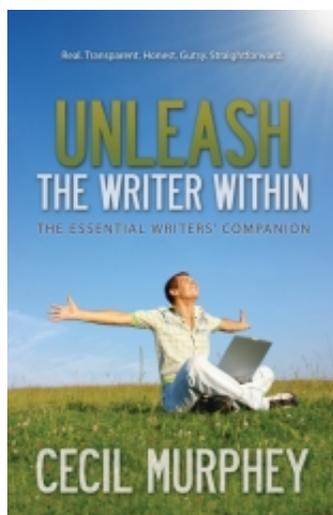


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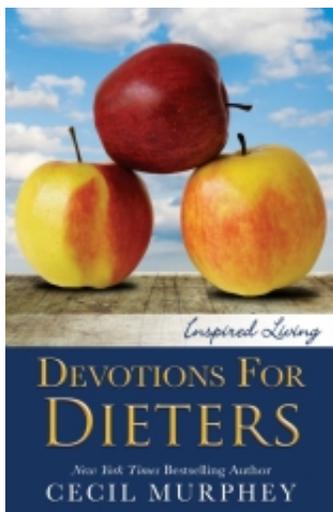
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Cecil Murphey
 WRITER * SPEAKER * TEACHER * SURVIVOR 



Is there a writer within you that is waiting to be unleashed? Let Cec's new book help.



Listening with the Third Ear

I'm a big talker but I'm not a natural listener. It took me a long time to train myself to listen—to hear—what others say. I've learned so much from shutting up and focusing on what the speakers truly mean.

For a quarter century, I've made my living as a ghostwriter (*collaborator* has become the new term). I was surprised at how much I've enjoyed telling the stories and sharing the ideas of others, whom we call the authors.

In the process, I've learned to listen. And especially to listen with what someone called "the third ear" and someone else calls "focused listening."

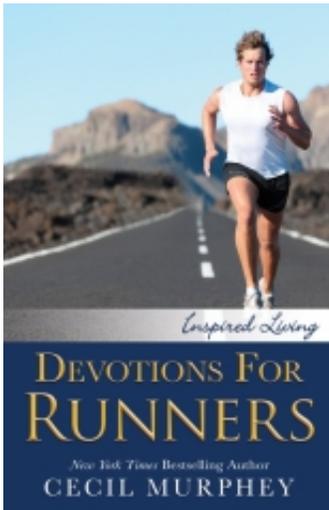
As a collaborator, I tape everything and have the tapes transcribed. About a decade ago I realized how little I spoke on the recordings. I also figured out that the more silent I remained, the better the interviews went.

When the authors speak, I try to concentrate fully on them. Their hesitations, pauses, or elevated pitch say as much as the words themselves.

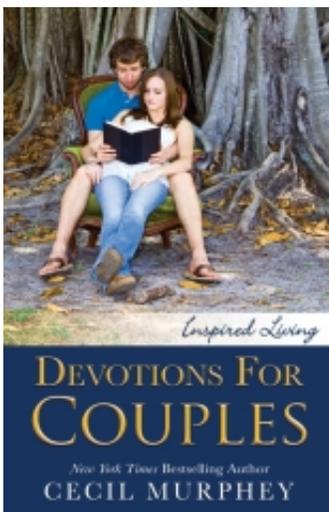
In the process I've learned to trust my third ear. That is, as I focus on the other person, I'm learning—still learning—to hear words not spoken. When I sense their deeper meaning, I'm able to connect with them.

Yet it's more than connecting. Germaine de Staël wrote, "To know all is to forgive all." I'd say that as I truly grasp others' intended meaning, I'm

Devotions for Dieters is one of three e-books now available in Cec's Inspired Living devotional series.



Devotions for Runners is now available for e-readers through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Apple.



Devotions for Couples is available on NOOK Book through Barnes & Noble.

able to empathize and don't judge them or their actions even if I disagree with their choices.

I've become more forgiving of others' failures and moral lapses. And something else, which surprised me: I've become more tolerant and understanding of myself when I fail to live up to all my espoused principles.

Personal News

By January 15, Twila and I expect to finish editing and rewriting *In the Company of Angels*, which Summerside/Guideposts will publish later this year.

My agent, Deidre Knight, held a book auction for *A Walk in the Dark*, which is Eva Piper's side of the [90 Minutes in Heaven](#) story. Thomas Nelson won the auction.

I have several local appearances and radio interviews scheduled for January, but I'll be home in Atlanta for the entire month.

Looking Forward

January 19, I'll speak about sexual abuse at Marketsquare International, a trade show in Atlanta.

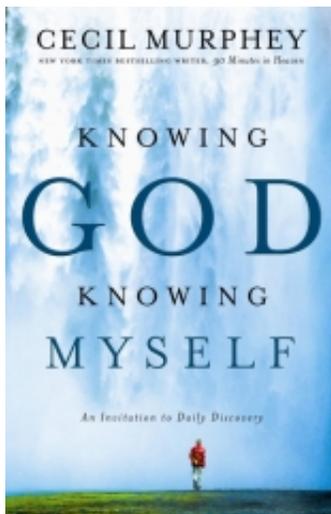
February 9-12, I'll be in El Paso, TX, to speak to a Celebrate Recovery group, and to talk with young people about sexual abuse. On Saturday, February 11, Sue Cameron, Gary Roe, and I will present a one-day seminar called [Help4Survivors](#).

February 25, I'm scheduled for the first of four presentations at [O'Fallon, IL](#) (near St. Louis), for Iron Sharpens Iron. 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.

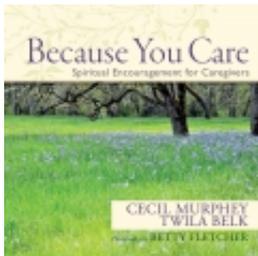
March 1-4, I'll keynote and teach at the [Florida Christian Writers Conference](#), near Orlando.

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



Want to read a good book that will impact your life in a positive way? Try *Knowing God, Knowing Myself*.



Because You Care provides practical help, sweet encouragement, and holy inspiration for caregivers. It's available for pre-order now.

Are you a writers conference director or involved in a writers group? Cec has a special offer for you. [Click here for info.](#)

Did you get an e-reader for Christmas? Cec has three books now available in his Inspired Living devotional series. You can purchase [Devotions for Dieters](#) and [Devotions for Runners](#) through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or Apple. [Devotions for Couples](#) is currently available through a Barnes & Noble exclusive promotion but will soon be available elsewhere.

Cec's second cozy mystery, *Everybody Wanted Room 623*, will be available for e-readers January 8. For info about that book and *Everybody Loved Roger Harden*, as well as cozy mysteries by other authors, visit [Spyglass Lane Mysteries](#).

If you're looking for a book that will start your year on a positive note, consider reading Cec's [Knowing God, Knowing Myself](#). Here's what one reader said about the book: "It is changing how I think of myself, how I relate to others, even my prayer life."

Do you know any caregivers, or are you a caregiver yourself? Harvest House Publishers will release [Because You Care: Spiritual Encouragement for Caregivers](#) (by Cec and Twila) this month. The book is described as "a breath of fresh air for those who are in a long-term care arrangement." It includes beautiful photos by nature photographer Betty Fletcher and is available for pre-order now.

[Links of Interest](#)

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[Cec's blog for writers](#)

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

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