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**Pastor Rick Warren of Evangelical Megachurch  
Announces Launch of Saddleback San Diego**

***Informational Meeting in Encinitas, August 14***

SAN DIEGO, CA—Saddleback Church of Lake Forest, California has been taking steps to expand its reach throughout Southern California. With 16 campuses, including four international locations, they will be adding San Diego to their list of regions this fall.

After researching over 100 facilities, Saddleback's Pre-Launch Campus Team recently located a full-service campus in Carmel Valley. Saddleback's vision is to serve the San Diego community by eventually growing large enough to host two weekend services. Solidifying the launch plan was Pastor Rick Warren's official announcement that Jeff Gonzalez will be the new San Diego pastor.

"Saddleback San Diego is one we've been wanting to do for a long time," says Pastor Rick Warren, author of the best-selling book, *The Purpose Driven Life*. "We have members who drive every week from San Diego to our other campuses, but there's no reason for that in the future, because we're starting Saddleback San Diego. We've been waiting for the right pastor, and I'm happy to say that Jeff Gonzalez is coming back on our staff to become the new campus pastor at Saddleback San Diego."

Born in New Jersey and raised in Southern California, Jeff Gonzalez joined the U.S. Marine Corps at age 19. While raising a family and deploying to combat zones, he pursued a degree in Domestic Security Management at National University and is currently pursuing a Masters in Divinity from Golden Gate Theological Baptist Seminary. Jeff previously served as a volunteer at Saddleback San Clemente and led services in Afghanistan while deployed. After working in full-time ministry at Southwest Church, Jeff recently returned to Saddleback Church to serve in a greater capacity in San Diego. Between Camp Pendleton Marine Base in Oceanside, and the Naval Base at Point Loma, Jeff's experience will resonate with the spiritual needs of San Diego's retired military and those in active service.

In an effort to engage the San Diego community, Saddleback Church is hosting an informational "Meet the Pastor" event on Sunday, August 14 at the Encinitas Community Center. The evening will include a complimentary dinner, live music, and a time for Jeff to share his vision for Saddleback San Diego. In addition to meeting Jeff and his family, attendees will also gain insight about the new location and launch date slated for this fall.

With over 25,000 weekend members, Saddleback Church of Lake Forest is launching the San Diego campus as part of their three-year [Daring Faith campaign](#). The new full-service campus will help accomplish one of their five FAITH goals to "Fill God's House" with 40,000 worshippers at their weekend services by the year 2020. They are well on our way to meeting this goal as San Diego residents commit to joining the new Saddleback campus.

According to Pastor Warren. "At this meeting, you'll hear directly from Jeff, you'll be able to ask questions, meet his wife, and hear about the starting date for Saddleback San Diego. You don't want to miss this meeting—this is so exciting!"

To register for the “Meet the Pastor” dinner on August 14, click [HERE](#). The event will take place at 5:30 PM at Encinitas Community Center (1140 Oakcrest Park Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024). For more information, or to schedule an interview with San Diego Pastor Jeff Gonzalez, contact Local Marketing Manager, Christan Parreira at [christanp@saddleback.com](mailto:christanp@saddleback.com).

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