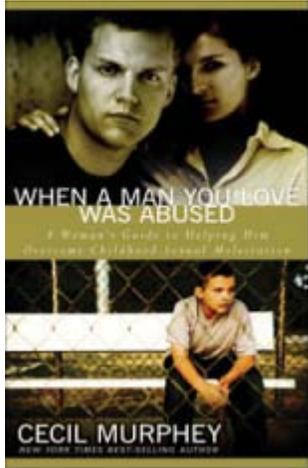
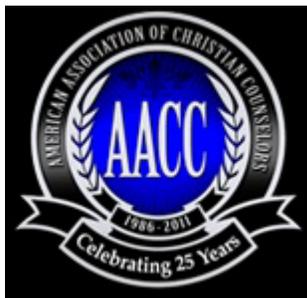




## Someone Doesn't Like Me



Kregel Publishing has a special 50% offer available at [www.kregel.com/AACC](http://www.kregel.com/AACC) until October 31. Enter AACC at checkout.



Cec and Twila will be in Nashville later this month for the American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference.

Across the street lives a neighbor with whom I had a minor run-in last year. Since then, she doesn't "see" me when we pass each other in the neighborhood. If her husband stops to talk to me, she keeps walking.

She doesn't like me and probably never will. I figured out long ago that there will always be a few people who probably won't ever like me.

That's true with all of us: Some people don't like us. Won't like us. Ever. Often we don't know the reason.

I've tried to engage her in conversation and several times I gave her plants from our garden, but she hasn't warmed up to me.

I recently admitted that regardless of anything I do, she'll probably continue to have no use for me.

Years ago I began to pray for individuals who disliked me or spoke against me. I prayed for God to repay them for their sins and their hardness of heart. That was self-righteous, indignant praying, and I no longer pray that way.

To my neighbor I owe thanks for helping me to change my attitude. I pray good things for her every day. I expect no change, not even a friendly smile.

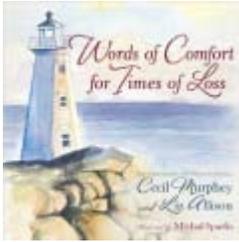
From that situation, I understood something significant for me. First, those don't-like-me individuals push me toward self-examination. I honestly search my heart to figure out if I'm guilty of wrongdoing toward them. Most of the time, no answer comes. (When it does, I apologize.)

Second, whenever my neighbor walks down the street, I see her slumped shoulders and the lack of joy on her face. I don't know much about her and I don't ask other neighbors. I simply believe that she must be an unhappy woman.

Each day and each time I see her, I pray for God to fill her with peace and joy.

Maybe God will answer my prayer.

## Personal News



Cec has a book signing for *Words of Comfort for Times of Loss* at the AACC World Conference. He also has a book signing for *When a Man You Love Was Abused*.

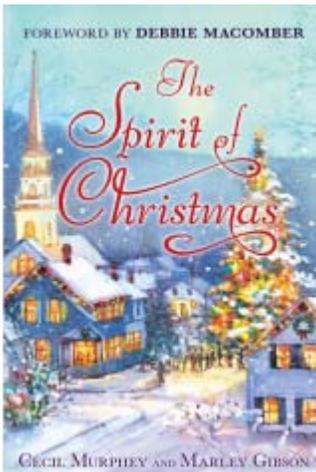
September 8–10, I'll do one keynote and teach four classes for the [Christian Authors Guild](#) in Norcross, GA (about 15 miles away).

September 22–25, I'll be in my hometown of Davenport, IA, where I'll speak several times and meet with former classmates for a high school reunion.

Two of my publishers have set up booksignings for me at the [American Association of Christian Counselors conference](#) September 28 to October 1.

I finished writing *Unleashing the Writer Within: Who You Are Is What You Write* for an early 2012 release.

## The Twila Zone--Words from My Assistant, Twila Belk



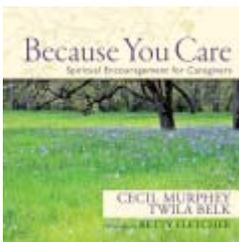
It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Hot cocoa is available at your local grocery store. *The Spirit of Christmas* is available for preorder.

One of Cec's greatest desires is to minister to men. We're delighted that the doors have opened for him to speak for several Iron Sharpens Iron men's events in Illinois early next year.

Kregel Publishing is offering a special 50% discount on [When a Man You Love Was Abused](#) and other helpful ministry resources for the American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference in Nashville this month. The offer is valid for orders placed September 1 through October 31 at [www.kregel.com/AACC](http://www.kregel.com/AACC) and is applicable for any quantity of books ordered, even for people not attending the conference. If you order books, enter code AACC when you check out.

Will you be at the [AACC World Conference](#)? If yes, stop by booth #1116 and say hi. I'll be there for the full conference, representing Cec and schmoozing. Cec will be there two days for his book signings.

Want to know more about *When a Man You Love Was Abused*? Jonalyn Fisher wrote a compassionate, thorough review. [Read it here.](#)



Twila and Cec joined up to write *Because You Care: Spiritual Encouragement for Caregivers*. It's coming soon.

Thank you to all of you who write book reviews and spread the word about Cec's books. All royalties from his book sales go into a nonprofit organization that helps other writers and ministries.

Cec and Pastor Dawn Jones will team up again for two "When Someone You Love Was Abused" conferences: October 8 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, at a location to be determined, and October 15 at Mt. Misgah United Methodist Church in Alpharetta, Georgia (9820 Nesbit Ferry Road, Phone 678-336-3000). If you're interested in either conference and want more info, email me at [twilabelk@mchsi.com](mailto:twilabelk@mchsi.com). I should have full details soon.



*Cec and Me* is live every Tuesday night at [Toginet.com](http://Toginet.com). Podcasts are available at the [Cec and Me website](#).

Feeling Christmassy? St. Martin's Press will release Cec's book [The Spirit of Christmas](#) next month. It's available for preorder now.

Perry Atkinson of Afternoons on the Dove (The Dove TV) interviewed Cec about caregiving on August 24. The interview is available on [YouTube](#).

### 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](#)