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## Kay Warren

*Author, Speaker, Bible Teacher*

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Kay Warren, co-founder of Saddleback Church with her husband, Rick, is an international speaker, best-selling author, and Bible teacher who has a passion for inspiring and motivating others to make a difference with their lives.

She is best known for more than 10 years as a tireless advocate for those living with mental illness, HIV&AIDS, and the orphaned and vulnerable children left behind. As an advocate, she has traveled to 19 countries, calling the faith community as well as the public and private sectors to respond with prevention, care, treatment and support.

When her youngest son, Matthew, took his life in April 2013, her life was dramatically altered by the catastrophic loss. As she and her family continue to grieve the loss of Matthew, she has determined to be a voice for those living with mental illness. Her message to the faith community is to eliminate stigma, shame, and fear and to create warm and accepting places of refuge for those who suffer.

Kay is author of several books including *Choose Joy: Because Happiness Isn't Enough* (Revell, 2012). The book was adapted from a Bible study she first taught at Saddleback Church in July 2011 that more than 5,000 women attended during the four-week sessions. In the book, Kay describes how painful experiences - two bouts of cancer, watching as life-threatening illnesses attacked her children and grandchildren, and living with mild depression most of her life - have shaped her conviction that joy is a choice and within the reach of every person, no matter how desperate or dark circumstances may be.

She is also author of *Dangerous Surrender*, which was originally released in 2007 and revised, expanded, and published as *Say Yes to God* (Zondervan, 2010), and coauthor of *Foundations: 11 Core Truths to Build Your Life On* with Pastor Tom Holladay (Zondervan, 2004).

Additionally, Kay has written for *Christianity Today*, *Purpose Driven Life*, *CNN.com*, and *The Washington Post*; and has been featured in *Newsweek*, *Reader's Digest*, *Guideposts*, *Sojourners*, *POZ*, and *Today's Christian Woman* magazines, among others.

Kay attended California Baptist College and earned her B.A. from California State University, Los Angeles. Her children are Amy and Josh, and Matthew who is in Heaven, and she has five grandchildren: Kaylie, Cassidy, Caleb, Cole, and Claire.

