

## **Warren Benson Distinguished Christian Educator Award Dr. Roy B. Zuck**

Dr. Roy B. Zuck has been awarded the 2009 Warren S. Benson distinguished Educator award by the North American Professors of Christian Education. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of Christian Education. There were many reasons for this organization to grant Dr. Zuck this award.

He could have been granted this award for his sheer eagerness and energy. Born and raised in Arizona, Roy's zest for learning appeared early. As a high school freshman, he wrote Biola University requesting an application for admission. Waiting several years did not dim his enthusiasm or his vision. His enthusiasm motivated him to graduate summa cum laude and president of the student council. His vision drew him to another council member named Dottie who later became his beloved wife. His vision was very clear in those days!

He could have been granted this award for his academic achievements. Following his bachelors at Biola, he moved through the ThM and ThD at Dallas Theological Seminary. During his studies at Dallas, he distinguished himself enough to become Dr. Howard Hendricks teaching assistant. That would have satisfied most normal human beings, but Roy pursued post doctoral studies at both Northern Illinois University and the University of North Texas.

He could have been granted this award for his contributions through the publishing industry. He gave fourteen years of his life to Scripture Press Publications as both writer and editor. These were great years for the Sunday school and Roy was right in the middle of providing quality curriculum. He moved quickly from heading up the Youth Ministries division to Executive Vice President of Scripture Press Ministries.

He could have been granted this award for his sheer number of publications. Roy's doctoral dissertation was published in 1971 as *The Holy Spirit in Your Teaching* and currently is entitled *Spirit Filled Teaching*. Few dissertations have enjoyed such a long life in published format. As author of 15 books and editor of 65 more, his writings cover an amazing variety of topics. His contributions range from Childhood education in the church to a Bibliography for Old Testament Exegesis. You could find something with Roy Zuck's name on it in almost every section of a Christian book store. The list of journal articles and book reviews makes one wonder when he slept. In addition, he writes tracts for the American Tract Society.

The North American Professors of Christian Education have many reasons to grant Dr. Roy B. Zuck the Warren S. Benson Distinguished Educator Award for 2009.

However, my favorite reason does not appear in his Faculty Personalia on file at Dallas Theological Seminary or his biography on line through Talbot Theological Seminary. I would like to suggest that Roy deserves this award because he is a classic example of the results of Christian education in the life of a man. I could bring forth a host of witnesses, but I would simply appeal to one. I speak of his unlimited devotion to and joyful love for Dottie. As her illness progressed, he withdrew from the many opportunities for ministry that are always before him in order to care for her. When asked about these difficult demands on him, you always came away feeling that he delighted in caring for her. He fulfilled his marriage promise to her throughout her extended illness until the Lord took her home. His life long love, devotion, and care represent the sweet fruits of true Christian education.

So, for these and many more reasons, it is my pleasure, on behalf of the North American Professors of Christian Education, to present the 2009 Warren S. Benson distinguished Educator Award.

-- Dr. Michael Lawson