



Religion Communicators Council
An Interfaith Association of Religion Communicators since 1929

Wilbur Awards

RCC's Wilbur Awards Recognize Media Excellence

For the 62nd year, the Religion Communicators Council (RCC) honored excellence in religion news coverage at the 2011 Wilbur Awards presentations April 2 in Little Rock AR. The awards ceremony was part of RCC's annual convention. Tyson Foods, Inc were underwriters for the program.

Awards were presented in 16 categories in radio, television, film, newspapers, books, magazines, video and one new category – blogs. Recipients received a specially-designed stained glass trophy.

The 2011 winners, representing 13 different media organizations, included:

- **National newspapers:** G. Jeffrey McDonald, *The Christian Science Monitor*, “Raised in Faith: Parents Take a Stronger Role in Helping Children Forge Religious Beliefs.”
- **Other newspapers:** Peter Smith, *The Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal*, “Mennonites, Amish Preach and Practice.”
- **Top 15 Magazines:** Writer Christopher Hitchens, *Vanity Fair*, “The New Commandments.”
- **Magazines, editorial:** Chris Mooney, *Playboy*, “The Born-Again Scientist.”
- **Books, fiction:** Richard Paul Evans, *The Walk*, published by Simon & Schuster.
- **Books, nonfiction:** Robert D. Putnam and David E. Campbell, *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*, also published by Simon & Schuster.
- **Television and cable, drama:** “Amish Grace” produced by Kyle A. Clark and Marta M. Mobley and executive producer Larry A. Thompson; directed by Gregg Champion; and written by Sylvie White and Teena Booth.
- **Television and cable, national news:** “Ruby Bridges,” *CBS Evening News with Katie Couric* – Michelle Miller, correspondent; Rick Kaplan, executive producer; Kim Godwin, Jack Renaud and Mike Cesario, producers, Max Stacy, photographer, Darrall Johnson, sound: and Katie Couric, anchor and managing editor.
- **Television and cable, local news:** “Pathways of Prayer,” KSPR-TV, Springfield Mo. – Joe Daves and Paul McReynolds, producers.
- **Television and cable, documentary:** “The Calling,” Kindling Group, Danny Alpert, series director and executive producer.
- **Television and cable, documentary:** “Haiti: Religion’s Response to Disaster,” *CBS Religion and Culture Series* – Elizabeth Kineke, producer, and John T. Blessington, executive producer.



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- **Radio, series:** “Sacred Ground,” *Tapestry*, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation – Nicola Luksic and Erin Pettit, producers; and Mary Hynes, host.
- **Radio, single program:** “Patients and Healers” and “Faith in the Aftermath,” *Under the Sun* on WLRN, Miami, Fla. – Dan Grech and Alicia Zuckerman, cohosts and senior producers; and Ruth Morris and Kenny Malone, producers.
- **Feature film, documentary:** “Rainbow Town,” Lauren Selmon Roberts, director/video/editor; Will Roberts, audio; and Amy Elrod, still photography. The documentary is a true story of a Liberian orphanage.

Smith also won a Wilbur for his **blog**, “Faith and Works: Kentucky’s and Indiana’s Diverse Religious Scene” at Courier-Journal.com.

Albert and the Kindling Group won a second Wilbur for their **online multimedia** series www.whatsyourcalling.org.

Since 1949, RCC has presented the annual awards to honor excellence in communicating religious issues, values and themes by individual in secular media. Originally called the “Award of Merit,” the awards were named in 1981 for the late Marvin C. Wilbur, a pioneer in religious public relations and longtime RCC leader.

The annual competition is judged in a jury process under the supervision of RCC members across the U.S. Basic judging criteria include content, creativity, execution, results and excellence in communicating religious values.

In 2012, the deadline for submitting Wilbur entries will be Feb. 6th and the award program will be April 14th in Philadelphia, Pa.

RCC, founded in 1929, is the oldest communication and public relations organization in the U.S. The organization’s more than 400 members represent a variety of faith groups. www.religioncommunicators.org.