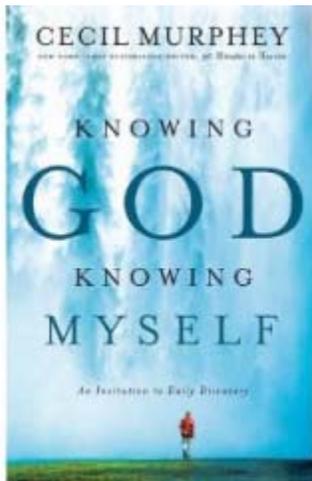




Cec is happy that Regal Publishing just released his 120th book.



Knowing God, Knowing Myself is an invitation to daily discovery.

Planning Our Future

"Every January I resolve to get fit," Marty told me in late December.

"So what happens?"

"I fail before the first of February."

Many of us, like Marty, start each January with the decision to defeat the problems that tripped us in the past.

I like that idea—forgetting all the foolish and wrong things we said and did, and uniting our energies to move ahead this year.

Yes, I like the idea.

It's not possible for most people, but it's still a good idea.

The past remains part of our lives. The mistakes of the previous year don't disappear. We resolve not to repeat them, and we can build on the shame of previous blunders to correct our present and future actions.

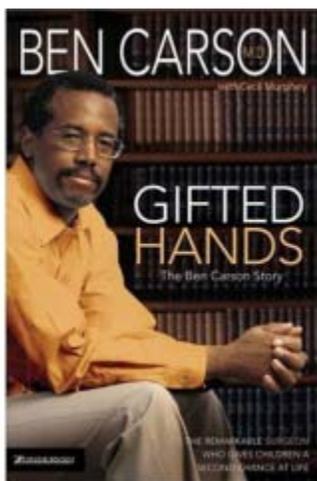
Think of Marty again. He doesn't really plan for his future because he's still tied to the past failures. It's the cliché, "I've failed every time I tried." He hasn't changed and he'll do the same things in 2011 that he did in 2010, 2009, and all the other times.

Most of us don't openly admit it but we figure in the past when we stand in the present and project an elegant future. But the previous failures haunt us and it doesn't take long for most individuals to say, "It's futile." Those old fiascos paralyze us or make us doubt we can change.

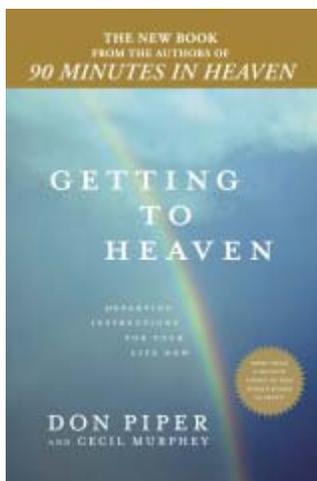
My friend Ron Heiber has a saying that resonates with me, "God never consults our past when planning our future." That means our loving God forgives us. And with that is implied, "Go and sin no more."



Cec and Twila join together on Tuesday nights for the *Cec and Me* radio show.



Gifted Hands is required reading in a lot of schools.



Berkley will release Cec's long-awaited fourth book with Don Piper on March 1.

What if we thought of life that way? What if we were able to start each year as if it were new and unblemished? We wouldn't worry about what we didn't do previously or how we aborted our best plans. We'd be able to focus only on what we can do now—and do it with a fresh start.

"God never consults our past when planning our future," Ron said.

"I don't have to remember my past when I plan my future," we can say.

Personal News

—Thanks to many of you with your kind expressions of concern for Shirley. Her vital signs are now in the normal range and she's gaining strength.

—January 12, I'll speak at the Author's Forum for the Marketsquare International Trade Show in Atlanta.

—A teacher in a charter high school told me that all students had to read [Gifted Hands](#) during the holidays. This has been the school policy for at least five years, but it was the first time she connected me with the book.

—Copies of [Knowing God](#), [Knowing Myself](#) arrived Christmas Eve day. This is the most transparent I've ever been able to be in a book. Sometimes I shudder when I think about that—which convinces me that I was honest.

The Twila Zone—Words from My Assistant, Twila Belk

If you've wanted to invite Cec to speak for your church, Celebrate Recovery group, or organization, and you live in the following areas, now's your opportunity. He's available for the dates right before or after the dates shown.

Spartanburg, SC – February 10

Denver, CO – April 8-9

Quad Cities (IA/IL) – September 23-24

Contact me at twilabelk@mchsi.com if you are interested in knowing more.

Regal Publishing has just released Cec's newest book. If you enjoy what he has to say in his monthly newsletters, if you appreciate his wisdom, if you love the short, pithy sayings he writes, then [Knowing God](#), [Knowing Myself](#) is



If you have any Cec-related questions, you're welcome to contact Twila at twilabelk@mchsi.com.

for you. It's Cec's most transparent book yet, and I highly recommend it for people in all walks of life.

Cec and I will discuss [Knowing God, Knowing Myself](#) on the January 4 [Cec and Me show](#) at 7 p.m. CT/8 ET. If you listen live and call in with your comment or question, we'll make sure you get a copy of the book. If you are unable to listen to the live show, the podcast will be available on the [Cec and Me website](#).

Many people start out the new year thinking they'll finally get to work on that book or writing project they've thought about for many years. If you're one of those people, you might benefit from reading [Cec's blog for writers](#). He posts writing tips and advice twice a week.

Links of Interest

[Cec's website](#)

[Cec's blog for writers](#)

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

[Survivor Helps](#)

[The Cec and Me radio show](#)