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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Crystal Cathedral completes sale of Rancho Capistrano Retreat Center

Saddleback Church to lease the property from purchaser, Hobby Lobby

LAKE FOREST, Calif., May 11, 2010 – [Dr. Rick Warren](#), senior pastor of [Saddleback Church](#), today announced the church will lease the Rancho Capistrano (The Ranch) ministry property located in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., from new owner Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. of Oklahoma City. Beginning immediately, Saddleback Church will assume responsibility for the 170-acre facility, including the Crean Retreat Center.

“We are grateful to Dr. Robert Schuller and the Crystal Cathedral Ministries for their stewardship of this unique ministry facility and to Hobby Lobby for allowing us to continue the longstanding legacy of Donna and John Crean and their family to change lives by providing hope and spiritual renewal,” said Warren, founding pastor of Saddleback Church and best-selling author of [“The Purpose Driven Life.”](#) “I thank God for Dr. Schuller’s faithful leadership and the commitment of so many individuals for nearly three decades to make this Retreat Center a reality.

“Rancho Capistrano will allow Saddleback Church to fulfill our vision to establish an overnight retreat center for personal renewal, group fellowship, life planning and living for the glory of God,” Warren continued. “It will also provide a spectacular venue for our church and the San Juan Capistrano community.”

The Rancho Capistrano property was a gift in 1981 to Crystal Cathedral Ministries (CCM) from Donna Crean and her late husband John, founders of Fleetwood Enterprises. It was their dream to establish a place of spiritual restoration where generations of individuals would continue to find hope.

For 29 years, The Ranch has provided spiritual outreach through retreats, renewals, weddings and religious gatherings. Early this year Crystal Cathedral’s International Board of Trustees announced its decision to close down operations at the San Juan Capistrano location in order to better focus on its “world-recognized and respected positive ministry.”

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Rancho Capistrano Retreat Center, page 2

CCM leadership has sought to honor their commitment to preserve the original intent of the Crean family gift, by finding another ministry that would carry on their vision. For more than a year, they have been in discussions with Warren and his team, who have long-recognized the need for a quiet retreat location for renewal and training. Last month the CCM board voted to sell the property to Hobby Lobby who has agreed to lease the property to Saddleback, which was finalized late yesterday in an agreement between the organizations.

The Ranch is located 12 miles from the main Saddleback Church campus in Lake Forest. The facility will continue to serve the community as it did under CCM, and in addition, it will be utilized to expand the pastoral training, church planting and [PEACE](#) ministries of Saddleback Church.

“Twenty-nine years ago our family gifted the Rancho Capistrano property as a place of spiritual hope and training, and since then other generous individuals have sacrificially joined with us in continuing its work,” said Andy Crean, son of John and Donna Crean. “We are pleased to learn that The Ranch fits the aggressive and progressive vision of Saddleback Church, and that their plans for The Ranch facility will remain faithful to our family’s longstanding dream to provide spiritual inspiration and renewal.”

Saddleback Church, founded by Warren and his wife Kay in 1980, is located in Lake Forest, Calif., with four additional campuses across Orange County, including Corona, Irvine, Laguna Woods and San Clemente. With an average weekly attendance of more than 22,000, it is among the 10 largest churches in America.

“The heart of our ministry has always been about the Church, and encouraging people and equipping pastors to lead healthy churches,” Warren concluded. “This Center will provide a place where we can expand on that vision to provide a retreat for families as well as refresh, restore and train pastors year-round at a location first settled by missionaries and mission planters nearly 300 years ago.”

For additional information about the Saddleback and its ministries, visit www.saddleback.com.