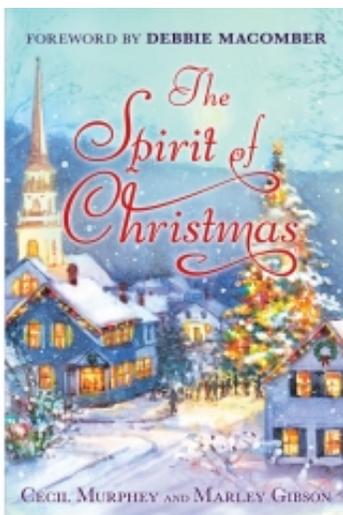


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Cecil Murphey
 WRITER * SPEAKER * TEACHER * SURVIVOR 



The Spirit of Christmas is now available. It makes a great gift for all your friends, teachers, mailmen, newspaper carriers, pastors, zookeepers, and neighbors.

Succeeding and Failing

He's a highly successful pastor, but one day we talked about failure. I first met him when he was the pastor of a 300-member congregation. A couple of years later the membership had ballooned to 900, and now they have several thousand members and established two satellite churches.

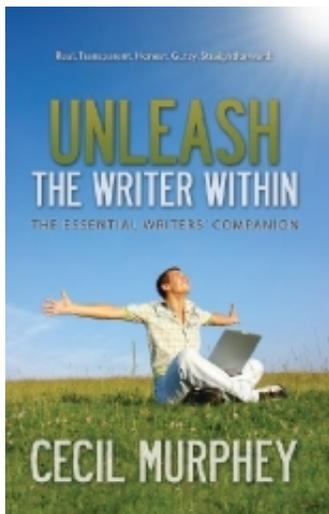
After I commented on how well he had done, my pastor friend said, "I know this is where I belong, but I'm not sure what we're supposed to do next." He spoke of the many opportunities to help people and he wasn't sure which way to direct his leadership.

In our discussion, he made a comment that has stayed with me since that day nearly three years ago: "I'm not afraid of trying and failing," he said and paused thoughtfully. "I'm afraid of succeeding at the wrong things." He went on to say God had given him a number of gifts and he recognized them as just that—gifts.

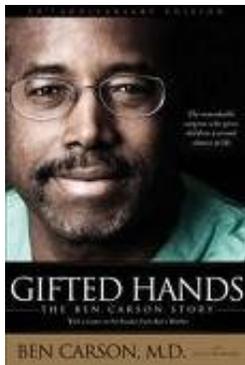
I understood. Some of us focus on the wrong things. We try something and it's easy and we succeed. But that may not make us contented or happy.

I thought of that conversation this morning after I came across notes I had taken more than 20 years ago when Bill Moyers interviewed Joseph Campbell on public TV.

Campbell said there are two paths in life. He called the first the right-handed path because "It's prudent and practical." He pointed out that it was an obvious way to go. If we follow the right-handed path, it often



Twila is in shock as she writes this. Yes, Cec has FINALLY succumbed to the pressure, and *Unleash the Writer Within* will release right around December 1, just in time for Christmas. It's a happy day for writers.



Gifted Hands is moving into its 22nd year in print and is still selling strong. Cec is grateful for the tremendous success of this book.

leads to the ladder of success. "If we climb the ladder of success, eventually we learn that the ladder is against the wrong wall."

Then he referred to the riskier left-handed path. He called it the path of following our bliss—our rapture—our ecstasy (his words).

If we take that riskier path, others might not understand, and we have no guarantee where we'll end up. We have no assurance that we'll achieve our goals or attain our dreams. "But if we choose the left-handed path," Campbell said, "it's worth it because the journey itself is its own reward."

If we don't take the left-handed path, we might succeed—but at the wrong things with no inner joy.

*I choose to take the left-handed path.
The risks make the journey worthwhile.*

PERSONAL NEWS

On Saturday, November 12, I'll be the speaker at the first prayer breakfast for [Voice Today](#) in Marietta, GA. It's a wonderful organization that reaches out to survivors of sexual abuse.

Sunday evening, November 27, my grandson Michael Hege and I will travel to Kenya for eight days to visit the places where I once lived and worked.

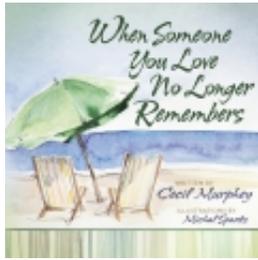
I can hardly believe that the book I wrote for Dr. Ben Carson called [Gifted Hands](#) is moving into its 22nd year and has never been out of print.

Regal books has sold the Spanish translation rights to [Knowing God](#), [Knowing Myself](#).

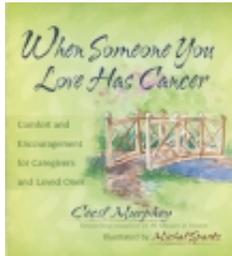
St. Martin's Press has just released [The Spirit of Christmas](#), a compilation book by Marley Gibson and me. Debbie Macomber wrote the foreword. It's a beautiful book.

The Twila Zone—Words from My Assistant, Twila Belk

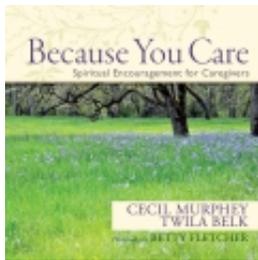
FINALLY, after lots of nagging and prodding, Cec agreed to write a



With a caring spirit, Cec provides comfort, advice, and prayers for those who journey alongside a loved one whose memory is fading. Popular artist Michal Sparks creates a sense of tranquility with her beautiful paintings.



This comforting book inspires caregivers of those with cancer to seek peace and understanding in their loved one's situation, learn the importance of active listening, and explore their own feelings of confusion and unrest.



Because You Care offers practical help, sweet encouragement, and holy inspiration, along with

book for writers. *Unleash the Writer Within* (the Essential Companion for Writers) will release just in time for Christmas. It's real, transparent, honest, gutsy, and straightforward. AND it's about time! We'll have purchasing information in the next newsletter. If you're a conference director or have a writers' group and would like to know about quantity discounts, [contact me](#).

Cec and I have a contract for *Heavenly Company*, a compilation book, with Summerside/Guideposts. We want true stories of angelic appearances that resulted in changed lives. Do you have one? Visit www.heavenlycompanybook.com for submission guidelines and details.

Do you enjoy a good cozy mystery? Do you have an e-reader? Cec's first cozy mystery, *Everybody Loved Roger Harden*, along with cozies by other authors, is available for 99¢ at www.spyglasslanemysteries.com. His other mysteries will be available in January and May.

November is National Family Caregiver Month, a time to thank, support, educate, and empower family caregivers. Cec has two beautiful books with Harvest House Publishers that would make a nice gift: [When Someone You Love No Longer Remembers](#) and [When Someone You Love Has Cancer](#). A third book, [Because You Care: Spiritual Encouragement for Caregivers](#) (with Twila Belk), will be available in January.

Links of Interest:

[Cec's website](#)

[Cec's blog for writers](#)

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

[The Cec and Me radio show](#)

[Follow Cec on Twitter](#)

[Twila's email](#)

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