



DR. RICHARD L. BARCLAY

FOUNDERS'S BIOGRAPHY

When he was only eight years ago, Richard Lee Barclay knew he wanted to preach. At age 12, he was assistant superintendent for the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Woodville, Texas Sunday school, and he began preaching at the age of 16 at the church. Having completed high school, he enrolled at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, having been awarded an academic scholarship by the Southern Baptist General Convention of Texas. His plan was to become a Baptist minister. God's plan was that at age 20 the brass young man, over confident with some new knowledge he had acquired in some of his classes at ETBU, went to Westside Church of Christ in Marshall to "straighten out" the minister, W.F. Washington on some things he heard him preach—he got straightened out and was baptized into the Lord's church! At age 21, he began as a Church of Christ preacher in Smithland, a small community near Jefferson, Texas. This marked the beginning of his illustrious career as one of the preeminent ministers in Churches of Christ. A native of Woodville, Texas, Richard Barclay was born February 16, 1952. He graduated from Woodville High School, with honors in 1970; and, in 1975, he graduated from East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas with a bachelor's degree with a major in sociology and a minor in religion. Always seeking to improve himself through formal education, he studied at Sunset School of Preaching in Lubbock, Texas in 1976 and continued this graduate work in 1980 at Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts.



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Richard earned a master's degree from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston, Massachusetts in 1983, and he did graduate work at George Pepperdine University in Malibu, California in 1986. He earned a second master's degree in theology in 1990 from the California Graduate School of Theology in Anaheim, California. He was enrolled in a doctoral program in theology from 1990–1991 at California Graduate School of Theology in Anaheim, California. Barclay has been the evangelist to the Hillcrest Church of Christ in Corpus Christi, Texas (1977-1979); the Roxbury Church of Christ in Boston, Massachusetts (1979–1984); The Compton Avenue Church of Christ in Los Angeles, California (1984–1991); and the East Cotton Street Church of Christ in Longview, Texas (1991–1995). He served as the evangelist for the Kashmere Gardens Church of Christ in Houston, Texas from 1995 to 2006. The former senior minister of the Hillcrest Church of Christ in Decatur, Georgia (2006–2017), he led the congregation in a multi-million dollar building additions and renovations. Leading up to the building program, the dynamic minister launched Operation NOTE (New Opportunities To Expand), a capital stewardship campaign to liquidate the church's mortgage. He organized BRICK (Building Resources by Increasing Commitment to the Kingdom), another capital stewardship campaign during which more than \$2 million was raised for the construction of a new auditorium and administrative wing.



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Too, he initiated a number of innovative ministries including golf and theatre arts. Also, he was editor-in-chief of the church newsletter, *The Hillcrest Herald*. Also, while he was minister at the Hillcrest congregation, he co-hosted the 70th Annual Churches of Christ National Lectureship. In addition, at Hillcrest, he organized Remembrance Sunday, a day to celebrate the lives of those who have transitioned. During his tenure with the Hillcrest Church, the Decatur, Georgia branch of the NAACP recognized him as outstanding pastor in the community. An avid golfer, he enjoys time on the links—a welcomed break from his demanding schedule; during his time at the Hillcrest Church, he organized an invitational golf tournament that raised money for a scholarship fund. Too, his desire to share the sport with Hillcrest youth led to the formation of a youth golf camp. He recently answered a call from God to plant a church and is currently growing the Stonecrest Church of Christ in Lithonia, Georgia, with indications of a successful endeavor demonstrated by an initial gathering of some 250 Christians. He has led to Stonecrest Church to purchase a 45,000 square foot facility located on 12 acres of land in McDonough, Georgia where more than 350 assembled for their opening in October, 2018. Richard is a nationally known expositor of God's word and has preached and conducted meetings in over 40 states. He was privileged to preach in South Africa and Ethiopia in 1989 and 1994. He is a much sought-after speaker who has spoken at several lectureships and seminars including:



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Texas State Lectureship, Northeastern Lectureship (keynote address), Florida Evangelism Seminar (keynote address), Southwestern Christian College Lectureship, Abilene Christian University, Pepperdine University in Malibu, California; Houston City-wide Lectureship, Northeastern Youth Conference (keynote address), New England Evangelism Seminar, the National Church Lectureship (keynote addresses), and David Lipscomb University Lectureship (keynote address). He conducted a very popular radio ministry, "Let The Bible Speak," in Boston, Massachusetts and conducted a television program "Sonshine From Heaven" for the Kashmere Gardens Church of Christ in Houston, Texas. Barclay served as the publicity chairman for the Los Angeles Campaign for Christ which was an annual cooperative effort held in August. A skilled writer, Richard served as a staff writer for the following publications: "Restoration Pulpit," "Watts Times," "Gospel Advocate" and "20th Century Christian." He continues to write for the "Christian Echo," and he was the founding editor of two magazines: "Manna," a family oriented magazine published bi-monthly and "Kerusso," a quarterly publication designed for serious Bible students. He has published two books, *Where Your Treasure Is...* and *Marriage by Design*.



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Community involvement has been important to Barclay. During his tenure in Longview at the East Cotton congregation, he served on the Longview Branch NAACP Religious Affairs Committee as the chairman, the Gregg County Airport Board, the Board of Directors for the East Texas Literacy Council and the Longview Independent School District Public Information Advisory Committee. He served as the chaplain for the Longview Police Department and worked with the City of Longview Drug Task Force. Additionally, Richard worked with the Texas Adolescent and Family Substance Abuse Academy as well as, the South Longview Economic Development Council. In Houston, he was honored to be the commencement speaker for Kashmere Gardens High School. He has developed a number of ministries at the Kashmere Gardens congregation, including prison, the Sunshine, Singles, seasoned saints, FLOCKS, couples, men's, African American history, and youth. He also initiated Founder's Day and the Family Night program. He was editor-in-chief of the church's newsletter, The Garden and, he hosted the National Singles Conference in Houston. Recognizing the importance of being active in the community, he served on the Board of Trustees for The Miracle Corporation. Additionally, he was on the board of The Urban League and Julia C. Hester House; and he was a consultant for Continuum Healthcare.



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Also, while he was in Houston, Barclay was instrumental in helping to bridge the racial divide longstanding in religious academia, serving on the Racial Reconciliation Committee at Abilene Christian University; he taught hermeneutics at the Houston Christian Institute.

Recognized throughout the brotherhood for his powerful series on stewardship, he has also conducted numerous, highly touted seminars on marriage. He was recently named director of the Southwestern Christian College Lectureship held annually in Terrell, Texas. Southwestern also conferred on Barclay its honorary Doctorate of Humane Letter degree at its Spring graduation where Dr. Barclay was its commencement speaker. Dr. Barclay was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of The Solomon Foundation, a church extension fund that finances churches associated with the Restoration Movement. He now serves as secretary of the Board. Richard is married to Shirley Brooks Barclay, a retired educator; the couple has two adult sons, Christopher, a computer programmer for Verizon, and Reginald, a successful Houston businessman.