

The Baptist Tabernacle of Los Angeles

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Dr. Christopher L. Cagan
Pastor

Dr. R. L. Hymers, Jr.
Pastor Emeritus

December, 2020

Dear Friend:

What a Satanic mess we've lived through in 2020! The president was impeached! The coronavirus struck! Wildfires destroyed many of our forests! People followed Communists and went wild, burning our cities! I myself could no longer stand up to preach! "Some (departed) from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (I Timothy 4:1, 2)! Even the Pope endorsed same-sex unions! It seemed like the whole world was ready to explode; Jesus said,

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:25-28).

"And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death" (Luke 21:16).

How can we read these passages and not see that we are living right now in the last days of Bible prophecy?

"But it's Christmas time," you say! In December of 1941 Churchill was here from England because the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor and Hitler was bombing London. Churchill was in the White House with President Franklin D. Roosevelt. When the president lit the national Christmas tree, Churchill said, "Let the children have their night of fun and games."

But you and I are not "children" any more! This is the time to realize that our only hope lies in the baby, born in Bethlehem – and that we have no real hope but in the Second Coming of Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Long ago, in the 1950s, God gave me a verse that has deeply helped me as a pastor in these days of apostasy.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

On February 2 we celebrated Chinese New Year in the morning and evening services.

March 1 was our last Sunday in the old building on Hope Street. For the rest of the year (2020) we met in two houses, due to the coronavirus. Each week I record a lesson on video, which is played in the two houses. After the teaching video we have dinner.

My 79th birthday fell on Easter Sunday, April 12. We also celebrated Mrs. Hymers' birthday on April 16. I can say, "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all" (Proverbs 31:29).

On September 27 the church celebrated our 38th wedding anniversary. For the past year I have suffered from lower bowel disease, which made it impossible for me to stand up and preach. It was the intense radiation for cancer that destroyed a nerve that brought on this disease, which is like Crohn's Disease.

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Yet, in the same year, God has blessed our work! We added three more languages of verse-by-verse Bible studies and sermons on our website at www.sermonsfortheworld.com. We added Khongso Chin, a local language of Myanmar (Burma) as our 43rd language. We also added Malayalam, another language of India, as our 44th language. And then we added Sinhala, the language of Sri Lanka, as our 45th language.

I receive wonderful emails each week from preachers all over the world telling us how much those lessons and sermons have helped them.

On July 7 escrow opened on our old building on Hope Street, thanks largely to the work our son Robert did.

On October 13 the whole church celebrated the life of Eugene Grace at his service held at Riverside National Cemetery. Dr. Cagan had led Mr. Grace to trust Jesus a couple of hours before he passed away at the age of 91. Mr. Grace was the stepfather of Tom Xia, a fine young member of our church. A couple of weeks later, Dr. Cagan presented the good news of the Gospel to Mr. Grace's wife, Sophie, and she now has eternal life. She will hopefully be the first person we baptize in our new location in San Gabriel. Mrs. Hymers drove me to Riverside to attend Mr. Grace's funeral service. Then she drove me to Oxnard, where we spent a couple of days resting near the beach.

On November 22 (Sunday) we will have a Thanksgiving banquet scheduled at Dr. Cagan's house in Alhambra.

I am still working, writing lessons and sermons, and helping Dr. Cagan. In a few weeks, I will enter the 81st year of my life. I could not continue working if it were not for my precious wife, Ileana – and for Jesus from whom I receive strength to carry on.

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13).

This is the promise of Jesus! I will close this letter by quoting the testimony of my partner, Dr. Christopher L. Cagan:

Years ago I had no peace. I was living for myself. I didn't think about God or what would happen when I died. I was trusting myself. I was running and hiding from God. I got A's in college and made a lot of money, but I was lonely and unhappy.

Then I met some Christians who were nice to me. I began to go to church. But I still wanted to live my own way. One night I went to a meeting at school. A young man told me the best news I'd ever heard – that God loved me and wanted to give me eternal life. He told me how to receive that life. That night I trusted Jesus. He forgave my sins and gave me eternal life.

Now I have peace. Now I have eternal life. Jesus healed me inside. He gave me hope and happiness. I'm not lonely any more. I know if I died tonight, I would go to be with God in Heaven, because Jesus has given me eternal life!

I am so glad to be working for Jesus! I could not do that without His power and grace, and without Dr. Cagan, Ileana, and our son John Wesley, who will be studying phlebotomy and related subjects at college next spring.

May Jesus bless you and your family! Please pray for Kent Philpott and me, as we edit Kent's book on deliverance through Jesus! Please pray for us as we launch the new Chinese Baptist church in San Gabriel.



Dr. Hymers with his wife Ileana, his son Robert, Robert's wife Jin, and Robert's two baby girls, Hannah and Sarah. I am praying that they'll have another baby soon.

May Christ be praised forever!

Rev. R. L. Hymers, Jr.,
D.Min., D.Rel., Th.D., Litt.D.
Philippians 4:13

“The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead” (Proverbs 21:16).

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