

The Baptist Tabernacle of Los Angeles

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Jack Ngann
Pastor

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

December, 2022

Dear Friend:

I am a God-blessed man. I am so proud of my children. Wesley lives in Arizona and is doing fine with his job and his ministry in his church. His first book will be published next year! Leslie is a successful businessman and lives with his wife Jin and their children Hannah, Sarah, and Robert IV in a beautiful house in La Cañada-Flintridge, not far from Ileana and me. This spring we went to Robert IV's first birthday party. He is now 1 1/2 years old. I am sure he has quite a life ahead of him!

In August our whole family drove up to Marin County, north of San Francisco, for the 50th anniversary of The Church of the Open Door, the church I founded back in 1972 with my friends Mike Riley and Roger Hoffman. It was good to see them again, and my old friends Mark Buckley and Kent Philpott, and many others who were with us during that great time. Mike Riley's son Jon is the current pastor of that church. More than forty churches have been planted throughout the world from the ministry of this church. Truly God's fruit is abundant!

The time when we can meet in our new building in San Gabriel draws ever nearer. The work is almost finished, and we are working with the city and county to get the necessary permits. Our new church will be a mission to the Chinese, as God called me to do long ago. It is in an area heavily populated by Chinese people and is named "The Chinese Baptist Tabernacle of Greater Los Angeles." We already have people from China coming to church with us. Jack Ngann, our new pastor, preaches sermons forthrightly. He counsels lost people every Sunday after the service with Dr. Christopher Cagan, working to bring them to trust in Christ.

In September Rafael Cuellar, Ileana's father, came up to see us from Guatemala with his son Jorge. Rafael is quite a man. He is now 92 years old and still energetic in body and mind. I am proud that he is my father-in-law. He enjoyed going to see the Dodgers baseball game with his grandchildren, Leslie and Wesley. One day we took him to the Santa Monica Pier and had a great time together!

I want to tell you about two special friends of mine. One is Dr. David Stern. In October he went from Jerusalem to Heaven at the age of 86. He and his wife Martha generously covered the cost of our honeymoon trip to Israel and the Middle East. We stayed in their home. David was one of the founders of Messianic Judaism. His greatest work, "The Complete Jewish Bible," is a strong testimony of Christianity's Jewish roots. It shows, and will forever show, that Jesus is definitely for the Jews as much as He is for the Gentiles.

My second special friend is Dr. Bill Hathaway, missionary to the Japanese for many years. He is a God-called preacher. Although he is 92 years old, has cancer, and had a heart attack, he still preaches to American and Japanese people. That man just won't quit! I respect Bill and love him very much.

My wife Ileana is the most loving and caring wife in the whole world. She is more than I could ever ask for. Our 40th anniversary was on September 27. On the 25th the church and our son Robert Leslie III put on a tremendous anniversary party for us at the Castaway Restaurant in Burbank. The people in the church gave testimonies on video. My sons John Wesley and Robert Leslie spoke in person, as did our new pastor, Jack Ngann. I was overjoyed to see my old friend Dr. Jackson Lau from the Chinese church and my high school friend Klair Bybee. What a time we had!

I had a stroke last year. But don't count me out! I plan to be around for quite a while. My doctor once told me, "You have the constitution of an ox." Years ago, I prayed that I might live to our 50th anniversary, ten years from now. As God grants, I hope to be there!

I pray to see revival one more time. My favorite Psalm says, "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living" (Psalm 27:13). I saw the goodness of the Lord – revival – in the Chinese church, and again in the Jesus Movement. I pray that I may see revival yet once more, in our own church!

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At this Christmas time I pray, "Lord, let it be so." And may you have a wonderful time as you celebrate God's unspeakable gift (II Corinthians 9:15) of sending His Son to be born and to die for us!



Here I am giving the V-for-victory sign at the 50th anniversary reunion of The Church of the Open Door!



My family and me with my old friend Mike Riley (to my right) and Steve and Nancy Cross, long-time members of the church, at the reunion.

Yours in Jesus' Name,

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



Robert IV's first birthday. Left to right: Jin's father Mr. Kim, Jin in a traditional Korean dress, Sarah, Robert III holding Robert IV, me having a good laugh, Ileana, Sarah, Wesley, and Ileana's mother Linda.



I love to hug my grandchildren, Sarah, Robert and Hannah!



Ileana and me with Dr. Jackson Lau at our 40th anniversary.



Front: Robert III with Hannah and Sarah, Ileana holding Robert IV, and me. Back: Linda, Jin, Rafael and Jorge Cuellar, and Ileana's brother Erwin Cuellar.



Our twin sons John Wesley and Robert Leslie on their birthday with Robert IV and me.



Ileana and me at our 40th anniversary celebration, in front of our 25th anniversary portrait.

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