**Announcement: MIDWC Book Awards 2019**

The Martin Institute for Christianity & Culture and the Dallas Willard Research Center (MIDWC) at Westmont College are pleased to announce that the Book Award for 2019 will be shared by Gary Moon, *Becoming Dallas Willard: The Formation of a Philosopher, Teacher and Christ Follower* (Intervarsity, 2018), and Katherine Thompson, *Christ-Centred Mindfulness* (Acorn, 2018).

Dallas Willard (1935-2013) was a thinker, pastor and author of such books as *The Spirit of the Disciplines* and *The Divine Conspiracy*. Now regarded as modern spiritual classics, these works have inspired thousands of ordinary Christians to become extraordinary Christ-followers, and have influenced an entire generation of writers and teachers, especially on Christian spiritual disciplines and formation. The MIDWC Annual Book Award Program was created in 2015 to help place an enduring emphasis on the intellectual legacy of Dallas Willard by recognizing original written work that shares his vision that invisible things such as soul, spirit and the Kingdom of God are part of reality and can be known via experiential interaction.

Katherine Thompson’s *Christ-Centred Mindfulness* was selected because it pursues this vision in clear, uncluttered prose. In a work that is at once biblically informed and psychologically sophisticated, Thompson undertakes to retrieve and illuminate for Christians the proven clinical benefits of the discipline of mindfulness. She articulates a distinctive concept of “Christ-Centered mindfulness”, in which we silence the distracting chatter of the mind and make ourselves fully present to God. She also differentiates it from versions of the idea popularly associated with Buddhism and secular psychology, uncovering its roots in Christian scripture and theological tradition. Drawing on writers as diverse as Theresa of Avila and Dallas Willard, Thompson argues that practicing Christ-centered mindfulness means that “We start to see ourselves and the world around us through God’s eyes. It is a different way of seeing. It is to have the mind of Christ.” (Thompson, 62)

Since the MIDWC Book Award also is intended to celebrate the work and legacy of Dallas Willard, it was only natural that Gary Moon’s *Becoming Dallas Willard* was selected, too, since it is the first (and only) full length biography of Dallas Willard. Based on hundreds of hours of interviews and extensive correspondence with Willard and the people who knew him best, *Becoming Dallas Willard* vividly and sympathetically traces Willard’s life story, from his beginning on a poor farm in the Ozarks and early experiences of personal loss, through his education and family life, to a distinguished career as a philosophy professor at USC. Along the way, Moon (later a colleague in the Renovaré Institute) tells the story of how Willard became the man who could teach with such clarity, gentleness, and authority on the possibility of, and pathway to, spiritual transformation and eternal life in the Kingdom of God. In addition to this award, *Becoming Dallas Willard* was also chose by ECPA as the book of the year in the category of Biography and Memoir for the 2019 ECPA Christian Book Awards®, was named a finalist for the INDIES (University and Independent publishers) book award for the biography and memoir category.

We congratulate Gary Moon and Katherine Thompson for their books, and are honored to declare them co-winners in this year’s MIDWC Book Awards Program.