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Press Release

NAATP Presents Michael Q. Ford Journalism Award for 2005

The Reverend Dr. James B. Nelson: Professor Emeritus of Christian Ethics and Author receives the 2005 Journalism Award from NAATP

Lancaster, PA, April 18, 2005: The Michael Q. Ford Journalism Award has been established by the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers to recognize the journalistic efforts, both electronic and print, that promote the value of and need for addiction treatment. The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers recognizes that there continues to be a void in this country in terms of information regarding the disease of addiction and the need for treatment as well as the continued stigma against viewing addiction as a disease and the promotion of treatment as a response to the disease.

This award has been developed in recognition of the immense leadership provided by Michael Q. Ford, the first Executive of the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers and whose journalistic style and flair was evident in all of the publications of NAATP. His energy, wit and determination helped to shape the direction of this organization. On September 23, 1999 his sudden and untimely death robbed NAATP and the addiction treatment field of a champion.

The 2005 recipient is The Reverend Dr. James B. Nelson, whose recent publication: *Thirst: God and the Alcoholic Experience* is being recognized with the 2005 Michael Q. Ford Journalism Award. This 2004 publication by the Westminster John Knox Press draws on the authors teaching and research skills as well as his own experience in recovery.

In a powerful manner that draws on his years of theological discipline, Dr. Nelson explores the "paradoxical" nature of addiction and recovery as well as the "paradoxical" nature of recovery. Dr.

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Nelson builds this book on a number of paradoxes that he has experienced in alcoholic addiction and recovery. He also suggests that to understand Paradox as a descriptor that points to a reality that goes beyond our typical, simple linear thought. Using the skills Dr. Nelson honed as a professor of Christian Ethics at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, he crafts this work as a way to explore the search for meaning in life which is a central part of all human beings and the short circuited process which occurs to persons with an addiction while they continue to search for meaning.

In reviewing this book, Howard Clinebell, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Claremont School of Theology, and author of *Understanding and Counseling Persons with Alcohol, Drug and Behavioral Addictions* said, “*Thirst* is a unique and precious gift from Jim Nelson to countless people concerned about our culture’s pandemic of multiple addictions! Sharing profound wisdom from his own recovery, Nelson reflects brilliantly on the complex theological issues involved in addiction and recovery. He illuminates the idolatrous spiritual power of addictions – a dynamic that Bill Wilson once described to me as ‘a vain attempt to drink God out of a bottle.’ This book is a valuable resource for addicted persons and their families, psychotherapists, counselors, and clergy.”

Dr. Nelson will receive the award as part of the Sunday evening Reception on May 22, 2005 during the 2005 NAATP annual leadership conference. Dr. Nelson will also participate on a panel on Sunday afternoon which will explore a number of dimensions of addiction, treatment and recovery.

Michael Q. Ford was someone who believed he could change the world through his written words and he did that with enormous skill, passion and grace. The Reverend Dr. James B. Nelson is following that tradition and accordingly was presented the 2005 Michael Q. Ford Journalism Award on May 22, 2005 as part of the NAATP Annual Conference in Scottsdale, AZ.

On the Net:

NAATP: <http://naatp.org>

The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers is a trade association representing over 270 of the best known providers of addiction treatment both in this country and internationally. The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers’ office and executive Dr. Ronald J. Hunsicker are located in Lancaster, PA and NAATP is governed by a Board of Directors from across the country. Additional information on this award or on the work of the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers may be obtained by contacting the NAATP office at 717-392-8480