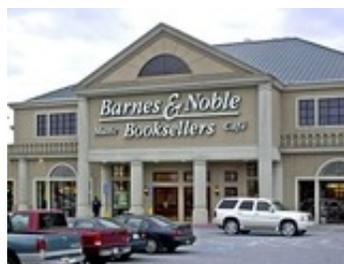


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Cecil Murphey

WRITER * SPEAKER * TEACHER * SURVIVOR

If you live in the Atlanta area, you're invited to an author event at Barnes & Noble--2952 Cobb Parkway SE--on Saturday, April 12, 2-4 p.m.

Cec and his author/speaker friend [Ginger Garrett](#) will talk on the topic "How to Break into Publishing," answer questions, and sign books. This is a great opportunity for you to learn from the pros, chat with Cec, and purchase autographed books for Easter gifts.

Opening Up

I'm a ghostwriter/collaborator. That is, I make my living by writing for other people and trying to capture their voices and personalities on paper. My goal is to grasp who they are and write their stories to help them connect with readers.

As we work together their trust level increases, and they share their anguish and failures. Sometimes they cry. In the process of opening up to me, they also hear themselves and often gain deeper self-awareness.

I don't say a great deal while I tape material, but I listen intently. Those for whom I write enable me to accept them at their most pitiful level, love them in the midst of their tragic failures, and cheer for their triumph. I connected with their experiences—obviously not by what they did but by the way they interpret the meaning of those inner battles.

I learn about them, and, to my surprise, I'm changed by being a witness to their lives. In some mystic, unexplainable way, they help me become more open and compassionate. That may be obvious, but it was a startling revelation to me.

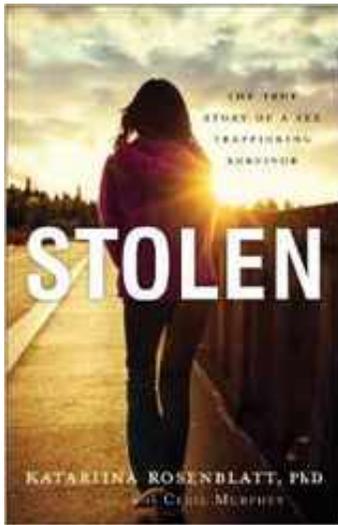
I had been a ghostwriter for at least a decade before that insight filtered through my consciousness. Until then, I wrote about others to help them tell their stories and to expand their self-discovery. They told of forgiving others, forgiving themselves, moving beyond failures, and living with peace in the present.

In doing so, I accepted them and learned to accept myself more fully. And that transferred into my being more loving and acceptable of others. When people open up so I can understand their painful journey and I truly listen, they teach me to be more forgiving and compassionate.

It's amazing to me how this works. And I wondered why it took me so long to figure out the principle: The more I give myself to others through listening and

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IS IT POSSIBLE THAT MIGHT BE GOD'S PLAN FOR HUMANITY?



[Stolen: The True Story of a Sex Trafficking Survivor](#), the book Cec wrote for Katarina Rosenblatt, is now available for pre-order.



Cec was in South Carolina in March and did an interview with Nite Line on the topic of [Saying Goodbye: Facing the Loss of a Loved One](#).



Cec enjoyed keynoting for the Carolina Christian Writers Conference in March.

The more I give myself to others through listening and sensing their pain, the more healthy and whole I become.

Personal News

- I'm heavily at work on a book about former career criminal, John Turnipseed, which will be titled *Bloodline*. The publisher gave me a short deadline, so I'm putting in many long days and a few nights—and enjoying it.
- In April, I'll be a guest again on Bob Dutko's radio show from Detroit; I'll speak to a Stephen Ministry group at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Norcross, Georgia.
- One of the highlights in April will be to speak to a cancer support group of which Shirley was a faithful, long-term member.
- I'll teach an adult Sunday school class at Clairmont Presbyterian Church, Decatur, GA, for the first three Sundays in April.
- Near the end of the month, I'm scheduled to speak at back-to-back conferences ([one for editors](#), [one for writers](#)) in Santa Ana, CA.

The Twila Zone—Words from My Assistant, Twila Belk

Due to the increased attention on heaven because of Easter, Regal Books has set up a special promotion for our book [I Believe in Heaven: Real Stories from the Bible, History and Today](#). From April 1 through April 30, [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Christianbook.com](#), and some smaller e-book retailers will sell the e-book for \$1.99 or less. [Read a sample of the book here](#).



Cec will teach at the [Glory Reelz Film Festival](#) in Detroit on June 6-7, and he's available to preach on Sunday, June 8, while he's in the area. Contact me at twilabelk@mchsi.com if your church is interested in scheduling him.

Cec always enjoys hearing good words about how his books affect readers. He recently received this note: "I am reading [Knowing God, Knowing Myself](#) and I want to thank you for your words. You do not know me and my story, but your words in the few chapters I have read make me feel like you



[Cec's website](#)

[Cec's blog for writers](#)

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

[Cec's Twitter](#)

[Facebook: Cecil Murphey
Author/Speaker](#)

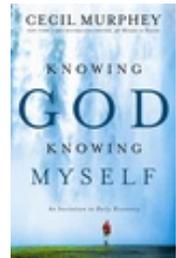
[Facebook: Cec and Me, with
Cecil Murphey and Twila Belk](#)

[Facebook: Twila Belk, The
Gotta Tell Somebody Gal](#)

[Twila's website](#)

[Twila's email](#)

have been in my life for years and understand me. Your eloquence in words has pinpointed how I need to reshape my thinking to survive the turmoil I face. I am referring to your chapter on Grace Builders and at this very moment I am hugging you with gratitude for bringing me some peace...My Ash Wednesday is starting off with tears of gratitude for you and your wisdom. Thank you, my friend, for being my silent partner in my Lenten journey!"



Looking for a great writers conference? Need a reason to visit Colorado? Join me at the [Colorado Christian Writers Conference](#) in Estes Park May 14-17. I'll teach two classes and do one-on-one appointments. I'd love to see you there!

Cecil (Cec) Murphey

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