

The Baptist Tabernacle of Los Angeles

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Dear Friend:

Joy Rice Martin and her husband were with us for a Bible conference in September. Joy is the youngest daughter of the great evangelist Dr. John R. Rice. She wrote this tribute to our church in her November newsletter,

Recently Roger and I returned from Los Angeles, California, where we spent 5 wonderful days at the Baptist Tabernacle located in the heart of downtown. People, ages 8 to 94 came to "Camp in the City" for Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Labor Day weekend. It was an amazing opportunity to share God's Word with folks from at least 20 ethnic groups – Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese, Philipino, Guatemalan, Colombian, Mexican, Cuban, and others. The church served lunch and dinner daily to the whole group, and it was delicious...While we ate we enjoyed films on John Newton, David Brainerd, the revivals occurring in China, and other inspiring subjects. We ate birthday cake, celebrating many birthdays, and even watched Popeye [cartoons] from the 30s...Pastor Robert Hymers told us, "People aren't looking for a friendly church; they are looking for a place to make friends." The pastor and his dear wife beautifully illustrated Christian hospitality. About 30 [first-time visitors on Sunday] were college students from nearby secular universities [who enjoyed] the happy atmosphere and loving response of the church family; they listened intently. A young [Chinese] woman named Karen visited the meeting on Friday, brought friends on Saturday, and received Christ on Sunday. I spoke 5 times, and the Lord opened many hearts.

Roger preached Sunday morning on prayer principles from the life of George Mueller... That night the pastor preached on "Four Lessons I Learned from Dr. John R. Rice." He showed a video in which he interviewed Daddy about the inspiration of Scripture. Made just 8 weeks before Dad went to heaven, it was very impacting...What an honor to know and minister to such a warm and receptive group from around the world!

I asked Joy if I could quote this on our website, but decided to put what she wrote in this Christmas letter instead.

In January we held our annual Chinese New Year's banquet. Many of our young people brought family and friends, I preached the Gospel before we had dinner, and we showed a film on the amazing revivals now happening in the People's Republic of China.

In February Rev. Tim Sneed and his wife Eileen were with us. We help support them as they plant a new church in San Diego. We also added eight new languages to the word-for-word translations of my sermons on our website – Bengali, Hmong, Thai, Vietnamese, Laotian, Armenian, Cambodian and German. A few weeks ago we were given a monthly gift from Virgel and Beverly Nickell to add modern Hebrew as our 24th language. By the end of this year we will add Telugu, a third language of India, translated by Rev. Chandrashekar Eda, who was at our church with his family, and preached for us in early November. I am so excited to see these word-for-word sermon manuscripts on our website, in 25 languages by December! Praise the Lord! The sermons in Arabic go into Muslim countries, and thousands of them go into China, Cuba and other places where none of our missionaries can go. The native preachers there, by the thousands, read and transcribe these sermons to preach to their own people. I always wanted to be a foreign missionary. Although that never happened, I have no regrets because God opened the door for me to preach the Gospel to the whole world through the Internet.

By the way, Mr. Martin Olivacce now videotapes my sermons every Sunday morning and evening. They are translated sentence by sentence into Chinese by Mr. Winston Song, and into Spanish by Mr. Manuel Mencia. You can watch these videos, and read the sermons in 25 languages, on our website at www.realconversion.com. I hope you will take a look real soon, and that you will pray for this world-wide ministry of our church.

In March Ileana and I attended the 60th anniversary festivities at the First Chinese Baptist Church of Los Angeles. Feeling called to the mission field, I joined that church as a 19 year old boy, 52 years ago. I was a member there for over 23 years when Dr. Timothy Lin was the pastor. After the anniversary program a number of people came to tell us how they were saved when I preached in various evangelistic meetings there in years gone by.

On Easter weekend Dr. Bill Hathaway was here to preach for us. Bill is a missionary to the Japanese, and is one of the missionaries we support. On my 71st birthday I spoke in chapel at Pacific Baptist College. Later in April I was honored by the college for being in the ministry more than 50 years. They also honored Ileana for her faithfulness as the pastor's wife. She is a great support to me and a hard worker in our church. I would never have been able to continue in this work without her. We celebrated our 30th anniversary in September, and I thank God for her every day. She is a great lady! On April 15 I spoke on the life of Dr. John Sung at Tim Sneed's new church in San Diego. Dr. Sung was a very powerful evangelist in China before the Communists took over.

Jack and Sheila Ngann were married at our church on May 6. You can watch a video of their wedding, posted on the front page of our website. It will give you a view of the inside of our church building, and various scenes of the festivities of the wedding and the banquet that followed.

In June Tommy Dunlop, a student at Pacific Baptist College, preached in our evening service, and some of his fellow students presented special music. Also, in June, Dr. Russell Gordon gave us an organ, which Ayako Zabalaga now plays in all the services, accompanying Eloise Roop on the piano. I have known Brother Gordon since I was a teenager at Bell High School. The organ he gave through Pacific Baptist College adds a wonderful sound to the hymns we sing.

I am still swimming nearly every day for about a half hour. Rick Crews, one of the trainers at my gym, passed away in July and I conducted a memorial service for him beside the outdoor pool there. Ron Clark, a lady named Debbie, and Ben Griffith provided special music and I gave my testimony to about 200 friends of Rick. All of us at the gym really miss him. I also preached in a series of evangelistic services at our church that month.

Forty years ago last August I started a new church, with the help of Mike Riley and Roger Hoffman, in Marin County, north of San Francisco, while the three of us were attending Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. Pastor Riley invited me to come and speak at the 40th anniversary celebration, which was held on Saturday in the auditorium of the seminary. I also spoke at the church the following morning. It was heartwarming to be there, with Ileana and Leslie, and have a reunion with some of the people I led to Christ back in the early 1970s. Over forty churches have come out of that church across the years, some of them in faraway places like South Africa, England, and the Orient. I was moved to tears by the testimonies of pastors who lead those churches, and it all began when we organized a little church with "Jesus People" at the Boy Scout Hall in Mill Valley in August, 1972.

On that same Sunday evening I preached on the life of Dr. John Sung for Dr. David Innes at Hamilton Square Baptist Church in San Francisco. Mrs. Innes was very ill with cancer. Ileana and I visited her while we were there. In November I flew back to San Francisco to attend her funeral and speak that evening in a memorial service for her at the church. She was a wonderful Christian lady, and we will miss her.

At the end of September we had three Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival banquets at the church, with many Chinese relatives attending. And in November Ileana's father Rafael Cuellar was with us from Guatemala for several days at our house. We had several gatherings with Ileana's mother Linda, and her brother Erwin and his family. Also, we took her father to the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, which he said he enjoyed even more than the Reagan Library.

In November Ileana, Wesley, Leslie, Leslie's girl friend Jin, and I attended a retirement banquet for Dr. Murphy Lum. Dr. Lum and his wife Lorna have been my friends for over 50 years, since we worked together at the First Chinese Baptist Church. During a tribute to his father, Dr. Lum's son told how he was saved in a service when I preached on the Second Coming of Christ. The Chinese man sitting beside us at our table told me he was saved when he heard me preach a sermon several years ago. Also in November we had a baptism service on a Saturday night at the church followed by a banquet. The next day, November 18, we had our Thanksgiving banquet. Dr. Dan Davidson preached, and Mr. Steve Reisner brought singing groups from Pacific Baptist College to provide special music. We are planning a Christmas banquet for December 23, with Dr. Jim Preston from the college preaching, and Mr. Bill Darden providing the music. And on Christmas Eve we will celebrate the Lord's Supper with Mr. Ron Clark playing the violin, and have another banquet afterwards, with Dr. Wilfred Chung speaking and showing slides of his preaching trips to the "house churches" in China.

I wish I had space to tell you about all the wonderful people who work to make our website possible, with word-for-word sermons in 25 languages, and videos of me preaching in English, with translations in Chinese and Spanish. I can't name all the translators of those 25 languages, but I can say that none of this could happen without

the supervision and hard work put into it by my associate, Dr. Christopher L. Cagan. May the Lord bless him, and all those that work on the website! It is my prayer that you and your loved ones will have a happy Christmas and a blessed New Year. God bless you all!



Mrs. Hymers shaking hands with President Rob Watkins at Pacific Baptist College when Dr. Hymers and her were honored there.

Yours in Jesus' Name,

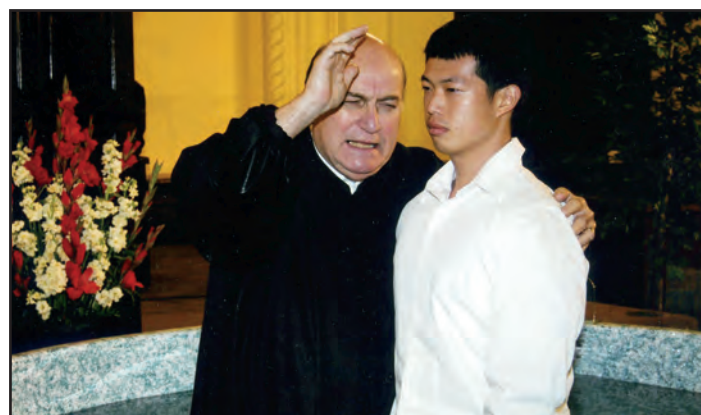
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Hymers, Jr." in a cursive style.

Robert L. Hymers, Jr.,
D.Min., Th.D., Litt.D.
Philippians 4:13

OUR WEBSITE OFFERS HUNDREDS OF WORD-FOR-WORD SERMONS IN ENGLISH AND 24 OTHER LANGUAGES AT WWW.REALCONVERSION.COM.



At the 60th anniversary of the First Chinese Baptist Church, with Dr. and Mrs. Lum. The lady on Dr. Hymers' left was saved in one of the services when he preached there.



Dr. Hymers baptizing Mr. Kai Perng in our church.



Jack and Sheila Ngann with Dr. Hymers during their wedding. Dr. Kreighton Chan and Cuong Tham are in the background.



Jack and Sheila Ngann with Dr. and Mrs. Hymers and their bridesmaids and groomsmen.

OUR WEBSITE OFFERS HUNDREDS OF WORD-FOR-WORD SERMONS IN TWENTY-FIVE LANGUAGES AT WWW.REALCONVERSION.COM.



Dr. Hymers (with his arm raised) speaking at his gym during the memorial service for Rick Crews.



With Roger and Ava Hoffman and Mike and Mona Riley during the 40th anniversary of the Church of the Open Door in Marin County.



Dr. Hymers speaking in the auditorium of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary during the 40th anniversary celebration of the Church of the Open Door.



Dr. and Mrs. Hymers with Mrs. Hymers' father by the Presidential helicopter, at the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace.



Jin Kim, Wesley, Leslie, Dr. and Mrs. Murphy Lum with Dr. and Mrs. Hymers at Dr. Lum's retirement banquet.



Dr. Dan Davidson spoke before the Thanksgiving banquet at our church.

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