
Prayers Of the People

The Reverend Dr. Lawrence W. Johnson Award

Lay Chaplain of the Year 2020 ~ MACK WILLIAM TAYLOR, JR.



“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us....All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.”

II COR 4:7-15

Raised in Oklahoma, high school and college football were an exciting part of Mack’s life. Playing Defensive End as a Bulldog for Southwestern State Oklahoma University may have solidified his courage, a hallmark characteristic throughout his life. “I was a really good player” you’ll hear if he is pushed to talk about those days! Mack chose the profession of selling life insurance and for 35 years worked for Lincoln National Life, John Hancock and Principal Financial Group. Through these years, Mack is grateful for having two wonderful sons, Mack Taylor, III, “Trey,” and Todd Taylor with his late wife, Connie Beth Saunders. Mack was a Chartered Life Underwriter and a Million Dollar Round Table and as a Vice President, his work required much travel.

Mack readily shares his truth about his faith; “In the early years, I believed in God but had no time for Him and would have said unpleasant things to Him, but God got ahold of me and turned that passion into evangelism with Bill Glass Behind the Walls, a prison ministry.” God had “set the captive free” in Mack’s soul and then used him across the United States. For twenty years, wherever work took him, he would also be granted visitations in the prisons of each city. Later pursuing a Masters in Education at The University of Texas - El Paso, Mack moved to the field of Education and substitute teaches to this day. Mack’s life is intertwined with ministry. He recalls adding to the family when his son Trey, befriended a young man through Boys Country. “We loved having Jerry with us for three years.” Regretfully, while serving our country, Trey lost his life during the Iraq War. His brother Todd also proudly served in The United States Navy and the family daily remembers Trey’s heroism.

Married to “a really wonderful and brilliant woman,” Mack shares that he and Susan have enjoyed many years together making retirement dreams come true while cruising around the world, dancing and when docked back in Houston, they are deeply connected to the fellowship and Bible Study Sunday School Class at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. They love making time for Todd and his wife, Sandra, who have served in Youth Ministry at Second Baptist Church for twenty years; living out Mack’s legacy! Susan and Mack’s six grandchildren truly love Jesus!

Mack has generously shared his wisdom as a member of the Board of Directors of PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and in 2013, he trained to be a POP Lay Chaplain, complementing his years of study through Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has loved providing Spiritual Care at HoustonMethodist – Sugar Land, usually serving two days per week, averaging over 1,200 spiritual contacts per year! When asked what drew him to Chaplaincy, Mack’s eyes beam with devotion -- “I love doing God’s work, listening to hurting people and praying for their pain in the presence of God. My grace is God. I am very humbled to have this eternal path working for Him. We are parts of Him. He is my Guy!” PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE gives glory to God for one of His finest gifts to this ministry – Mack Taylor, a pillar of truth and courage.