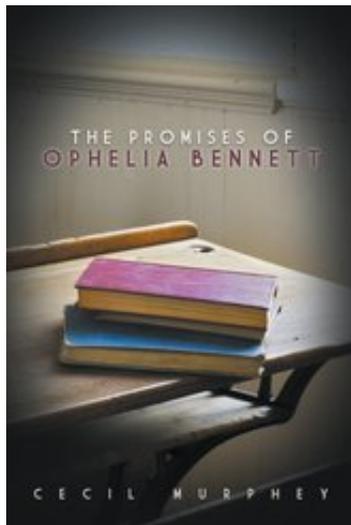




Cecil Murphey

WRITER * SPEAKER * TEACHER * SURVIVOR

See a special offer for Cec's not-officially-released novel in the Twila Zone.

Murphey's Maxims

Cec has written hundreds of aphorisms and succinct prayers that express what he's learned or wants to learn. Here are six we've recently put into pass-it-along type cards and magnets.

Count the Votes

"We Chose to Die," was the title of my twentieth published article. At the time I was pastor of a church in an area where people were moving away. That was during the days we called "white flight"—rather than face integration of their neighborhoods, people sold their homes and moved.

The members of the congregation were unable to accept the situation. With the support of a few brave elders, we pushed the congregation to sell our building to an African American congregation that would reach out to the community. (That congregation went from about 100 members to 600 in less than a year.)

After I wrote the article for our denominational magazine, I received ten letters telling me that we had done the right thing. And I believed we had. However, one prominent minister wrote a scathing letter to the editor insisting that God didn't tell us to kill congregations but to make them grow.

Ten supporting voices. One negative. For days, I obsessed over that one blast and let it rob me of inner peace. From that experience, I vowed to count only the yes votes.

We'll always get negative voices—that's a given. "It won't work." "Who are you to try that?" "People won't like it."

A year after the death of that church, I became pastor of a wonderful congregation that embraced me and allowed me to implement various programs. A few opposed any change, but I kept going anyway.

In the ten years I was pastor (until I left to write full time), I rarely had serious dissension from the church board. I started numerous programs, but I faced opposition only once. Nine elders opposed it; nine supported it. I felt the wise thing to do was to cast the deciding vote against my own program.

Later, one of my supporters said, "So you counted the no votes, didn't you?"

"I counted the yes votes," I said. "There weren't enough."

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want to make:



Loving God, show me the truth about myself, no matter how wonderful it may be.



God, remind me that today I can choose to redefine my life. Today I can start again.



Today I have time to do everything I need to do today.



God, heal the parts of me that don't want to be healed.

*When I make changes,
I count only the yes votes.*

Personal News

*September is finally over. I did more traveling last month than I did for the first eight months of the year.

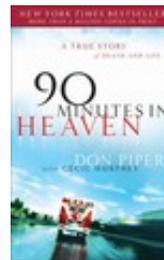
*In 2014, our publisher will release a 10-year anniversary edition of *90 Minutes in Heaven*. We've added 18 new stories to the edition.

* *90 Minutes in Heaven* has now sold 6.4 million copies and has been translated into about 30 other languages.

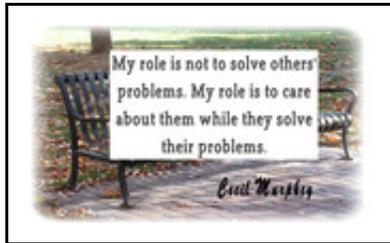
* *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story* continues with big sales. Because three publishers have printed it, I don't know the total sales, but it's at least equal to *90 Minutes in Heaven*. AND it's been continuously in print since 1990.

*Twila and I will teach this month in Covington, GA, and our friends Marlene Bagnull, Julie Garmon, and Marion Bond West will also be on the faculty.

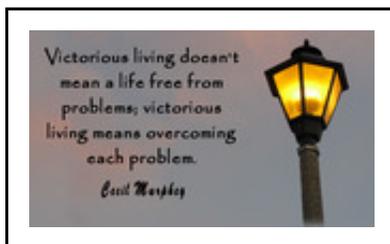
*On October 15, I'll do a TV interview in Tampa, FL and speak at the Christian Authors Guild in Woodstock, GA on October 21. I also have a few radio interviews this month.



The Twila Zone—Words from My Assistant, Twila Belk



My role is not to solve others' problems. My role is to care about them while they solve their problems.



Victorious living doesn't mean a life free from problems; victorious living means overcoming each problem.

It's fall cleaning time! Because Cec refuses to stop writing and releasing books, I need to make room in my office. That's a good thing for you! I have a large quantity of uncorrected copies of Cec's not-officially-released novel, *The Promises of Ophelia Bennett*, and I'm offering them for \$3 each for 1-4 copies (plus \$3 postage) or \$3 each and free postage for 5 or more copies.

The Promises of Ophelia Bennett is a poignant, heart-warming, unforgettable story about a teacher's passionate calling to make learning easy and enjoyable. "Trouble might not come right away, but it always came. Of that truth, *Ophelia Bennett* had no doubt."

Winn Story recently read it and said, "I just finished the book and couldn't put it down. What a great story! I'll share it with several friends. I used two handkerchiefs and a box of Kleenex at the end." Others have mentioned that it would make a nice gift for a teacher or a good read for a homeschooler. It would also work well for book clubs.

If you'd like to take advantage of this special offer, email me for more information. For a fun bonus, I'll include in the package one of each of Cec's six new Murphey's Maxims cards.

One major way Cec expresses his faith is by writing aphorisms—succinct statements that express things he's learned or wants to learn. In time for the American Association of Christian Counselor World Conference in Nashville last month, we developed a pass-it-along type card and magnets using six of his statements (now called Murphey's Maxims) and sold them at our exhibitor booth. We had wonderful feedback and hope to develop even more products in upcoming days. (See the column to the left.)

Are you a writer or aspiring writer looking for a conference to attend this fall? Cec and I will teach at the [East Metro Atlanta Christian Writers Conference](#) October 11-12, and I will teach at the [Breathe Conference](#) in Grand Rapids October 18-19. Visit the conference websites for information.

If you're on Facebook, check out [Cec's new author/speaker page](#) and the [Cec and Me page](#). You'll find lots of pictures, maxims, and good stuff there. Thanks to Gail Smith for administrating the pages.

Cec Links: (1) [Website](#), (2) [Blog for writers](#), (3) [Blog for male survivors of sexual abuse](#), (4) [Twitter](#), (5) [Facebook—Cecil Murphey Author/Speaker](#), (6) [Facebook—Cec and Me, with Cecil Murphey and Twila Belk](#), (7) [Twila's website](#), (8) [Twila's email](#)

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