

# *The Chinese Baptist Tabernacle of Greater Los Angeles*

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Jack Ngann  
Pastor

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

Christmas, 2025

Dear Friend:

Our church, the Chinese Baptist Tabernacle, is doing wonderfully. More than ten new Chinese people are regularly attending. Some live in the neighborhood and saw our sign. Others drive in from as much as 30 miles away! At our Thanksgiving banquet the church was “busting out” with people and the parking lot was jammed. Everyone had a great time!

Our website, [www.sermonsfortheworld.com](http://www.sermonsfortheworld.com), has an exploding viewership. In November, over 270,000 people visited there, our highest ever. Best of all, the largest number of viewers were from China, far above the number in the United States!

The year began with the worst fires in Los Angeles history – two devastating blazes that shook our city. My son Robert and his family had to evacuate for nearly two weeks as the Altadena fire burned dangerously close to their home. At the same time, I was battling pneumonia and had to be admitted to the hospital for several weeks. Through it all, God's mercy sustained us.

While I was recovering, my wife Ileana, my sons Wesley and Leslie, and Leslie's family traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend President Trump's inauguration. They enjoyed a wonderful time at the various festivities and the inaugural ball. They witnessed the President signing his first executive orders and had the privilege of meeting several cabinet members and the Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson. They also attended live sessions of both the House of Representatives and the Senate and were given a private tour of the Capitol. Afterward, they traveled to New York and Florida before returning home once the fires had subsided.

In February, we celebrated Valentine's Day with my dear wife Ileana. She has taken such wonderful care of me during my illnesses and in my old age. She is a true blessing, and I love her dearly. I would not still be alive without her devoted care. She still works tirelessly in the church, helping to build up the new congregation. We also celebrated my granddaughter Sarah's 7th birthday. She is a beautiful, smart young girl. She plays the harp and piano and delights me with her music each week when she visits.

In March, we celebrated my granddaughter Hannah's 9th birthday and enjoyed our family's traditional St. Patrick's Day dinner of corned beef and cabbage with my mother-in-law, Linda Arredondo. Hannah is growing into such a lovely young girl and takes such good care of me when she visits. She plays the cello beautifully and pours out love with every visit.

My son Wesley moved back from Arizona to help care for me, and I appreciate him more than words can express. He watches old classic movies with me several times a week and sleeps in my room each night. I truly love and appreciate him. Wesley is writing children's books and has already published one, with another due out in the next few months. He is also writing movie scripts and working as a trainer at a local gym. Both pursuits reflect his passions – he loves writing, as I do, and helping people stay healthy.

In April, our entire family traveled to Palm Springs, where we rented a large house during my grandchildren's spring break. We had a wonderful time of relaxation – a large swimming pool, a game room, and the joy of watching my family enjoy themselves in the warm desert sun. We also celebrated my wife's birthday and my own at the new church in San Gabriel.

In May, we had a lovely beach party in Santa Monica for my grandson Robert L. Hymers IV's 4th birthday. He is growing into such a delightful young boy, and I treasure my time with him.

In June, my son Robert took Ileana, Wesley, and Leslie's family to visit my daughter-in-law Jin's family in Korea. It was my wife's and Wesley's first trip to Korea, and they enjoyed it immensely – traveling to the DMZ, to Busan in the south, and staying in Seoul. It was a blessing for them to rest after caring for me so faithfully. I enjoyed hearing about their adventures each day on FaceTime and seeing all the photos and videos. Jin has a wonderful large family in Korea.

In July, we held our traditional family barbecue at the La Cañada Country Club. We had a lovely time with patriotic music, good food, and fireworks. The children had a wonderful time. I also watched my two granddaughters perform in two musicals – Newsies and School of Rock. I performed in live theater myself when I was in high school, and it warms my heart to see them continuing that tradition and loving it.

In September, my wife and family traveled to Vancouver, Canada, for Jin's cousin's wedding. It was Ileana's first time in Canada. Since my father was born in Ontario, it was meaningful for them to visit. They had a lovely time in Seattle and Vancouver and sent me many photos and videos, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

In October, my father-in-law, Rafael Cuellar, visited from Guatemala for his 95th birthday. We had a celebration at my son Robert's house. He is in great health and spirits, and I look forward to celebrating his 100th birthday in a few years, Lord willing.

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In November, we celebrated my two sons' birthdays at Casa del Mar in Santa Monica. We enjoyed a delightful dinner—and the exhilarating experience of watching the Los Angeles Dodgers win the World Series during our celebration! It was truly a joy. We also had a blessed time at the church banquet for Thanksgiving Sunday, followed by a family brunch on Thanksgiving Day at Castaway in Burbank.

As I reflect on this year, I am deeply grateful for God's sustaining grace through illness and trial, and for the gift of family who surround me with love and care. His mercy truly endures forever. May you have a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year!



Our family portrait. Front row: Hannah, Robert IV, me, and Sarah. Back row: Ileana's sister Ivette, Ileana's father Rafael Cuellar, Jin, Leslie, Ileana, Wesley, and Ileana's mother Linda.

Yours in Jesus' Name,

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

With thanks to Leslie, Wesley and Dr. Cagan



A happy time with my sons, Leslie (left) and Wesley (right).



Celebrating my 84th birthday at church.



Rafael Cuellar's 95th birthday party in October. He is seated to my right. At 95, Rafael is sprightly and energetic.



Having a great time with Ileana and Leslie!



Ileana and I have always loved each other very much.



I am really enjoying life even at 84. Thanks be to God, and blessings to you!

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