

Brenda Seefeldt Amodea has worked with teens since 1981 to present. She has lived through the teen years in the 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, 2010s and now into the 2020s. Imagine that collected wisdom! Imagine just the teen language trends Brenda has lived through.

Brenda has been married to John Amodea since 1997. John is a worship leader, career musician, and song writer. He has written music that heals the soul as music can.

Brenda and John became parents to four now-grown men. Since Brenda fell in love with Jesus at age 15 she continues to live a brave faith. So when God brought some wonderful boys into her life and God asked Brenda to "parent" them the answer was yes. Brenda wasn't afraid of the "yes" and John willingly married them all. This decision of all of Brenda's brave decisions has shaped her the most. And now they have six grandchildren.

Brenda's brave decisions have led to some smashed-heart seasons of her life. Christians are not exempt from pain and pain is the beginning of growth. Brenda wrote a unique small book, *I Wish I Could Carry Your Pain*, about how to really help someone through a smashed-heart season. Yes, it is autobiographical but it is more practical. It's only 28 pages and has doodles.

Brenda is the pastor of Larger Story Church, a church planted to reach teens. Gen Z longs to be invited into relational environments where their contributions and insights and discoveries really matter while they also do not trust the institution of the Church. Brenda is taking all of her 40 years of church work and trying to lead a different type of church.

"I want to thank you again for coming out last night and sharing your heart and story. Not only did you talk about being brave but you modeled bravery in such a way that those present can never look at our journeys the same. I also want to express a personal thought about last night. Most of the stories people share are safe because they know how the story ended. Just as you promised your story is current, fresh and raw trusting Jesus for an end." -Margaret, Centreville Baptist Church

This is Brenda. Whether she is sharing at a church, retreat, youth event, singles' event, women's event, or banquet, the story is current, fresh and raw trusting Jesus for an end. Like all good stories, there is a brave ending and a journey to be shared.