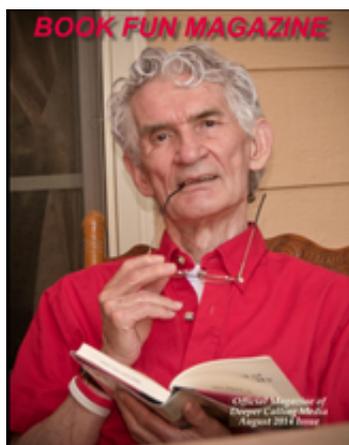


*Cecil Murphey*  
 WRITER \* SPEAKER \* TEACHER \* SURVIVOR 



Cec was featured on the cover of August's [Book Fun Magazine](#). The interview Twila did with him is on page 73. His article, "I Want to Be Like Jacob," is on page 69.



Cec and Twila were delighted to meet

## Intimate Thoughts

"I thought I was the only person who felt that way."

"My feelings are too intimate and personal," the woman said to me. "I don't think anyone else will understand."

"I was too ashamed." He looked away before he added, "If people knew what I really felt, deep inside, I was sure they'd despise me."

Most of us could have said those words. We have intimate or private thoughts that we censor or push away. We're afraid that if others knew—spouse, parent, friend, or boss—they would be shocked, despise us, and castigate us for being so evil.

A few years ago I realized something about each of the statements I've quoted above: They're common to us—to all of us—and more universal than we care to admit. We feel too embarrassed to share our private thoughts and emotions and can't imagine that anyone else would feel as we do. Perhaps that's why we hide behind empty words and clichés.

It took me a long time to figure out that our inner feelings aren't unique. Because we're not comfortable with them, we fear others won't understand. I've become more aware because of my book [When a Man You Love Was Abused](#). I took risks in writing it (including pushing away the statements above). I tried to open myself as fully as I was able. Did I worry about others not understanding, judging me, or despising me? Of course! But I did it anyway because I'm committed to honesty and transparency.

A number of men and a few women have since commented on my courage and honesty. Although I like the praise, I wrote to encourage others to be open and not to bury their emotions. Too many of us have lived with shame and become imprisoned by our feelings.

God knows the depths of our hearts and those feelings or thoughts don't diminish the divine love for us. And the people who truly love us value our honesty. They may even trust us with their own censored thoughts.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list

Christian Retail Show in Atlanta.

**Our most intimate thoughts,  
when clearly expressed,  
become the most universal.**

---



Cec enjoyed spending time with his good friend Marlene Bagnall after the Philly Christian Writers Conference. Marlene is the director for the Philly conference as well as the Colorado Christian Writers Conference.



Here's Cec in a lighter moment with his friend Rick Marschall at the Philly Christian Writers Conference.



[Cec's website](#)

[Cec's blog for writers](#)

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

[Cec's Twitter](#)

[Facebook: Cecil Murphey](#)



Cec made a lot of new friends at the Philly Christian Writers Conference. On the left, he's with Malachi Stewart, in the middle with Doreen and Kacy Wennberg, and on the right with Sonya Mercer.

---

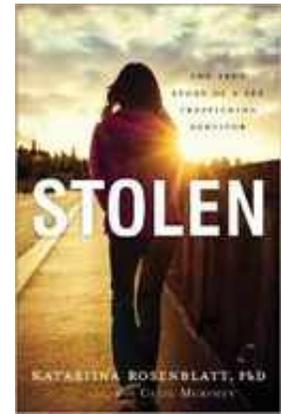
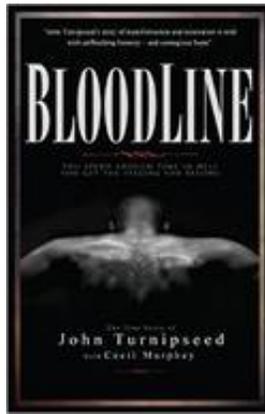
### Personal News

- After being on the speaking circuit for nearly three months, I'm home and catching up on the things I neglected.
  - Sep 19-20, I'll teach and speak at the [Writing for the Soul conference](#) in Murfreesboro, TN.
  - Sep 21-22, I'll participate in the [Christian Product Expo](#) that follows the conference.
  - I have two trips in October. Twila and I will have a booth at the [American Association of Christian Counselors' conference](#) in Branson, MO, Oct 2-4.
  - I'll speak for a seniors luncheon in Wethersfield, CT, on Oct 15, and Twila and I will both be involved in the [New England Christian Writers Retreat](#) Oct 17-19.
- 

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

[Author/Speaker](#)[Facebook: Cec and Me, with Cecil Murphey and Twila Belk](#)[Facebook: Twila Belk, The Gotta Tell Somebody Gal](#)[Twila's website](#)[Twila's email](#)

Did you know that the royalties from Cec's book sales go into a non-profit organization that provides scholarships for writers? Any time you purchase one of his books, you help others. Thank you!



Within the next few weeks, publishers will release [BloodLine: The John Turnipseed Story](#) (BroadStreet Publishing) and [Stolen: The True Story of a Sex Trafficking Survivor](#) (Revell), Cec's two newest titles.

[BloodLine](#) is the compelling true story of career criminal John Turnipseed. In his 40 years of a crime-filled life, John was regarded as one of the most notorious gang leaders in Minneapolis—a man who would harm anyone who threatened him or his extended gang family, the Bloods. He is now the Director of The Center for Fathering at Urban Ventures, a 19-year-old nonprofit organization set in the heart of the same Minneapolis gang territory that John and his family terrorized.

[Stolen](#) is the true story of one survivor who escaped--more than once. Young Katariina Rosenblatt fell into the hands of a confident young woman who pretended friendship but slowly lured her into a child prostitution ring. For years afterward, a cycle of false friendship, threats, drugs, and violence kept her trapped. As Kat shares her harrowing experiences, readers will quickly realize the frightening truth that these terrible things could have happened to any child. But beyond that, they will see that there is real hope for the victims of sex trafficking. *Stolen* is more than a warning. It is a celebration of survival that will inspire.

Gotta Tell Somebody, Inc. | 5672 Appleton Road | Bettendorf, IA 52722

