

# **Warren Benson Distinguished Christian Educator Award**

## **William Rick Yount**

### **Personal Life**

Rick was raised in a loving home in Rockville, Indiana for the first 8 years of his life. Then they moved to El Paso, Texas. In a Royal Ambassador camp in 1962 he made a commitment to full-time Christian service. Then, at age 21, he sensed a call to ministry with the deaf. He followed this by ministering among the deaf of Gallaudet College (Washington DC) and established a deaf ministry at Columbia Baptist church (Falls Church, Virginia, 1970-73). He moved to seminary and served as minister to the deaf at First Baptist Church (Irving, Texas, 1973-76). Following seminary days, he moved back to Columbia Baptist Church where he coordinated the deaf ministry and served as Minister of Education (1977-81).

Rick accepted the Lord's call to teach at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1981. He serves as professor of foundations of education, and chair of the division of foundations in the School of Educational Ministries. Along with the classes in foundations of education, he is also the research and statistics guru for our school. He teaches the class most dreaded by potential doctoral students, Research and Statistics for Advanced Studies. Most students approach that class with fear and trembling, but they know that if they can make a B or higher in that class, they will be able to survive the rigors of completing a doctoral dissertation.

### **Family**

Rick married Barbara Parish, February 1, 1969 (a very smart move for him!). They have 2 grown children. "Bonnie" Yount was born in 1978. She is married to Robert Lampasona and they have a sweet daughter, Madi, born in 2004. Rick and Barb have one son, "Chris" Yount who was born in 1981. Chris graduated from Baylor University in 2004 and married Meredith Jones, April 2005. Except for Madi, all the Yount family have made personal commitments to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and are members of local Southern Baptist churches.

Rick practices what he teaches. For the past 5 years he has taught an Empty-Nesters adult Sunday School class in Wedgwood Baptist Church (Fort Worth, Texas), where they are members. For a period of time, Rick and Barb and my wife and I worked together in a Sunday

School department for married seminary students. Rick taught a class and Barb was the mother to all the young couples. Rick's class was always the largest and most stimulating in our church. It was a joy working with Rick and Barb, and my wife and I look back on that with many fond memories.

### Awards

Rick has won his share of awards and recognitions. In addition to this present award, he received the following:

#### **Honorary Professor of Christian Education (2007)**

Given by the president and faculty of the Western Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary for his on-going teaching commitment to their school.

#### **Broadman & Holman Publishing Group Certificate of Recognition (2006)**

For outstanding contribution to the field of Christian education through leadership and scholarship presented at NAPCE as recognition of being one of the top ten selling authors in the history of B&H Publishing.

#### **Albert G. Marsh Award for the Outstanding Doctoral Student (1977).**

Given once every three years by vote of the faculty of the EM School.

#### **J. M. Price Award for "First Year Student Deemed Most Likely to Succeed" (1974).**

Given by vote of the faculty of the School of Religious Education, SWBTS.

### Published Books

You probably know Rick best through his books that have been used as textbooks in most of our schools represented here.

#### ***Created to Learn: A Christian Teacher's Introduction to Educational Psychology, Second***

***Edition.*** The first edition was chosen by the Evangelical Christian Publishers'

Association as a Gold Medallion Award finalist in 1998. It has also been translated into

Russian and chosen by the Eur-Asian Accrediting Association as one of ten Christian

texts in the West to be translated and published by EAAA in 2001 for their member Bible

Institutes and seminaries.

***Teaching Ministry of the Church, Second Edition.*** Served as general editor for the Second Edition, as well as author of six of the chapters. He also contributed four chapters to the first edition of *Teaching Ministry of the Church*.

***Called to Reach: Equipping Cross Cultural Disciplers.*** Applies the principles of teaching and learning (Christian Teachers' Triad and Disciplers' Model) to discipling and equipping believers in a cross-cultural missions context.

***Called To Teach: An Introduction to the Ministry of Teaching.*** Uses the Christian Teacher's Triad as a framing principle for analyzing the ten major roles of a Christian teacher.

***Be Opened! Introduction to Ministry with the Deaf.*** The first academic text focusing on local church ministry among the deaf.

### **Self-Published Books**

***Research Design and Statistical Analysis for Christian Ministry.*** (4<sup>th</sup> ed.) Distributed to over 200 professors and educational institutions world-wide since December 2005 by way of PDF files. Go to [www.napce.org](http://www.napce.org) and click on "Resources."

***The Discipler's Handbook: From Transmitting Lessons to Transforming Lives.*** Used as course text for Principles of Teaching along with *Called to Teach*. Distributed to over 50 professors and educational institutions since December 2005 as PDF files. Go to [www.napce.org](http://www.napce.org).

***I Can't/I'll Try: The Road to Christian Growth in Deaf Ministry.*** Textbook for leaders of deaf ministries focusing on an approach to teaching the Bible that prompts growth in the Lord. Pre-cursor to the more generalized *Disciplers' Handbook*.

**Teaching in the former Soviet Union.**

Rick first sensed a call to missions work in the Soviet Union at age 16, Baptist Youth Camp, July 1964. He finally stepped through the Lord's open door to the former Soviet Union to teach at Odessa Baptist Theological Seminary for the first time, May 1996, 32 years after the initial call "to go." From 1996 to the present, almost every year, he has conducted teaching and learning conferences in seminaries and local churches in the former Soviet Union. The courses are variously named, but basically cover the Disciplers' Model, the Christian Teachers' Triad, Erik Erikson, Jean Piaget, Lawrence Kohlberg (needs of learners), motivation, and principles of transformational teaching.

He is fluent in several languages, including English, American Sign Language (The language of American deaf people), and Texan. He has also spent twelve years of personal study of Russian for continued teaching Ministry in the former Soviet Union.

**We are honored to present the Warren Benson Distinguished Educator Award for 2009 to William Rick Yount.**

-- Dr. Wesley Black