



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MICHAEL W. SMITH HONORED
FOR 'DISTINGUISHED CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP'

**KING'S COLLEGE AND SEMINARY BESTOWS APOSTELOS CHRISTOU AWARD
UPON VETERAN SINGER/SONGWRITER/WORSHIP LEADER**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (April 18, 2008) — Reunion Records artist **Michael W. Smith** will receive the *Apostelos Christou* Award for Distinguished Christian Leadership Saturday, April 19 in Los Angeles.

King's College and Seminary, founded and headed by Pastor Jack Hayford, presents the award annually to "an individual who, (a) by a life which characterizes the passion and values of timeless Christian faith, and (b) by leadership that has notably penetrated contemporary culture, has made a far-reaching impact for God, His Word and the ultimate glory of His Son, Jesus Christ."

Apostelos christou is the Greek expression for "one sent by Christ."

"I'm humbled and honored by this award. I know there are many other people more deserving and I appreciate even being considered," Smith says. "Kings College has done a tremendous job preparing and equipping Christian leaders. I'm glad for the opportunity to be with Dr. Hayford and join the past recipients of this honor."

Previous recipients of the award include Attorney General John Ashcroft; Touched By An Angel producer, Martha Williamson; Saddleback Church Pastor, Rick Warren and Faithful Central Pastor, Kenneth Ulmer.

The Saturday, April 19 ceremony kicks off a busy week for Smith, including appearances during GMA Music Week in Nashville and the 39th Annual Dove Awards, broadcast live on Gospel Music Channel Wednesday, April 23 at 8 p.m. EDT.

About Michael W. Smith

Over his 25-year career as a recording artist, Michael W. Smith has amassed an impressive catalog of achievements. His 20 albums have garnered multiple honors including an American Music Award, 3 GRAMMY Awards and 40 Gospel Music Association Dove Awards. In addition, he holds 16 Gold and 5 Platinum albums, 31 #1 radio hits, and has been named one of *People Magazine's* Most Beautiful People. In addition, Smith has scored film projects and written 11 books. His tours consistently rank among the best attended in the country and he has performed to capacity crowds throughout the world. Constantly giving back to the community, one of his current projects is Rocketown -- a nightclub for teens in his hometown of Nashville, Tenn. -- serves as safe place for young people to enjoy music and for artists to be discovered. He is married to Debbie Smith and they are the proud parents of five children.

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