

The Baptist Tabernacle of Los Angeles

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Jack Ngann
Pastor

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

December, 2021

Dear Friend:

How great are the trials we suffer, and how much greater is the goodness of God! This year in January my godly and beloved wife Ileana tested positive for coronavirus. I thought she might die. Our church prayed for her many times. And pastors and other Christians all over the world also prayed for her and gave her messages of comfort and support. One preacher in Pakistan telephoned her every morning from around the globe! God answered, and my wife recovered completely! My thanks go out to all who prayed for her.

My life verse has always been Philippians 4:13. I will give it along with the verse before it. The Bible says,

“I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:12, 13).

Christ strengthened me and Ileana in the time of her sickness. And Christ strengthens us as we rejoice and give thanks to God for healing her. “I can do *all* things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

On March 24 escrow finally closed on the sale of our old building in downtown Los Angeles. The building is now occupied by a Korean church. The money is being used to improve our new church building in San Gabriel. Jack Ngann will be the pastor of the new church, “The Chinese Baptist Tabernacle of Greater Los Angeles.”

On April 11 we all met at the luxurious Beverly Hilton Hotel to celebrate my 80th birthday, which took place the following day. Many birthday tributes came in from preachers and Christians all around the world. Our son Robert Leslie paid for the banquet meal and for everything associated with the event. Robert is a wise and successful businessman. Rev. Ruperto Medina, pastor of Bethesda Christian Church in the Dominican Republic, flew here for the event and said the opening prayer. What a time we had!

On May 3 the sermons went up in Odia on our website at www.sermonsfortheworld.com. Odia is one of the many languages of India. Over 30 million people speak it as their first language! I ask for no money for these sermons. My only desire is to get the Gospel out to the whole world in as many languages as possible. That’s why the sermon manuscripts are not copyrighted, and people can preach them or use them in any way they like. Every week we get emails from all over the world thanking me for making these messages available.

On May 14 a great event happened. Our grandson Robert Leslie Hymers IV was born! He is the son of my son Robert and his wife Jin. They also have two daughters, Hannah and Sarah. The new baby is our first and only grandson. I call him “Little Bob.” He is a fine fellow, and I pray that God will call him to be a preacher!

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Christ has strengthened me in good times and bad, when I am full and when I am hungry, when I abound and when I suffer need. In June I had a stroke. Since then I have been resting at home. I have a professional caregiver who helps me, but my greatest helper is my wife Ileana. Come what may, I will never give up the Gospel ministry. Every week I record a video message which is shown to our church and displayed on our website. Throughout my life, Christ strengthens me!

I have often told our church the story of Marilyn Farnik. Long ago she was a teenage girl in Marin County, north of San Francisco. Marilyn trusted Jesus. Her mother would have been comfortable if Marilyn took drugs or had sex with boys – but that mother wanted no part of Christ! She threw Marilyn out of the house. Marilyn remained faithful to the Saviour. With her husband Jerry, she is now a missionary to the Czech Republic. On August 26 Jerry and Marilyn visited me in our home. They gave a presentation of their ministry which we recorded on video and showed to the church. What a blessing they are! How wonderful it is to see God’s grace in saving people and using them in His service. As the Apostle John said, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (III John 4).

On August 29 Jack Ngann was presented to the church as our new pastor. Jack is an American-born Chinese man. He is married and the father of two children. I am the Pastor Emeritus, training him for the work of a pastor, as my own pastor Dr. Timothy Lin trained me. Brother Ngann is an excellent Christian and we have great hopes for him. Please pray for our new church and his ministry there.

On September 22 the construction work began for the renovation of our new church building in San Gabriel. The building will be ready for use early next year. It is located among many thousands of Chinese people.

In October Ileana’s father Rafael Cuellar flew up from Guatemala and stayed in our house for a few weeks. He is quite a gentleman, and very alive and active – all the more so if you know that he is over 90 years old! We celebrated his 91st birthday with the church in our house on October 29.

On November 21 we had a great Thanksgiving banquet for the whole church in our house. It was delicious! Our thanks go out to Ileana, Jack Ngann, and our deacon Manuel Mencia for cooking the food and preparing the dinner.

This has been quite a year! All the glory goes to God who answered our prayers and to Christ who saved our souls. I think of the words George Beverly Shea sung at the 1991 Billy Graham Crusade in Glasgow, Scotland,

Thank you, oh my Father, For giving us your Son
And leaving your Spirit ‘Til the work on earth is done.
 (“There Is a Redeemer” by Keith Green, 1953-1982).

As we celebrate the Saviour’s birth let us shout, “Thank you, Lord God. And may Jesus Christ be praised!”



I am in the center of the front row with my granddaughters, Hannah on the left and Sarah on the right. In the back row, from left to right: Ileana’s father Rafael Cuellar, Ileana’s mother Linda, Robert Leslie’s wife Jin, Little Bob being held by his father Robert, my wife Ileana, our son Wesley, and Ileana’s sister Yvette Cuellar.

Yours in Jesus’ Name,

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

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