

## The Taylor University Mission

“The mission of Taylor University is to develop servant leaders marked with a passion to minister Christ’s redemptive love and truth to a world in need.”

The spiritual life of Taylor University begins and ends with discipleship. As C.S. Lewis’s mentor George MacDonald wrote, “To make disciples of Christ is the end of teaching, to be a disciple of Christ is the end of being.” The Bible confirms these words. For the Greek word for disciple, *μαθητης*, explicitly means *learner*. To be a disciple of Christ is thus to be engaged in the relentless discovery of God’s truth in every dimension of reality.

What does this look like at Taylor University? It takes the form of our president, Eugene Habecker, challenging students to prepare for the future by participating in Christian ministry now. It takes the form of faculty continuously honing their teaching skills through the Taylor Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence. It takes the form of a student body actively engaged in rigorous scholarship blended with corporate worship and hands on Christian ministry.

Taylor’s discipleship ministry has taken the form of authentic, explicit ministry through Lighthouse programs in which more than 1,900 students have ministered in 29 different countries.

Closer to home, discipleship takes the form of Christ-like ministry to Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s patients in our local University Nursing Home. It takes the form of Bible studies and Jazz concerts at Pendleton prison and youth work in our local churches and para-church organizations. And it takes the form of small group prayer meetings and one-on-one counseling sessions all over Taylor’s campus every day.

Taylor’s is a commitment to excellence that finds its end in *agape* love. As the Apostle Paul exhorted Timothy in 1 Tim. 1:5: “the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” We endorse the ideal of teaching promoted by Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153): “There are those who seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge, that is curiosity. There are those who seek knowledge to be known by others, that is vanity. There are those who seek knowledge in order to serve, that is love.”

In this spirit, Taylor University is about the business of relentless discovery in making mature Christian disciples who will productively serve the church in the coming generation for the glory of God. As has always been the case in Taylor’s rich, rich heritage, the mission “to develop servant leaders” takes a lot of work. But it’s work that works. *Sola Dei Gloria!*