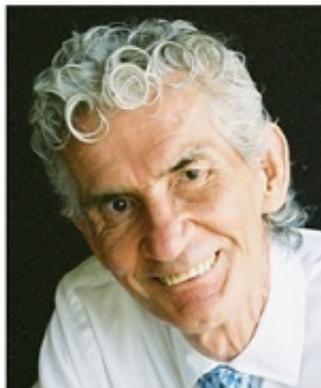
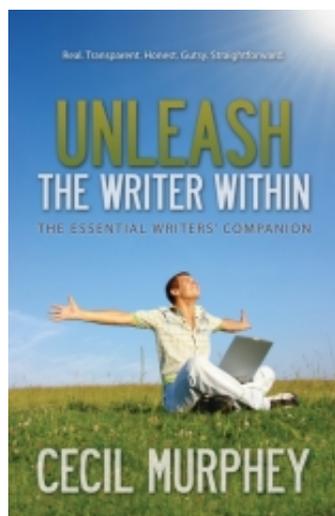


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*Cecil Murphey*  
 WRITER \* SPEAKER \* TEACHER \* SURVIVOR

If you're a serious writer and interested in an April one-day seminar in Bettendorf, Iowa, based on this book, contact Twila for more information.

## Walls and Boundaries

"I've learned that building walls isn't the same as setting boundaries." I heard those words last month from a woman in my seminar audience.

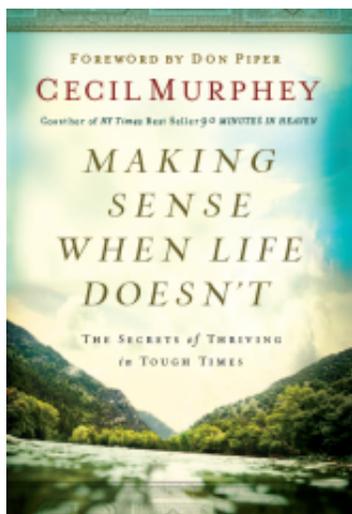
I've thought about that statement almost every day. Both walls and boundaries are important. I need to be aware of their difference and appreciate their value.

I'm learning to build walls to protect myself from people who demand my time and constantly ask me to do things for them. Walls provide safety. I need to close myself off from some individuals. Once they get inside the walls, it's difficult to push them out.

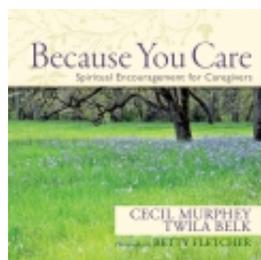
Walls remind me of the old story of the Arab and his camel during a sandstorm. The camel asked to put only his nose into the tent. The Arab agreed and then the whole head and the feet. Slowly the camel intruded so the Arab finally slept outside and the camel had the tent. The walls of the tent were there but they did little good for the Arab.

I want my walls to remain sturdy to keep others outside. I want to shut myself away from certain individuals and the erected barriers to give me the privacy I seek.

By contrast, boundaries represent the places where I give permission to cross onto my property—that is, I offer them my interest, time, and energy. I say, "Come into my life," and I point to an invisible line. "You may have this much from me as you like but I won't allow you to cross my line of personal space."



Don Piper says, "*Making Sense When Life Doesn't* is a twenty-first-century template for your most meaningful life." Summerside Press will release the book at the beginning of April.



Here's what a reviewer says about *Because You Care*:  
 "This lovely, poignantly crafted gift book reaches the secret rooms of the hearts of everyone who cares for the elderly, weak, or sick."



Walls keep me safe, but they can also keep me isolated. Sometimes I hide from people with whom I need to interact, but haven't erected walls for others. I need wisdom—daily wisdom—to know those to shut out and those to invite into my life.

Establishing boundaries is difficult for me, but I'm learning. Often many times a day, I have to decide what's important to me, how much I choose to give or to share, and how far I'll allow someone to come into my space.

## Personal News

I've been invited to blog every six weeks with the Joyful Heart Association. Mariska Hargitay of *Law and Order SVU*, founded the organization. I'll work through 1in6.org, whose purpose is to help male survivors of sexual abuse.

I'm scheduled to teach two classes and give five keynote addresses at the [Florida Christian Writers Conference](#), March 1-4.

On March 10, I'll participate in Atlanta with CASA—Court-appointed Special Advocacy Association. CASA is a network to support court-appointed volunteer advocates for abused and neglected children.

As a birthday gift for Shirley and an anniversary gift for both of us, we plan to visit Zion, IL, where she was born and so were two of our three children. I'm scheduled to speak for [Iron Sharpens Iron](#) in Rockford on March 17 and that will be in the middle of our week-long vacation.

April 21, I'll also speak for [Iron Sharpens Iron](#) in Moline, IL.

On April 28, I'll do a one-day seminar for the Stephen Ministry groups of metro Atlanta.

## The Twila Zone—Words from My Assistant, Twila Belk

Cec and I are currently working out details for a one-day writers seminar/retreat on the "inner writer," based on [Unleash the Writer Within](#), to be held in Bettendorf, Iowa, on Friday, April 20.

Here's a response to the idea from an enthusiastic supporter and college writing instructor: "Writers will walk away freed and revolutionized."

For writing tips and advice, visit Cec's blog for writers. He's currently doing a 50-part series on common writing problems.



Do you know a man who was abused, or a loved one of an abused man? Recommend Cec's Shattering the Silence blog.



If you'd like more information about Cec or anything in this newsletter, contact Twila.

A seasoned writer, who gave us input for the seminar, said, "It seems as though what Cec has written has as much to say about being human as it does to be a *writing* human."

The seminar setting will be a home and it will be available to only 15 serious writers. [Email me for more information.](#)

When chaos erupts, we have choices. We can call it the worst time of our lives, wishing for the way things used to be and resenting the changes that have been forced on us. Or we can say, "This can be a positive time in my life. I didn't choose the crisis, but I can choose to learn through it." *Making Sense When Life Doesn't*, Cec's next book, is about making your life better—not *in spite of*, but *because of* the adversities you face. It will be available within the next couple of weeks through Summerside Press.

One reviewer called the book inspiring and thought-provoking. She said it caused her to think and pray differently. Another reviewer said it was an easy read that delivered a big punch.

We've recently realized that many of Cec's books are a great fit for Stephen Ministries, including his new gift book, [Because You Care: Spiritual Encouragement for Caregivers](#) (co-authored with me). Cec is grateful for the opportunity to speak to Stephen Ministry groups in the Atlanta area and is willing to work with other groups nationwide when he's available.

### Links of Interest:

[Cec's website](#)

[Cec's blog for writers](#)

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

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[Twila's email](#)

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