am pleased to announce that [90 Minutes in Heaven](#), the book Cec wrote for Don Piper, won a Retailers Choice Award for backlist books at the International Christian Retail Show in mid-July. This was Cec's second Retailers Choice Award. In 2007, [Touchdown Alexander](#) (with Seattle Seahawk MVP Shaun Alexander) won for the autobiography category. One interviewer at ICRS called Cec a "well-decorated" author.



The Retailers Choice Award

Thank you for all who've helped get the word out about Cec's gift book [When Someone You Love Has Cancer: Comfort and Encouragement for Caregivers and Loved Ones](#). We've had great feedback from those who have received it and read it. Cancer is an area that has touched countless lives, and loved ones suffer as well. Please keep this book in mind for you or your church to give as an encouraging, practical resource for people facing a loved one's diagnosis of cancer.

Do you live in the Grand Rapids or Seattle areas? We're looking for opportunities for Cec to preach in Grand Rapids on October 18 and in Seattle on November 15. Let me know if your church might like to invite him.

Cec loves opportunities to preach and speak. Some of his favorite topics are recovery, caregiving, male sexual abuse, prayer, writing, spiritual growth, and significant living. Contact me for more information: twilabelk@mchsi.com or 563-332-1622.