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Rick Warren hosts parenting forum Saturday

By ERIKA I. RITCHIE

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LAKE FOREST – Former Angel baseball player and broadcaster Rex Hudler will one of several featured speakers during Saddleback Church's Community Forums on Parenting Children, Teens and Children with Disabilities today.

The free event is open to the public and kicked off with an introduction from pastor Rick Warren at 8:30 a.m. at Saddleback Church.



Pastor Rick Warren is focusing his ministry on parenting over the next few weeks. "If you're 90 and you have children who are 70, you're still a parent raising children," Rick Warren told his congregation.

REPORTED BY ERIKA I. RITCHIE, PHOTO MINDY SCHAUER

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The forum parallels pastor Warren's current weekend teaching series on 'Raising Amazing Kids: What Smart Parents Know and Do.' Children and student ministries are aligning their weekend teaching messages to kids during this series. The goal is to have family members draw closer to the Lord and to each other on parenting.

"Pastor Rick had a real desire to address children with disabilities," said Cynthia Petty, who assists children's pastor Steve Adams. "We feel this is something that is not addressed in the community and that there are a lot of parents struggling out there. We want parents to know they are not alone."

Hudler, who started the nonprofit group Team Up For Down Syndrome, is sharing the story of his first-born son Cade. Jill Kelly, wife of former quarterback of the Buffalo Bills and Pro Football Hall of Famer, Jim Kelly, will talk about her son. Hunter was diagnosed with Krabbe Leukodystrophy, an inherited fatal nervous system disease that later took his life at a young age.

There will be at least 25 tables with resource information for parents with disabled children.

Olivia and Kurt Bruner are speaking about parenting children. Olivia is author of "The Minivan Years: Celebrating the Hectic Joys of Motherhood" and the "Just Add Family" activity recipe kit. Kurt serves as pastor of Spiritual Formation at Lake Pointe Church. He is the author of more than a dozen books including "It Starts At Home," "The Purpose of Passion," "Finding God in the Lord of the Rings" and the bestselling "Family Night Tool Chest" series.

Wayne Rice is the founder and director of Understanding Your Teenager seminars. He began working with teenagers in 1963 and has authored numerous books for youth workers, parents, and teens including "Junior High Ministry," "Cleared for Takeoff," "Enjoy Your Middle Schooler" and "Read This Book

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