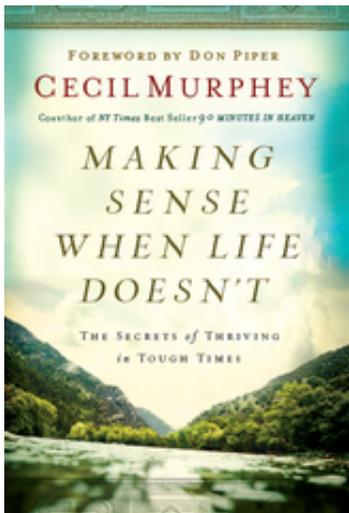


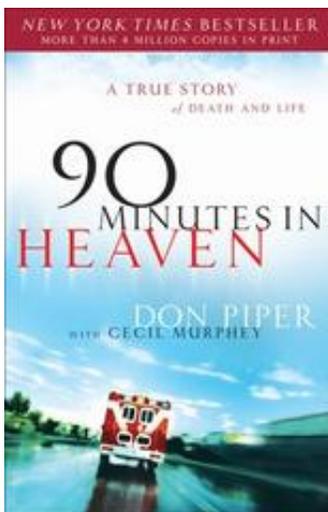


Cecil Murphey

WRITER * SPEAKER * TEACHER * SURVIVOR

Is your life messy right now?
Would you like to know how
to survive in tough times?
*Making Sense When Life
Doesn't* might help.



90 Minutes in Heaven is still
going strong and impacting

I Need My Problems

Each month I write an original aphorism under my email signature. Last month my maxim was "The messes in life are my best teachers; I don't like them, but I need them." I could have called them problems, disruptions, adversities, or any other negative word.

I don't like dealing with problems. I wish they didn't interrupt my life, *but I need them.*

So do all of us.

We need them because the painful, unwanted, intrusive events in life push us to re-examine ourselves and to make changes. As long as we're doing all right, we ignore the things we don't like. It takes the heartaches and anguish to make us stop, ponder, and sometimes take action.

Before I can accept those unwanted motivations, I've learned to ask myself one question. "What's going on inside me that makes me need this problem?" If those hard times had no purpose, I'd probably fall into despair. Just to ask the question acknowledges that the situation is bigger than my new disruption.

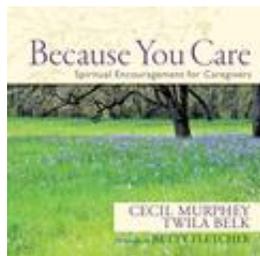
Everyone won't ask the question and many don't have the courage to listen for the answer. If we're committed to growth, it's a significant question, even if we don't grasp the reason.

Here's how I see this. My wise, loving God knows what I need to take the next forward step. By asking the question, I can make the most of those uninvited elements.

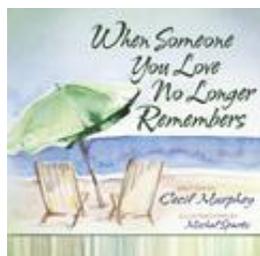
Even if I don't get answers, I've stepped toward deeper understanding about life. I also know that I'm more open to embrace the adversities of life.

By seeking to understand the hard times in life or at least to accept them as nudges toward maturity, I become stronger and more able to

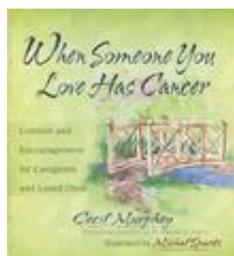
countless lives since first being published in 2004.



November is National Caregiver Awareness Month. *Because You Care: Spiritual Encouragement for Caregivers* is a nice gift for the caregivers you know.



With a caring spirit, Cec provides comfort, advice, and prayers for those who journey alongside a loved one whose memory is fading.



This comforting book combines practical ways to help a friend and family member deal with cancer and spirit-lifting thoughts for celebrating the gift of life in the midst of troubles.

handle the next situation—and it will likely be worse.

*The messes in life are my best teachers;
I don't like them, but I need them.*

Personal News

I dumped my October schedule to pull back, rethink my priorities, and enjoy my life more. It's working. I'm scheduling fewer activities for the rest of the year.

Shirley's health has deteriorated. She's now using a walker and faces possible spinal surgery. I'm delighted I'm able to be here more during this difficult time. (And as usual, my wife doesn't moan or complain.)

In 2014, [*90 Minutes in Heaven*](#) will celebrate ten years of publication. The publisher wants to put out a special edition with a number of new stories by Don Piper and me.

The movie version of [*90 Minutes in Heaven*](#) will still happen, but they're still doing script rewrites.

Don Piper told me that among Christian booksellers, [*90 Minutes in Heaven*](#) is #40 in their top 50 (after nine years) and is #9 in the list of inspirational books.

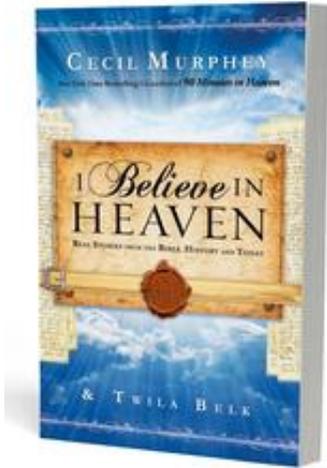
The Twila Zone—Words from My Assistant, Twila Belk

Cec finally has a new website. Check it out: www.cecilmurphey.com. You'll find lots of good information there, and you might even learn a few things about Cec that you didn't already know. You'll also be able to catch up on past newsletters, which are archived.

November is National Caregiver Awareness Month. It's a good time to show the caregivers you know how much they're appreciated. Cec has three beautiful books for caregivers that make nice gifts: [*When Someone You Love Has Cancer*](#), [*When Someone You Love No Longer Remembers*](#), and [*Because You Care: Spiritual Encouragement for Caregivers*](#) (co-authored with Twila Belk). My assistant, Gail Smith, administrates Facebook pages for each of titles as well. (See Cec Links below.)

I Believe in Heaven is a book we've contracted with Regal for an early 2013 release. Do you have a story? Submission deadline is November 20. See www.ibelieveinheaven.blogspot.com for details.

Deck the Halls and Fa La La—It's time to think about Christmas. Do you need stocking stuffers or gifts for special people? I have a few ideas.



Cec and Twila need stories for *I Believe in Heaven*, a book scheduled for a spring 2013 release. Click on the picture for details.

- For the writer in your life: [Unleash the Writer Within](#)
- For those going through a tough time: [Making Sense When Life Doesn't](#)
- For those who want a good daily reading: [Knowing God. Knowing Myself](#)
- For the teachers, postal workers, employees, and hard-to-buy-for people: [Heavenly Company: Entertaining Angels Unaware](#)

Do you have an e-reader? Wanna hunker down with a cup of cocoa and a fun, inexpensive read? Cec's first cozy mystery, [Everybody Loved Roger Harden](#), is 99 cents for [Kindle](#) and [NOOK](#).

Cec Links: (1) [Website](#) (2) [Blog for writers](#), (3) [Blog for male survivors of sexual abuse](#), (4) [Twitter](#), (5) [YouTube](#), (6) [Facebook—Cec and Me. with Cecil Murphey and Twila Belk](#), (7) [Facebook—Because You Care: Spiritual Encouragement for Caregivers](#), (8) [Facebook—When Someone You Love No Longer Remembers](#), (9) [Facebook—When Someone You Love Has Cancer](#), (10) [Facebook—Christmas Miracles](#), (11) [Facebook—Men Shattering the Silence](#), (12) [Twila's website](#), (13) [Twila's email](#)

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