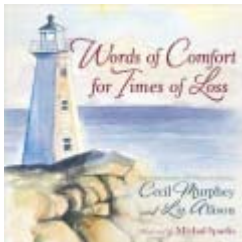




Connect with Cec at a conference or through one of the links provided at the bottom of the newsletter.



Through great personal loss, Cec and co-author Liz Allison have gained insight to share with others who are going through uncertainty, depression, and loneliness after losing a loved one. They also offer advice for those comforting someone who is grieving in their book *Words of Comfort for Times of Loss*.

"I Didn't Know What to Say."

Two years before I left the pastorate, I asked several church members to reach out to the grieving. I started with a question, "What have you said when you've heard about the death of a loved one?"

- "With all those people crowded around her, I thought I'd stay out of it and not add to the confusion."
- "He had his pastor, his family, and many friends. What could I say that they couldn't?"
- "I didn't know what to say to her."
- "I don't know enough about the Bible to give them the right words."
- "I was afraid that if I tried to say anything, I'd start crying. That's no way to help."

They wanted to help but felt inadequate. They assumed both too much and too little. They assumed that others had the right words to say. They assumed too little in thinking they themselves had nothing to offer.

They focused on their inadequacy and it paralyzed them from opening up to those who hurt. Sometimes a single word or a touch on the shoulder can make an amazing difference.

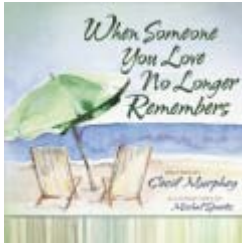
For example, I once visited Irene, whose husband had died from a massive coronary.

Later she thanked me profusely and I wondered why.

"Everyone was trying to express sympathy. I appreciated that, but the more they talked, the deeper I felt my loss. You came in, smiled, and said, 'It's strange for Joe to lie in a funeral home. Wouldn't he want us to burst out in praise for God's love?'"

"Instead of crying, a song ran through my mind," she said. "Days before Joe died, I heard him singing 'His Eye Is on the Sparrow.' Just as the song says, God watches over Joe." What had seemed insignificant to me, made a vast difference to her.

We don't have to be theologically trained or enroll in counseling classes to help. We do need to care and be sensitive to the pain.



If you or someone you know has a loved one who no longer remembers, consider this book. Cec offers comfort, advice, and prayers, which are combined with artist Michal Sparks' beautiful, soothing pictures.



Cec offers writing tips and advice for other writers at his Writer to Writer blog every Tuesday and Friday.



Cec hurt for a long time because of childhood sexual abuse. He provides a safe place for hurting men to connect with other survivors of sexual abuse at his Men Shattering the Silence blog.

"Don't worry about knowing what to say," I told the group. "If you focus on those who hurt, you'll make a difference."

Personal news

On June 10–11, I'll speak twice at the [Exodus International Conference](#) at the Ridgecrest Conference Center in NC.

June 23–25, I'll deliver 3 keynotes at the [Kentucky Christian Writers Conference](#) at E-town and preach on Sunday morning at the Brandenburg UMC.

July 10–15 is the annual International Christian Retail Show and this year it's in Atlanta. Twila is now scheduling interviews and speaking engagements and a booksigning for my new gift book, [When Someone You Love No Longer Remembers](#).

The Twila Zone—Words from My Assistant, Twila Belk

Harvest House Publishers just began shipping Cec's newest book, [When Someone You Love No Longer Remembers](#). The book provides comfort, advice, and prayers for those who journey alongside a loved one whose memory is fading. Tranquil paintings of popular artist Michal Sparks provide a sanctuary for caregivers, friends, and family members as they draw strength from firsthand stories of those who have walked a similar path.

If you work with families of dementia or Alzheimer's patients and would like a copy of the book to recommend to others, email me with your address and I'll send a copy: twilabelk@mchsi.com.

Would you like to write a review of [When Someone You Love No Longer Remembers](#) and feature an article on your blog or other places? Send me an email (twilabelk@mchsi.com) and I'll get a copy to you and give you whatever info you need.

Shortly after Cec began writing full time, he made a double promise to God: (1) He would never stop learning, and (2) He would do whatever he could to help other writers.

One of the ways he helps other writers is through his blog at www.cecwrightertowriter.com. He shares great writing tips and advice every Tuesday and Friday. It's like a writers conference that comes to your inbox. Another way he helps writers is by providing scholarships. You can help him do that by letting others know about his books. All proceeds from his books go into a nonprofit fund to help other writers and ministries.



The *Cec and Me* show airs live on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. CT/8 ET. It's also available through podcast and downloadable through iTunes. Visit Toginet.com or click on the picture above for details.

Cec can't figure out who he is. Is he Cec or is he me? [Check out this fun video](#) to see who wins in a raging personal pronoun debate.

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](#)