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About the Investigator and His Work in Forgiveness

Dr. Robert Enright is the unquestioned pioneer in the scientific study of forgiveness. He 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 a licensed Psychologist. He is the author or editor of 4 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. Others have applied his model. Dr. Enright received funding prior to the RFP in 1997 from the John Templeton Foundation to conduct research into medical applications of forgiving. He also received funding for establishing the Institute of Forgiveness and has conducted a range of basic and applied studies of forgiveness.

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