

## Dr. Robert Enright - The Forgiveness Trailblazer

Dr. Robert Enright is a true pioneer in the scientific study of forgiveness. He has been called "the forgiveness trailblazer" by Time Magazine because of his 25-year academic commitment to researching and implementing forgiveness programs.

Dr. Enright is a Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a position he has held since 1978. He is co-founder of the International Forgiveness Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge about forgiveness and community renewal through forgiveness. He is also a licensed Psychologist.

Dr. Enright is the author or editor of 5 books, and over 80 publications centered on social development and the psychology of forgiveness. He developed the idea that the development of capabilities of reasoning about forgiveness paralleled the development



of capabilities at reasoning about justice, which had been developed by Harvard psychologist Lawrence Kohlberg. Dr. Enright explored these ideas in the United States and in other countries showing evidence toward a universality of the developmental processes.

He also developed an early intervention to promote forgiveness, which he calls the "process model of forgiving." This 20 step model has been tested by Dr. Enright and others largely in therapeutic situations.

He has reviewed and meta-analyzed the contributions of the process model. Many others have applied his model and are practicing his forgiveness therapy approach.

Dr. Enright has received funding from the John Templeton Foundation to conduct research into medical applications of forgiving. He also received funding from a variety of foundations, agencies and individuals for establishing the International Forgiveness Institute and has conducted a range of basic and applied studies of forgiveness.

In addition to programs operating in Wisconsin and throughout the U.S., he currently has elementary school forgiveness education programs operating in Belfast, Northern Ireland and Liberia, South Africa that he oversees himself along with registered programs in more than 20 other countries; and has consulted for education programs in Colombia, South America and in Serbia.

For his work in the peace movement, Dr. Enright was named a 2006 Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International. He also received the 2008-2009 Dick Ringler Distinguished Peace Educator Award from the Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies. 