

Dr. Ben Carson's name is frequently in the news these days, and there's a good chance he'll run for President. Cec wrote Ben's first two books, [Gifted Hands](#) and [Think Big](#), and they continue to sell well. The current issue of *Today's Christian Living* magazine had a nice interview with Ben that included several comments from Cec.

The Fifth Business

Classic operas feature a soprano-heroine, a tenor-lover, a contralto-rival, and a basso-villain. The story can't work without introducing a fifth business, a baritone, who provides the twist in the plot. He becomes the change agent.

Recently I thought of the fifth-business people in my life. There have been several, beginning with a Sunday school teacher who prayed for me every day for 17 years.

Another life changer was Hal Lyon. After six years in Kenya, my wife, three children, and I returned to the USA. I enrolled at Columbia Theological Seminary, and Hal Lyon was one of the first people I met. He was a professor and the dean of students. I didn't realize how much of a fifth business he was until perhaps a decade after I graduated.

A number of times I thought of the warmth and compassion of that man and his influence on my spiritual growth.

And I never told him. The last I heard, perhaps 30 years ago, Hal had become a denominational executive and, I assumed, was probably dead or long retired.

A few weeks ago, I spoke to an enthusiastic senior's book club. As I was putting away my books, an elderly man rushed into the room, smiling at me. "Hal Lyon," he said.

Tears came to my eyes as memories of his kindness filled my heart. I hugged him and fumbled with words, trying to express my gratitude.

Two weeks later, I picked Hal up for lunch to celebrate his 93rd birthday.

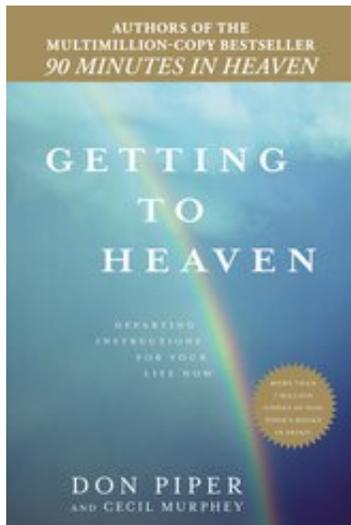
And I told him.

How poor my life would have been if God had not injected Hal Lyon into my life. The joy of seeing him again—and finally expressing my appreciation—made me realize how many individuals fit my fifth-business list.

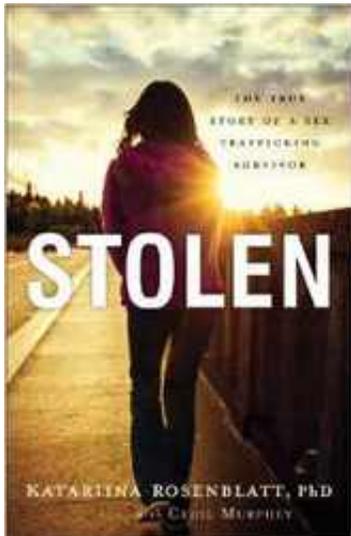
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ople in my life.

because of them, I'm a far, far better person.



[Getting to Heaven: Departing Instructions for Your Life Now](#) is now available in paperback. When Cec and Don Piper wrote the book, they originally titled it *Departing Instructions for the Life Ahead*, and the publisher changed it to its current title. It's the third follow-up book to the *New York Times* best-seller [90 Minutes in Heaven](#).

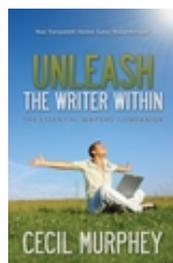


Human trafficking is a serious issue today, and we're grateful for people like Katariina Rosenblatt who are willing to share their stories and offer help and hope to those who are caught in the trade. Cec helped



Personal News

- I sold my first script—a short video—to VisionMedia.com. They want more and I'm excited about "climbing a new mountain."
- A big surprise to me was that [SuzyQ](#) and Munce (a group of about 400 independent Christian bookstores) named their new conference, [Cecil Murphey's Writer to Writer Conference](#). Jerry Jenkins and I will both teach at the conference in Hershey, PA, January 15–16, 2015.
- Until the January conference, I'm home in Atlanta catching up on things. I've started a new book and have commitments to write two others in 2015.



The Twila Zone—Words from My Assistant, Twila Belk

If you have an interest in writing, I have ideas for your Christmas list! How about the January [Cecil Murphey's Writer to Writer Conference](#) in Hershey, PA? It would be a great kickstart to your year. Also, Cec's books [Unleash the Writer Within](#) and [Writer to Writer](#) would fit nicely into your stocking. A gift

Kat write her new book, [Stolen: The True Story of a Sex Trafficking Survivor](#). She recently [shared her story of survival and inspiration, as well as good, practical advice](#), with the NBC-TV affiliate in South Florida.

LINKS

[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](#)

[Twila's website](#)

[Twila's email](#)

that's available to you right now is [Cec's blog for writers](#). Twice weekly he posts writing tips and guidance. Check out the archives for a treasury of good info.

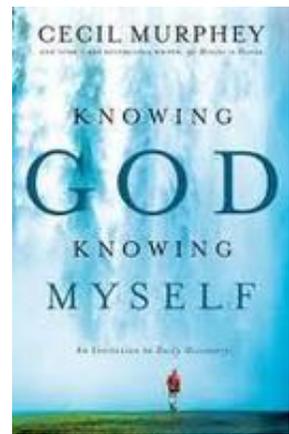
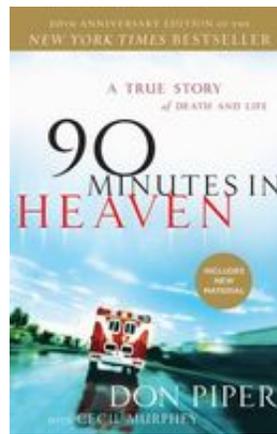
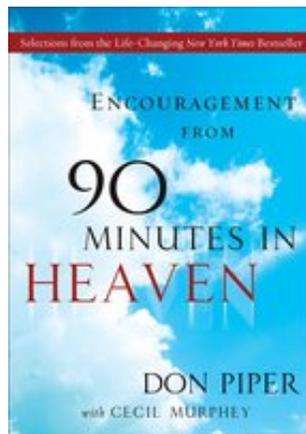
[Save the Dates for eBook Specials!](#)

Revell Publishing has created special eBook promotions for three of Cec's books in the days ahead. They should be available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Christianbook.com, and other eBook retailers.

[Encouragement from 90 Minutes in Heaven](#) - From December 10 through December 16, the eBook price will be 99¢.

[90 Minutes in Heaven](#) (10th Anniversary Edition) - The eBook version will be \$1.99 for 24 hours (midnight to midnight) on December 27.

[Knowing God, Knowing Myself](#) - During the period of December 30 through January 5, the eBook version will sell for 99¢.



Cec will be in the Colorado Springs area for an interview on March 11, and he'll speak for a writers group on March 9. He has openings in his schedule while there. If you have an opportunity for Cec to speak or preach during the period of March 8-12, [contact Twila](#) for more information.

On a Personal Note:

I was delighted to learn that *Raindrops from Heaven: Gentle Reminders of God's Power, Presence and Purpose*--my new book with BroadStreet Publishing--is available for pre-order through [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and [CBD](#). It's scheduled to release on February 15. The book is beautiful inside and out and has a reading for every day of the year.

I enjoy opportunities to speak for retreats, women's events, and writers conferences, and I'm grateful to have several engagements already on my 2015 schedule.

