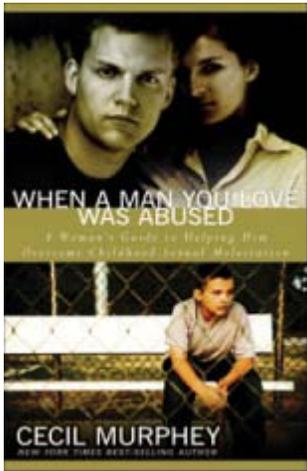


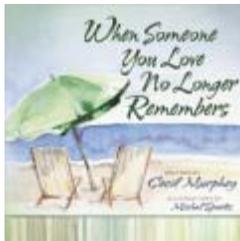
Cecil Murphey

THE MAN BEHIND

THE
WORDS



Cec's ministry for those who have been abused is growing. Details will be available soon for "When Someone You Love Was Abused" October conferences.



From a reviewer: "As someone who has known several family members and friends diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, I so wish this book had been written sooner."

Making Others Angry

"You make me so mad," my mother said and pushed me away.

I was nine years old, and she had taken me shopping. For almost an hour we had been inside what we used to call a ten-cent store. While she slowly moved from counter to counter, I walked up and down every aisle.

"Isn't it time to go home now?" I asked Mom for the third time.

"You make me so mad!" she said again. "Stop bothering me!"

I absorbed a message that day: I was to blame for making my mother angry. If I hadn't been impatient (which was being bad), she wouldn't have gotten upset.

Later, as a student in grad school, I heard people say, "You are not responsible for others' feelings or reactions."

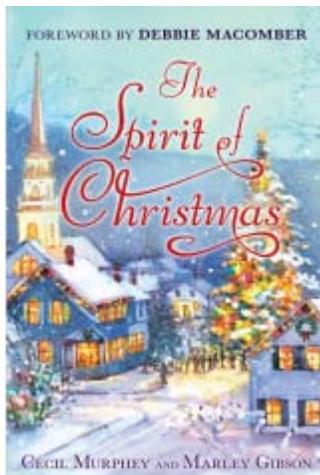
For a long time I struggled with that statement, I suppose largely because of my childhood carryover for causing others' negative reactions. My mother wasn't angry until I provoked her, so I must have been the cause.

I also realized that if I had done something to deliberately hurt someone else, it was my fault and I had failed, been wrong, or in my vocabulary, I had sinned. The significant word was *deliberately* and not *innocently*.

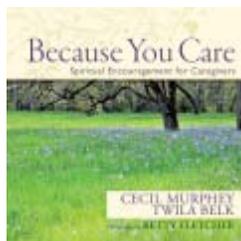
In my serious commitment as a Christian, I also felt myself accountable whenever anyone was offended, disagreed with me, or became upset. It's not that the Bible teaches it as much as I kept hearing that we should live carefully to make certain we didn't give offense to anyone. That's easily translated to mean that I was responsible for others' responses.



Click on icon to watch Cec's video message for the Greater Philadelphia Christian Writers Conference coming up August 10-13.



It's only August, but *The Spirit of Christmas* is in the air. The book will release in October and is available for pre-order now.



Sneak Preview!
Because You Care: Spiritual Encouragement for Caregivers
(by Cec and Twila)
coming in January.

It took years to push away the guilt and blame for the bad feelings I supposedly caused. I've figured out—finally—that I'm only accountable to God and to myself if someone is upset over anything I do.

If you react negatively, I've touched some unresolved issue or insecure place in your soul. That's simple, isn't it? And it relieves guilt.

*I can't make you angry;
I can touch your insecure places and you create anger
yourself.*

Personal News

I'm scheduled to give two keynotes at the [Philadelphia Christian Writers Conference](#) August 10-13. I'll also teach a continuing course called "Dancing with Dialogue."

On July 23, Dawn Jones and I were the featured speakers at a three-hour seminar called "When Someone You Love Was Abused." We each did a workshop and so did Shelly Beach and Wanda Sanchez. The seminar received a highly positive response.

Dawn and I have talked about doing this for months and we're moving ahead. October 8, we'll do a full, one-day seminar in Grand Rapids and a week later, October 15, we'll do the same one in Atlanta. Early in 2012 she'll have a book out on sexual abuse. I'm at work right now with Gary Roe on a follow-up book to [When a Man You Love Was Abused](#). Our working title is *Not Quite Healed*.

Last month I met with Bob Hawkins, who owns Harvest House Publishers. He says my gift books are doing extremely well. I've been delighted at the early response to [When Someone You Love No Longer Remembers](#).

A publisher in Romania purchased translation rights to my long-out-of-print book, *The God Who Pursues*.

The Twila Zone—Words from My Assistant, Twila Belk

Cec will keynote, and both of us will teach, at the [Greater Philadelphia Christian Writers Conference](#) August 10-13. If you've wanted to attend a writers conference and haven't, it's not too late to sign up. Check out Cec's video welcome message while you're at the conference site.



Check out our podcasts and upcoming shows at www.Toginet.com.

Cec's ministry for survivors is growing. We'll have more details in next month's newsletter about his upcoming "When Someone You Love Was Abused" seminars in Grand Rapids (October 8) and Atlanta (October 15) .

It may only be August, but Christmas will be here before we know it. St. Martin's Press will release Cec's second Christmas book with Marley Gibson— [The Spirit of Christmas](#)—in October. It's a beautiful compilation book "filled with magic, wonder, and deep meaning" with a foreword by bestselling author Debbie Macomber. It can be pre-ordered now.

Debbie Wilson of Lighthouse Ministries wrote a heartfelt blog post about what it's like to have a loved one who no longer remembers. [Click here for her post and review of Cec's book.](#)

If you enjoy Cec's aphorisms, such as "A true friend knows my faults, still loves me, and has no plans for my self-improvement," follow him at www.twitter.com/cecmurphey.

Links of Interest:

[Cec's website](#)

[Cec's blog for writers](#)

[Cec's blog for male survivors of sexual abuse](#)

[The Cec and Me radio show](#)

[Watch a silly Cec and Me video](#)

[Follow Cec on Twitter](#)

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