

René Maciel: Jesus is the answer to Orlando

June 15, 2016

We can be agents of goodness and kindness; we can love and show mercy; we can care and serve others. We can bring hope and light to this dark world. We have the answer. We have Jesus, and we are called to go into the world and preach the good and hopeful news of Jesus.

René Maciel: Celebrate at Texas Baptists' meeting in Waco, November 13-15

June 15, 2016

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting in Waco, Nov. 13-15.

Richard Ray: Pastors, love and

care for your children

June 15, 2016

Pastors have the responsibility to shepherd their church; however, they also have the responsibility to raise up their family in the Lord.

René Maciel: Compassionate community in the storm

June 15, 2016

We can help the people who comprise Baylor University to get up, stand by them, and most importantly, we can pray for them through the darkness. They need us, and we need them.

Maciel: Don't quit now!

June 15, 2016

It is not a sprint. It is a journey, run with endurance. It is a race God has set before you.

Richard Ray: Every pastor needs an advocate

June 15, 2016

Every pastor needs the help of another who will provide assistance in his time of need. Simply put, every pastor needs help.

René Maciel: Longing to find our selfies

June 15, 2016

Maybe we take these photos because we are searching for ourselves. We want others to take notice. Can you see me? Whatever the reason, it has become a popular phenomenon in our culture, maybe even an epidemic of a search for self.

Maciel: Mother provides example of God's love

June 15, 2016

This year is moving along so fast. It seems like only yesterday that 2016 was beginning. Now it's May! Where did those four months go?



René Maciel have been extremely busy at work, attending convention meetings, teaching at my church, training for running events and trying to take care of my big yard. One addition to my calendar is preaching at different churches throughout our convention, which I thoroughly enjoy much more than taking care of my yard. I guess the year is moving fast because I am moving fast.

I thank God he made me a high-energy person, always on the go. I like being busy, but I also realize I really do take life and all God has given me for granted at times. There are also times God has to slow us down—to take some time, to enjoy the moments, to stop and smell the roses. And when we finally do take those moments to focus and be still and be quiet, then we understand he is watching over our every step, like a mother cares for us.

The Apostle Paul gave us a wonderful picture of a mother who cares for her children. It's an example of how we are to care for others, with tenderness and compassion. It's a picture of God's care for us. He wrote these words: "Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you" (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8).



In spite of all of our busyness, God cares for us and watches over us. Even when we take life for granted and our lives are moving fast, he holds me and comforts me and reminds me I am his child. For me, he has shown his care and reminded me of his love by the incredible mother he gave me. She has shown me how to care for others, how to nurture and watch over them, how to hold them and feed them, how to listen and speak to them, and, most importantly, how to teach them about God's great love.

I can think of no greater way God has cared for me than with the mother he has given me. It was my mom who first took me to church. She was the one who brought the church into my life, and therefore opened my life to God and his care. Even as she is about to turn 92, she still wants to cook my favorite meal and cake when I go see her. She still is caring and still a constant reminder that even in my fast-paced life, God cares for me.

I love you, Mom. Thank you for your example of God's care for me.

René Maciel is president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and president of Baptist University of the Americas in San Antonio.

In Touch: Churches, Congreso, golf, floods, BaptistWay, leadership

June 15, 2016

Kathleen and I had a great time at [Blue Ridge Baptist Church](#) near Marlin as the congregation celebrated its annual May Day. This annual singing has been going on since 1887. Thanks to Pastor Darin Davis for the invitation.



David Hardage I also had a great time preaching at [First Baptist Church](#) in Denton. Pastor Jeff Williams was a gracious host. I enjoyed attending the groundbreaking ceremony for an adult conference center at [Latham Springs Camp](#) and the fund-raising banquet at the [University of North Texas Baptist Student Ministry](#).

I also had the privilege of attending [Congreso](#), where more than 300 professions of faith in Jesus were made in just one night alone. Thanks to Joshua del Riscio for his great leadership and to our [Great Commission Team](#), led by Delvin Atchison, and to everyone who had a part in this time of evangelism and discipleship.

Our 2016 Texas Baptist Golf Classic was a great success. We had 262 golfers show up on a beautiful day to play at the Dallas Athletic Club. This tournament would not be possible without the help of all our sponsors. Funds raised will go to our [Texas Baptist Counseling Services](#). Special thanks to our sponsors:



- Title: [BCFS](#)
- Platinum: [Baptist Credit Union](#)
- Gold: [HighGround Advisors](#)
- Silver: [Dallas Baptist University](#), [East Texas Baptist University](#), [Truett Theological Seminary](#), [Bruner Auto Family](#), [Austin Baptist Association](#) and [Saville, Dodgen and Company](#)

Thanks also to all our hole sponsors and to everyone who played!

In recent days, spring floods affected a number of communities in Southeast Texas. [Texas Baptist Disaster Recovery](#) will be looking to assist with long-term recovery efforts in the area. You can support the work by donating to Texas Baptist Disaster Recovery at [our website](#).

Faith > Fear is the newest Connect 360 Bible study from [BaptistWay Press](#). This study explores the causes and consequences of fear and suggests remedies for defeating fear through faith in God and his word.

We are in the process of recruiting cohort No. 2 for [Leadership Texas Baptists](#). The first cohort has been a great success for both us and the participants. The link to participate is now live and can be found on its website. Please share this with your networks, and let me know if you have a good candidate. The focus this time is 21- to 35-year-olds to strengthen up-and-coming leaders.

Every June, [Texas Baptists](#) honor two individuals who have left a legacy and are continuing to leave one through their everyday lives. This year, we are pleased to present Sam W. Prestidge Jr., founder of [Singing Men of Texas](#), and Tillie Burgin, founder of [Mission Arlington](#), with [Texas Baptist Legacy Awards](#). These outstanding individuals will be honored Sunday, June 5, at [Independence Baptist Church](#) near Brenham at 10 a.m., with a lunch to follow. If you wish to attend the ceremony and lunch, contact Becky Brown at (214) 828-5301.

David Hardage is executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board.

Ray: Don't miss the 30th Small Church Conference

June 15, 2016

To those serving on the small-church mission field, I invite you and your church to attend two wonderful events on the campus of Dallas Baptist University July 15-16.



Richard Ray On July 15, we invite pastor and their congregations to a banquet honoring Texas Baptist small churches and

those called to serve on the small-church mission field. The evening begins at 6 p.m. with a catered meal, followed by the gospel sounds of The Hubbards.

Our keynote speaker will be author Terry Caffey, who will share his story of the brutal Texas murders that destroyed his family and restored his faith, while shocking the nation. His story will encourage you and your church, while strengthening your faith in Christ. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13) will take on a completely new meaning in your life.

On July 16, we invite pastors and their servant leaders to attend the 30th annual Texas Baptist Small Church Conference. You and your servant leaders will have the opportunity to be encouraged, engaged and educated in the following areas:



- “Biblical Interpretation of Both the Old and New Testament”
- “How to Reach Youth for Christ”
- “Sermon Preparation From Text to Sermon”
- “Certificate of Ministry Program”
- “Small Church/Big Worship”
- “Launching a Children’s Program in Your Church”
- “Minister’s Wife Engaged”

During the Saturday lunch, you will receive a cater meal along with entertainment by Christian humorist Lyndy Phillips, “Laugh with Lyndy.”

I encourage you to mark these dates on your calendar. You do not want to

miss this special gathering of those who have been called to serve on the small-church mission field.

Registration is open. [Click here](#) to register and to view the complete conference schedule.

Free on-campus housing is available.

If you would like any additional promotional material, please contact us. We are here to serve you as you serve the Lord. Remember, the Lord has called you to serve, but he has not called you to serve alone. [Visit our website](#) for more information on how the Bivocational/Small Church Association can minister to and serve you. For more information, [email me](#).

Richard Ray is executive director of the Bivocational/Small Church Association and director of missions for Tri-Rivers Baptist Area.

Mount Fuji, a “fall to grace” and a miracle

June 15, 2016

“As I prayed, I died. Those in the station covered my face and radioed down that I had passed away. However, God had another plan.”

DBU's Cook reflects on 28-year "sacred trust"

June 15, 2016

"All of us at Dallas Baptist University are so pleased to be a part of the Baptist family. Our trustees, faculty and staff are committed in the years ahead to serve our Lord faithfully alongside our Baptist brothers and sisters around the world."