

The Word Guild Leslie K. Tarr Award 2009 Media Release
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For immediate release

**Author and Writing Mentor Ray Wiseman to Receive
2009 Leslie K. Tarr Award for Outstanding Career Achievement**

***Perseverance and generosity of spirit have made Ray Wiseman an
encouragement for many***

Mississauga, Ontario — Ray Wiseman, 75, of Fergus, Ontario — author, speaker, editor and much-appreciated mentor — will receive the twenty-first annual Leslie K. Tarr Award for outstanding career achievement.

The award will be presented on Wednesday, June 17, during The Word Guild Awards Gala at the World Vision headquarters in Mississauga, Ontario.

Named in honour of its first recipient, the late Leslie K. Tarr, a Toronto journalist, editor, and teacher, the Tarr Award celebrates a major career contribution to Christian writing and publishing in Canada. Previous recipients include author Rudy Wiebe and poet Margaret Avison, both two-time Governor General's Literary Award winners, and Janette Oke, whose inspirational novels have sold over 28 million copies.

The Les Tarr Award is sponsored by Tyndale University College and Seminary and administered by The Word Guild.

The scope and quality of Ray Wiseman's writing and his role as a mentor have made him an encouragement for many. Wiseman, who writes a weekly column for *The Wellington Advertiser*, has written a novel, seven non-fiction books, ten technical manuals and hundreds of newspaper columns. For 11 years he was a freelance columnist for the *Guelph Mercury*.

Along with Anna, his wife of 53 years, he runs a manuscript-critiquing business. Wiseman finds "tremendous satisfaction in being able to help writers improve their work and get published." Several of the books he has critiqued have won awards, including Alan Reynolds' work on Christian apologetics, *A Troubled Faith*.

Wiseman acknowledges that Anna, who reads everything he writes before it goes to print, is integral to his success. "We complement each other," he

explains. "I'm the one with the creative talent. She's the one with good administrative, organizational and proofreading skills."

Don Ranney, a former orthopaedic surgeon and missionary who co-authored a novel with Wiseman, applauds his generosity as a friend and teacher. Ranney said, "He critiqued everything I wrote, but did it in a gentle way." He said his medical writing has also improved, thanks to Wiseman's tutelage.

Ray Wiseman's own story is inspirational. Because of family poverty and his father's illness, Wiseman had to leave school in Grade 9 to help support his family. But he continued his education as a mature student, and first became an electronics technician. Later on he discovered his writing skills while at Briercrest Bible College in Saskatchewan.

In 1982 Rogers Engineering asked him to take charge of technical writing and publications. This led to work with Partners International, for whom he edited a magazine and wrote several biographies of world Christian leaders who otherwise might not have been recognized. One is the best-selling *Disciples of Joy*, the story of Anand Chaudhari's spiritual journey from Brahmin priest to minister of Christ.

Along the way, Wiseman earned two bachelor degrees, one of which was in Biblical Studies. Wiseman, who has visited more than 30 countries, has also served as a missionary overseas and a pastor in Canada.

During the gala, The Word Guild will present some 30 awards in a variety of categories, including fiction and non-fiction, poetry, articles and song lyrics. Herbie Kuhn, popular speaker and in-house announcer for the Toronto Raptors basketball team, will host it. The event is open to the public. See [here](#) for more information

The Word Guild is an organization of more than 350 writers and editors across Canada who write and edit from a Christian perspective.