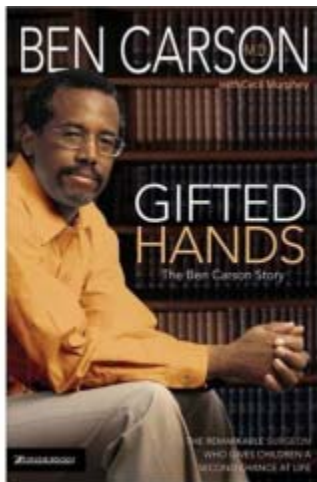


Cec says, "I want to, but I don't have to."



After 20 years, this book continues to sell well.

## "I Want to . . . I Don't Have to"

Each day I reviewed the list of things I didn't accomplish. I don't mean one-time items, but activities I wanted to do as part of my daily routine. I never seemed to do everything.

For example, I used to know New Testament Greek well, then slowly moved away from it and lost most of the language. Ten months ago I began to study Greek again. For the next seven months I missed only three days and translated two books of the Bible. For the past two weeks, however, I've worked on my Greek only twice. I want to study, but . . .

On an office shelf I counted 37 unread books. I want to read each one, but . . . I also have four books from the library and three I bought less than a week ago. That's 44 books and I want to read each one, but . . .

I think you grasp the problem—and perhaps you have the same issues but your tasks are different. They aren't things I dread or don't want to do. I want to do them. *All of them.*

This morning I carried on a dialogue with myself (and I do that regularly). "I want to . . .," I said.

"But you don't have to," my other self said.

"Maybe not, but I want to—"

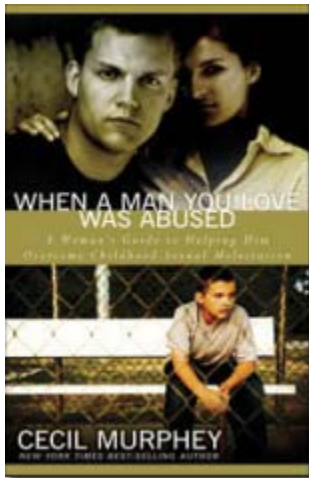
"But you don't have to, do you?"

The conversation involved many words and perhaps eight minutes of time, but I finally listened to the interior struggle. I wasn't tempted to do anything wrong, each activity was something I enjoy, and all added to my self-improvement.

"But I don't have to." I stood at my office window and repeated those five words.

I sighed and said once more, "But I don't have to."

A wonderful sense of peace came over me. I smiled at my decision because three years ago I told myself that I had worked hard and wanted to enjoy my life.



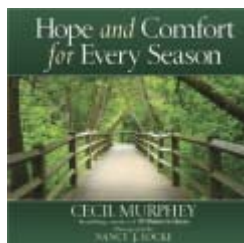
Do you or someone you know work with male survivors of sexual abuse? This book is a great resource. Contact Twila for a review copy.



Cec's blog for male survivors of sexual abuse offers hope and help for recovery.



Cec provides writing tips and advice twice a week on his blog for writers.



Several reviewers have said this is the "perfect gift" for someone who is going through a difficult time, struggling with change, or needs encouragement to stay the course.

And yet there are still those things I'd like to do. In the past, I would have made certain I included them, even if it meant missing sleep or spending less time with Shirley. *But I don't need to.*

## Personal News

- I have 5 radio interviews scheduled for August and more will come.
- I'll speak at the Maine Writers Conference August 14 and preach August 15 at First Baptist Church, in Belfast, Maine.
- My good friend Shelly Beach has set up a number of speaking/preaching events for me in Grand Rapids August 27 through September 1.
- I've received a copy of the new mass-paper printing of [Gifted Hands](#). They've published 20,000 copies this time. That still amazes me that after 20 years, the book still sells. According to my rough calculations, that makes the total somewhere between four and five million copies.

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

I'm happy to report that Cec survived last weekend with 600 women, and he did quite well. The She Speaks conference women were thrilled to meet him and to learn from him.

God continues to open doors for Cec to minister to men who have been affected by childhood sexual abuse (and the women who love them). If you (or someone you know) work with male survivors of abuse and would like to review Cec's book [When a Man You Love Was Abused](#) and use it as a resource, I'd love to send you a copy. Contact me at [twilabelk@mchsi.com](mailto:twilabelk@mchsi.com).

Cec's blog for male survivors is also a great help: [www.menshatteringthesilence.blogspot.com](http://www.menshatteringthesilence.blogspot.com).

We're often asked about where Cec is going to be and when he's going to be there. [Here's his schedule for the upcoming months](#). If you have specific questions regarding his schedule, contact me.

Are you a writer who'd love to get weekly writing tips and advice? Visit Cec's blog for writers: [www.cecmurpheyswritertowriter.blogspot.com](http://www.cecmurpheyswritertowriter.blogspot.com).

Coming soon—the *Cec and Me* online-radio program, which will air weekly on Toginet Radio. Stay tuned for more details

