

# EARL HIGHTOWER FANTASTIC DRUG INTERVENTIONIST SPEAKER DRAWS A CROWD AT CAPO BEACH CHURCH EARLIER THIS MONTH

By William C. White

Fantastic speaker, Earl Hightower delivered one of his incredible drug and alcoholic Intervention talks at the Capo Beach Church Speaker Meeting in San Juan Capistrano California on September 27. Several of those attending said things like "We feel it's one of the best Earl Hightower drug and alcoholic Intervention talks we've ever heard." These comments would be remarkable coming from ordinary people, but they are even more extraordinary coming from Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Counselors and health care professionals, some of whom traveled hundreds of miles to hear him speak.

It's a speech full of both shock and very natural humor. Earl tells how his world was filled with fear until he took his first drink at age twelve. Plunging into the desperate downward spiral of drugs and alcohol. At 15 years of age, he was already a raging alcoholic. After losing his entire family in a horrifying and gruesome airplane crash, where he was the only family member to survive, he was ready to give up on life. Earl Hightower's difficult path to recovery is a source of inspiration to all who hear it. Earl has a bizarre, and sometimes humor filled story of recovery and a great, self-deprecating way of sharing it.

Nearly everyone has a family member who has lost the battle with drugs and alcohol addiction. Earl Hightower is one of the country's most gifted individual speakers who can touch both the addict and their family members with his compelling and riveting story.

This event at the Capo Beach Church was arranged by Danny Murphy, founder of the organization



**Earl Hightower at the Capo Beach Church with the author William White.**

and film documentary of the same name; StopB4UStart, said: "The most painful thing you can see is when a family loses a young adult or teenager because of alcohol or drug addiction. It kills every single day and we are seeing more deaths by overdose of young people than ever before. It is epidemic. That is why we created "StopB4UStart" the documentary, featuring 20 of the most renowned public speakers on the topic of alcoholism and addiction who dealt with it themselves. I know we can make a difference and save families from this unnecessary heartache. I know that those precious lives can be helped. StopB4UStart is more than a documentary; it is about dedicating as many resources as possible and put them towards that effort. Danny Murphy, founder of StopB4UStart, the organization that sponsored the event is himself a recovering addict said that "It was an honor to have a man of such high reputation speak for the premiere of StopB4UStart."

Cindy Nichols, Executive director of Spencer Recovery in Laguna Beach who also spoke at this event, praised Earl Hightower's compelling message as an aid to intervention for families in crisis due to drugs and alcohol.

Another well-known speaker Todd Zalkins said that in February 2007, when Zalkins had been addicted to OxyContin and other painkillers for 17 years. He knew that if the pills didn't clear out of his system, he was a dead man. "I didn't sleep for 44 days," Zalkins recalls. It wasn't until his heart started skipping beats and he could barely breathe that Todd Zalkins finally crawled into a drug-treatment facility in Laguna Beach. What nearly killed Zalkins provided the basis for his autobiography, *dying for Triplicate*, that Zalkins says has already sold more than 50,000 copies. His descent into life-threatening addiction also sparks what has now become a full-time career: speaking to teenagers about the dangers of prescription-drug abuse and helping families bring their loved ones into treatment.

Danny Murphy concluded the presentation of the documentary film by saying: "Sadly, drugs and alcohol have a stranglehold on millions of young people today worldwide, stripping away their chances for a stable, happy and productive life. We want to change that and give young people the very best chance to a great life and empower them to stop before they ever have to go through the tragic and brutal life that is addiction."



**Fantastic speaker, Earl Hightower, Drug and Alcoholic Intervention specialist delivered one of his incredible talks at the Capo Beach Church in San Juan Capistrano.**



**Danny Murphy, founder of StopB4UStart, the organization that sponsored the event.**



**Todd Zalkins, Interventionist, author of the book "Dying for Triplicate"**



**Cindy Nichols, Executive director of Spencer Recovery in Laguna Beach with daughter Paige and Mike Nichols who shared the loss of a loved one also spoke at the StopB4UStart event**



**Rick Davis Film producer**