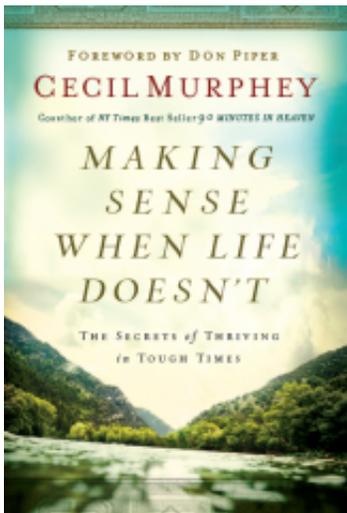


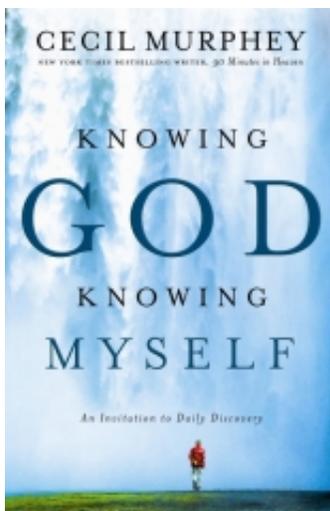


Cecil Murphey

WRITER * SPEAKER * TEACHER * SURVIVOR

Going through tough times?
Making Sense When Life Doesn't
gives help for thriving in the midst
of crisis and chaos.



"Like sitting down for a long chat
with an older, wiser friend," is
what one reader says about
Knowing God, Knowing Myself.

Am I Really Like That?

I'm amazed when people tell me about myself. Sometimes their words express more about themselves than they do about me. Even so, I wonder how many times I've asked, "Am I really like that?"

Six years ago, I met a woman I hadn't seen since ninth grade. As we chatted she said, "You were always so smart." Her words shocked me because I assumed I was an average student.

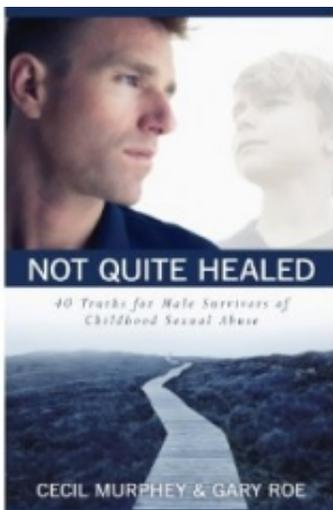
I've also heard negative comments. In an email last week, a woman called me curt. I would have preferred something like terse or to the point. For two days I pondered her word. She was right—even though I didn't like admitting it.

A few months ago, I met a writer named Chuck Graham. We live near each other in the Atlanta area (although we met in Orlando) and we've become good friends. He regularly emails, addressing me as Amagho. He says it stands for "a man after God's own heart." That's one of the nicest, most shocking things anyone has ever called me. I'm a little embarrassed to repeat it.

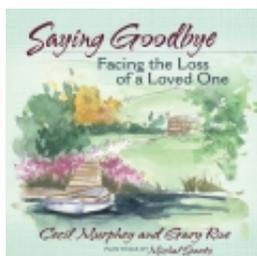
Is it true? I don't know, although I'd like it to be. Regardless, I'm delighted that Chuck feels that way.

I don't always accept the compliments or the insults, but they push me to ask myself, "Am I really like that?" Sometimes (especially with the negative words) I finally admit that the other person is right. That's a call to change my attitude and behavior. At other times I smile, hoping they're correct.

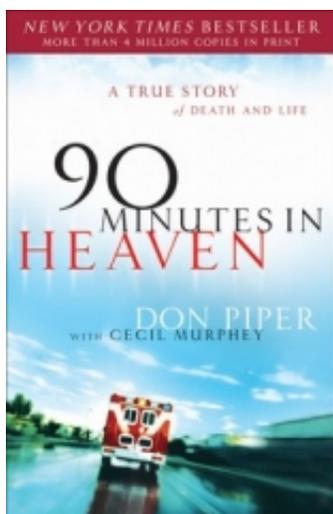
Of all the adjectives thrown at me during the past two years, I've heard one several times, and it's a label I haven't found comfortable. Last month in Pittsburgh, Tim Borgan interviewed me for the TV show, *His Place*. He said he remembered me from eight years earlier. When I expressed



Not Quite Healed: 40 Truths for Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse is now available for pre-order.



Saying Goodbye: Facing the Loss of a Loved One is now available for pre-order.



Filming for *90 Minutes in Heaven* should start this month. We'll have more info in upcoming

skepticism, he said, "I remember you as forthright and gentle."

Me? Gentle?

I don't see myself as particularly gentle. *Brash* seems more accurate, but I'm still pondering the word gentle. Am I really like that?

*I don't always know who I am,
even though others say they do.
I'm a human-in-progress,
and only God really knows who I am.*

Personal News

I've been overwhelmed by the cards and emails about Shirley's health. Nothing could have touched me more this Christmas season. She has an appointment at a pain clinic for January 4.

I have two TV interviews this month and I can do both with one night away from home. That's my only trip for January.

Don Piper tells me that filming for *90 Minutes in Heaven* should start this month. The holdup has been waiting for a satisfactory screenplay.

The Twila Zone—Words from My Assistant, Twila Belk

More than ever these days we're faced with things that don't make sense. Cec shares secrets of surviving in tough times in his book *Making Sense When Life Doesn't*. One reviewer described it as "a treasure chest of wisdom." The short, easy-to-read chapters are good for daily readings.

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."

Need a new devotional this year? Cec has three in his Inspired Living series, available for ebook: *Devotions for Couples* ([Kindle](#), [NOOK](#)), *Devotions for Dieters* ([Kindle](#), [NOOK](#)), and *Devotions for Runners* ([Kindle](#), [NOOK](#)).

Two of Cec's new books are set to release February 1 —*Saying Goodbye: Facing the Loss of a Loved One* and *Not Quite Healed: 40 Truths for Male Survivors of Childhood*

newsletters.



For some Cec and Twila fun,
click on the picture.

[Sexual Abuse](#). Both are co-authored with hospice chaplain Gary Roe. They're available for preorder now.

Want to see something that'll give you a smile? **[Here's Cec and me at our best](#)**.

[Cec Links](#): (1) **[Website](#)** (2) **[Blog for writers](#)**, (3) **[Blog for male survivors of sexual abuse](#)**, (4) **[Twitter](#)**, (5) **[YouTube](#)**, (6) **[Facebook—Cec and Me, with Cecil Murphey and Twila Belk](#)**, (7) **[Facebook—Because You Care: Spiritual Encouragement for Caregivers](#)**, (8) **[Facebook—When Someone You Love No Longer Remembers](#)**, (9) **[Facebook—When Someone You Love Has Cancer](#)**, (10) **[Facebook—Christmas Miracles](#)**, (11) **[Facebook—Men Shattering the Silence](#)**, (12) **[Twila's website](#)**, (13) **[Twila's email](#)**

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