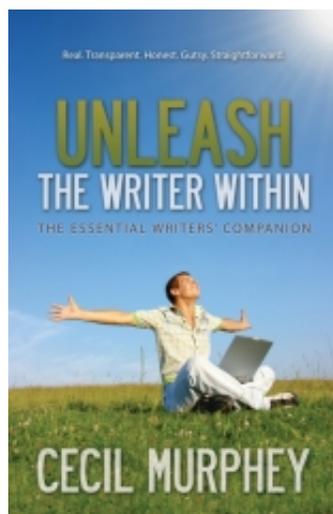


Caregiver is not the role millions of Americans would have chosen, but it's the reality they face each day. They do it because they care. *Because You Care: Spiritual Encouragement for Caregivers* is now available for purchase.



One reviewer said, "I wish I'd had this writing book thirty years ago when I started out. I would have avoided some

My Friend

"I need a friend," Jimmy said on the phone. "My wife wants to leave me and. . ." He broke down crying.

He came to see me immediately, and talked for a long time. I made a few suggestions, but mostly I listened. "Thank you for being a friend," he said.

Over the years people have asked me to become their friend. Or we've gotten to know each other and they refer to me as a friend.

I considered "Tim" a good friend, and at one time, even my best friend. We talked on the phone regularly, usually had weekly lunches. We discussed significant things in our lives and shared our hurts and joys. Or at least I assumed we did.

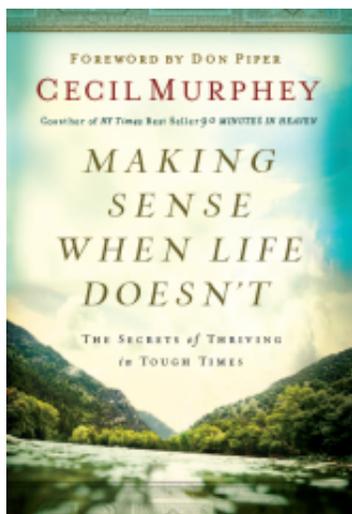
One day I realized that didn't describe our relationship. I blurted out these words: "I'm more your friend than you are mine." He laughed and said that wasn't true.

But it was.

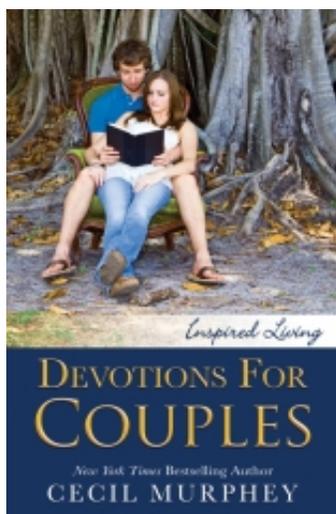
I had been at Tim's side when he went through difficult times. I particularly remember when he thought he was going to lose his job. "It's the only thing I know," he said. That afternoon we talked for perhaps four hours. That was the most dramatic, but not the only occasion.

Then I called Tim because I had a problem. He wasn't indifferent, but neither did he seem to invest himself in my situation. The next time we talked, he didn't ask about the issue or act as if he remembered my call.

pitfalls and loooong detours that have taken years to correct."



Don Piper wrote that this book "will be a classic primer on overcoming the messes of life." The release date is April 1.



Wouldn't it be nice to read devotions with your sweetheart? This book is available in ebook only through B&N, Amazon, and Apple.

That's when I understood something. If anyone asked, Tim would still call me a friend, a good friend.

And I was.

I was his friend; he wasn't mine. I don't write that to complain. At first it hurt, but I realized Tim owed me nothing. I had given myself to him. That was an important insight for me. My role was to be available to others in need, and to accept them. They didn't have to reciprocate.

Here's the insight I received: Everyone wants a friend; not everyone knows how to be a friend.

Personal News

I'll be in El Paso February 9-12, where Sue Cameron, Gary Roe, and I will conduct a one-day seminar called [Help4Survivors](#). Sue has also arranged for me to do a live radio interview, speak to a Celebrate Recovery group, and talk with a group of teens about sexual abuse.

I'm also excited because I'll be able to visit my grandson, Danny Rosenberry, who completed two tours in Iraq and has been transferred to Fort Bliss outside El Paso. He will be deployed to Afghanistan.

February 25, I'm scheduled for the first of four presentations at O'Fallon, IL (near St. Louis), for *Iron Sharpens Iron* (www.ironsharpensiron.net).

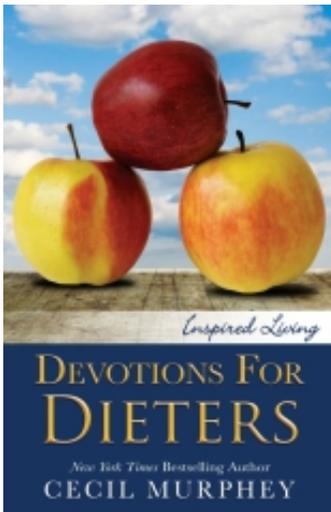
I'll also speak in Rockford, IL, on March 17 and the following weekend in Springfield, IL. My fourth is Moline, IL, on April 21.

March 1-4, I'll keynote and teach at the [Florida Christian Writers Conference](#), near Orlando.

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.

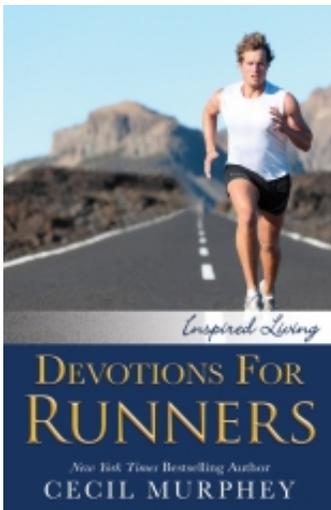
The Twila Zone—Words from My Assistant, Twila Belk

Cec and I are delighted that American Family Association highlighted our new book, [Because You Care: Spiritual Encouragement for Caregivers](#), as a resource for caregivers in this month's *AFA Journal*. We



How's that New Year's resolution working for you?

Maybe *Devotions for Dieters* will help. It's available in ebook only through Amazon, B&N, and Apple.



Are you a runner? Maybe you'd enjoy *Devotions for Runners*, available in ebook only through Amazon, B&N, and Apple.

made the centerfold. What a sweet surprise. Harvest House Publishers released the book this week.

If you're involved in an organization or ministry that helps caregivers, and would like to recommend our book as a resource, or if you would like to help us promote [Because You Care](#) through your blog or other methods, contact me and I'll send a complimentary copy.

We're getting excellent feedback about Cec's new book for writers —[Unleash the Writer Within](#). It's especially fun for me because I love telling Cec "I told you so."

Cec is scheduled to speak in Fairfax, Virginia, on Wednesday, May 16. We'd love to line up other speaking opportunities while he's there. If your church or organization is interested, let me know and we'll talk details.

Have you noticed that life doesn't always make sense? Is that the case with your life? You might be interested in Cec's next book, *Making Sense When Life Doesn't*. Summerside/Guideposts plan to release the book in early April.

Links of Interest:

[Cec's website](#)

[Cec's blog for writers](#)

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

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