

## Caller Times

### Archive Search Result

#### Young, author of 'The Shack,' to speak at anti-drug benefit

**DATE: March 25, 2011**

**Lakendra Lewis**

**Page: B001**

Special to the Caller-Times

**PUBLICATION: Corpus Christi Caller-Times (TX)**

**SECTION: B: Local**

When Canadian author William Paul Young began writing "The Shack," he didn't set out to write a book that to date has sold more than 6 million copies, been translated into 40 languages and stayed atop The New York Times bestseller list for 40 consecutive weeks.

He just wanted to write a story for his kids.

But the controversial, self-published Christian novel about a man grieving his daughter's murder who has a life-altering experience when he receives a note from God asking to meet at a shack in the backwoods of Oregon has become a cultural phenomenon, catapulting Young from a guy who was working three jobs into a successful entrepreneur and much sought after speaker.

Young will be at the Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center today as the featured speaker for the Palmer Drug Abuse Program Sober Social Gala, a fundraising benefit for the organization's missions and programs.

The gala will have a nonalcoholic cash bar and a silent auction that includes a six-night, seven- day vacation package in South Africa.

Mary Orf, Palmer's fundraising director, said Young was chosen for his excellent speaking skills and because "The Shack" is a book that transcends religion.

"A lot of places that specialize in recovery urge their people to read this book because the main theme is a relationship with a higher power, and that's the third step in the 12-step program," Orf said. Young, who travels the U.S. speaking nearly 200 days out of the year, said he was grateful a story for which he initially printed only 15 copies was now being used as a tool to help people overcome addictions.

"I've gotten responses from every kind of 12-step program, and it's been unanimously positive, and I love that," Young said. "('The Shack') has given people a language to get unstuck, and I think that's been extremely helpful for people in that community."

**Caption: CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

**When William Paul Young wrote "The Shack," only 15 copies were printed initially. It now has sold more than 6 million.**

[Back to your search results](#) | [Return to the search page](#) | [Printer Friendly version](#)

All rights reserved. Users of this site agree to the [Terms of Service](#), [Privacy Notice/Your California Privacy Rights](#), and [Ad Choices](#)