

The Baptist Tabernacle of Los Angeles

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Jack Ngann
Pastor

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

December, 2023

Dear Friend:

I often think of Winston Churchill. He is one of my heroes. He said, "Never give up." And I won't give up! He said, "We shall go on to the end. We shall never surrender." And I won't! I will always go on standing for my Saviour, Jesus Christ.

This year, we celebrated not only my 82nd birthday but, more importantly, Ileana's 60th birthday! She remains as beautiful as ever, radiating an inner glow. She has always been loving and kind to me. When she was young, she ran her father's store in Guatemala. It was hard when they had a major earthquake, but my Ileana came through! And now she is active in administering for my needs and those of our household, and also playing a major role in our church. She is a dedicated servant of God, and she is a "virtuous woman" who is "far above rubies" – always!

Our family shines with growth and blessing. Our son Wesley now lives in Arizona. He has a job and is active in a good church there. He has already written and published one children's book, and is working on more! Leslie (Robert Leslie III) is blessed and prosperous as a businessman. He and his wife Jin are raising their three lovely children, Hannah, Sarah, and Robert Leslie IV (ages 7, 5 and 2). The children are precocious and conduct themselves with a dignity and grace beyond their age. And we celebrated our sons' 40th birthday on November 2 at Leslie's gorgeous house!

We got out a lot this year. Instead of taking a single large vacation, we went to Santa Barbara, Palm Springs, Disneyland, and Knotts Berry Farm – not to mention a Dodger game!

In November Ileana's father, Rafael Cuellar, visited us for a few weeks from Guatemala. He just turned 93 and we gave him a birthday party! Despite his age, he is bright and sprightly, always maintaining a good attitude and offering kind words for everyone.

"Greatness must be preserved," says my colleague, Dr. Christopher Cagan. He admires my series of 15 sermons on Isaiah 53 and has assembled them into an e-book which is on our website in 18 languages, available to a multitude of pastors and billions of lay people throughout the world. There is no copyright on this book or any of the sermon manuscripts on the website. It can be downloaded, preached, printed, and emailed to others. Dr. Cagan tells me that the sermon book has been preached in India, and it has been sent from one pastor to another in many lands.

But that's not all. Next year Dr. Cagan plans to assemble my sermons into a single "zip" file in 30 languages, so that pastors can download hundreds and thousands of them at once with a single click. Praise God! I am grateful that my work is being preserved!

We are now moving into our new church building in a Chinese neighborhood in the city of San Gabriel, a suburb of Los Angeles. I always felt called to be a missionary to the Chinese people and spent many years with a Chinese church learning from its pastor, Dr. Timothy Lin. And now we are doing it ourselves. I am so blessed to see my dream and calling fulfilled! We are unpacking and setting up an almost endless set of things – but it is coming along well, and the building will be very beautiful! The church is called, "The Chinese Baptist Tabernacle of Greater Los Angeles." Our new pastor is Jack Ngann. He plans to have the first service in the building on Christmas Eve! May God bless him and everyone in the church. Yes, we had some hard times with COVID, health challenges, and a major church split. But that is over now. With God, the church will live and grow!

With all that's going on in our country and the world, much of it evil, some might give up hope. But I won't! I will go on serving the Lord until the day I take off for Heaven, always thinking of Jesus and the blessed hope of His second coming.

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I thank God for the life in our church. I pray to see revival there while I am yet living. In this Christmas season, I extend warmest greetings in Christ, wishing you blessings, good times, hope, and love in Him!

Yours in Jesus' Name,



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

With thanks to Leslie and to
Dr. Cagan



Formal portrait at Leslie and Jin's 10th anniversary. Front row: me, Hannah, Robert IV, Sarah, and Ileana's mother Linda. Back row: Ileana, Leslie, Jin, and Jin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kim.



Ileana is radiant as we celebrate her 60th birthday. The whole Hymers family is there, with the Kims and the Cuellars.



Together at Thanksgiving with the Hymers, the Kims, and the Cuellars. I am in the middle. Rafael Cuellar is a vigorous 93 in the blue shirt on the right.



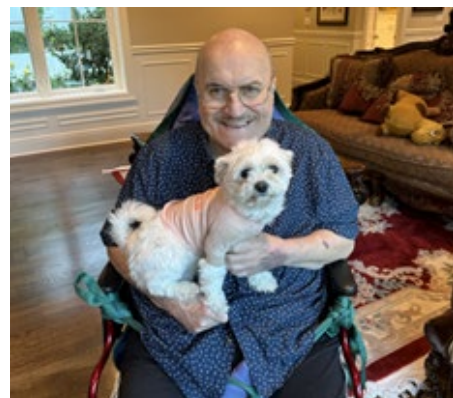
With Wesley (L) and Leslie (R) on their 40th birthday.



Enjoying my 82nd birthday with Ileana, Leslie, Jin, Hannah, Sarah and Robert IV.



I love to hold my 2-year-old grandson, Robert Leslie Hymers IV.



I have always loved nature and animals, and Leslie and Jin's dog is no exception!

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