

BURTON L. MACK (1931-2022)

Burton L. Mack passed away on March 9, 2022, at the age of 90. He was the John Wesley Professor Emeritus in Early Christianity at the Claremont School of Theology and Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California. Professor Mack received his PhD in Theology from the University of Göttingen in Göttingen, Germany in 1967.

Trained as a New Testament scholar, he explored the origins of Christianity in novel ways that stretched the traditional framework of the discipline. On his 65th birthday, organizers of an honorary colloquium wrote that “he is the one who has consistently insisted that we always strive to say something bigger about Christian origins, to portray its rich diversities and its unlikely machinations.” In his later years, he turned to the modern history of Christianity and its relationship to society and politics in the U.S.

He was the author of numerous works, including *Logos und Sophia, Wisdom and the Hebrew Epic, A Myth of Innocence, Rhetoric and the New Testament, The Lost Gospel, Who Wrote the New Testament?, The Christian Myth, Myth and the Christian Nation, Christian Mentality and The Rise and Fall of the Christian Myth.*

He is survived by his loving wife, Bonnie J Mack, his daughter, Barbara Mack (John McCleod), sons, Curtis Mack (Diane Evans) and Rainer Mack (Mariam Mack), granddaughters, Rachel Fisher, Zoe Mack and Helena Mack, and sister, Lori Freeberg. He was preceded in death by a son, Burt Mack Jr.