

# **HSU's Hall reflects on three decades in Christian higher education**

April 26, 2016

"I thank God for Texas Baptists and for the wonderful three decades of service (in Texas Baptist higher education) he has given me. "

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# **Armes reflects on ministry in churches, education**

April 26, 2016

"My dad said, 'Paul, if God calls you to a task, he has promised somehow to equip and empower you to accomplish that task—no matter how inadequate you may feel.' That word has given me comfort again and again, both as I have served as pastor of four Texas Baptist churches and as president to two Baptist General Convention of Texas educational institutions."

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# **BGCT president: Be encouraged by churches**

April 26, 2016

Be encouraged that there are many Texas Baptist churches living out the Great Commission and touching lives. They are speaking boldly by their actions and by their service. They represent the body of Christ. They are churches that have grown into a mature body, a unified body, a healthy body. They are churches where each part does its work.

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**In Touch: Preaching, BSM,  
Welcome Pastor, music,  
[un]Apologetics, annual  
meeting, WMU, kids**

April 26, 2016

God is working in ministries, events and congregations across Texas.

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# **Avoid ministerial burnout by resting in Christ**

April 26, 2016

Give Christ your burdens and your stress, and you will find joy in the ministry, just the way Christ intended.

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## **BGCT President: Together**

April 26, 2016

We are missing something when we choose not to come together. We are busy and life is full, but God created us to be together.

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## **BGCT president: Christ goes ahead of us**

April 26, 2016

Now that we have celebrated a wonderful Holy Week, what does Christ expect us to do next?

René Maciel He was crucified on the cross, buried and laid in the tomb for three days, and then he rose from the dead. Then the Scripture says, "He is

not here; he has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you.”

It was a beautiful celebration. The weather was perfect, cool and comfortable. The worship service was diligently directed and thoughtful. And being around my family was a blessing. The whole day was a gift from God.

Now what? What is our next step? The Scriptures say the disciples went to Galilee to see him and meet with him, and he went ahead of them.

The imperfect disciples, 11 of them, obeyed, and they saw him and  worshipped him, and then Matthew 28:7 also says “some doubted.” Like me at times, they doubted it was him. They doubted his power. They doubted his existence. Maybe they doubted their own eyes.

This wasn't the first time they doubted him. On the lake, they thought he was a ghost, and they doubted he could calm the waves. Peter doubted and began to sink. I have doubted him many times, and he still proves himself to be the risen One, and yet he still goes before me.

He goes before us, and he tells us like he told them even in spite of our doubting to go—go and make disciples, baptizing and teaching them to obey everything he commanded. Then the wonderful promise, “and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Even in our doubting and imperfection, he has called us to be disciples, to be followers, and to go and make other followers. That is our next step: “Go”—an action word. We are called to move forward in the building of the church, and he goes before us. He is in front. He is with us. We have a mission, even in our doubt and struggles, even in our little faith, even when we become discouraged and feel like Christ is dead and in the tomb. He has risen, and he goes before us.

It is the body of believers that has been called to go and make disciples. I

know many churches struggle and have lost their vision for Christ, but the church is his bride, and the church is the way he has called all nations to come and worship him.

The purpose of the Texas Baptist convention is to care and support the local church body—to strengthen and build, to plant and grow more churches, to go and make disciples. I ask you to continue to pray for our convention to move forward in supporting the body of Christ and that even in our imperfection and doubting, we will go to meet him and worship him.

What's next? It's time to go. He is going ahead of us.

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

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## **BGCT president: Lead me to the cross**

April 26, 2016

May we set our eyes and hearts to Jerusalem—the cross—and be amazed as it draws and calls us to be faithful.

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# **BGCT president: Baptist Health Foundation and Baptist Community Services**

April 26, 2016

Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio and Baptist Community Services in the Panhandle improve Texans' health in the name of Christ.

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## **Only in weakness can you be made strong**

April 26, 2016

If you are called by God to preach and pastor God's children, it is imperative that regardless of hardships, persecution and difficulties that come your way, strive not to abandon your post, but instead allow this weakness to become God's strength in you.

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## **In Touch: Fulfilling the Great**

# **Commission and the Great Commandment**

April 26, 2016

The Great Commandment and the Great Commission intersect frequently, and Texas Baptists are actively working to make sure they do.

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# **Decrease the burden of a bivocational/small-church pastorate**

April 26, 2016

To decrease the burden of pastoring a bivocational/small church, the pastor must learn to allow others to assume some of the roles within the church.