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Joel Osteen Signs New Book in Plano



Noted pastor, Joel Osteen, left, was in Plano Monday signing copies of his new book. Here he visits with Plano businessman Craig Keeland, a family friend.

Joel Osteen, pastor of America's largest church, was in Plano today signing his latest book *Become a Better You* at the Family Christian Bookstore. Joel is the pastor of the Lakewood Church in Houston which was founded by his parents John and Dodie Osteen in 1959.

John and Dodie Osteen grew the Lakewood Church to 6,000 members. In 1999 their son Joel took over leadership of the church following his father's death. Since that time the church has grown to 45,000 people attending weekend services with seven million people in 150 countries watching the services on television.

Osteen is fast becoming the world's best known Christian minister, second only to Billy Graham. Osteen's books are big sellers worldwide. His new book is expected to sell more than six million copies.

Plano businessman Craig Keeland travels to Houston regularly to attend the Lakewood Church services. Keeland has come to know Dodie Osteen well and considers her his adopted mother.

"I am so blessed to know Dodie," Keeland said. "She is an amazing woman. I get so much out of attending the Lakewood Church. It's exciting to see so many people turning out to Joel's book signing today. Clearly they are touched by his work and his message."

Keeland sees parallels between Osteen's work and his own.

"Joel's sermons restore hope to worshipers all over the world. My hope is that my company *VíaVienté* restores health and hope around the world with our Anti-Oxidant rich whole food drink."