

# The Baptist Tabernacle of Los Angeles

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

Dr. Christopher L. Cagan  
Associate Pastor

Dr. Kreighton L. Chan  
Assistant Pastor

December, 2016

Dear Friend:

The main event in our church this year was the revival that God sent down to us in the old-fashioned way. My family and I were on vacation in Cancun, Mexico. I spent one of the days in the sun and in the hotel room reading a book about the revival on the Isle of Lewis off the north coast of Scotland, which occurred between 1949 and 1953. My own soul was revived while reading it. I began to pray hard for God to send revival to our church. When we got back I preached for three days and several young people were hopefully saved. But the big revival came suddenly, later that summer. It was on Thursday evening, August 27. I had asked our young people to memorize Isaiah 64:1-3, "Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down..." (Isaiah 64:1). Three young people recited those words. Suddenly a young man jumped to his feet and screamed, "I'm lost!" He fell to his knees gasping and crying. It seemed totally out of place because there was nothing emotional going on that night, not even singing. In those few meetings in January and August God came down and 22 young people were saved and 14 more people were revived and filled with the Spirit. I had witnessed three powerful revivals in other cities, quite powerful, unusual and not seen today anywhere that I know of. But this revival is the first one that God has sent to our church in 42 years. We had prayed for an outpouring of God's Spirit for all those years and then He answered our prayers. But in those few nights at least 36 people came under conviction and 22 of them were saved – and 14 others were revived and restored from a backslidden condition. This happened as I preached repeatedly on Isaiah 64:1-3 and each night the people sang the theme song of the revival over and over, "Fill all my vision, Saviour, I pray, Let me see only Jesus today; Though through the valley Thou leadest me, Thy fadeless glory encompasseth me. Fill all my vision, Saviour divine, Till with Thy glory my spirit shall shine. Fill all my vision, that all may see Thy Holy Image reflected in me" ("Fill All My Vision" by Avis B. Christiansen, 1895-1985). A few times in the revival the Devil came like a roaring lion but each time we prayed he receded and the Spirit of God came back, drawing people to Christ. For those few days we experienced living Christianity and those who were present will never forget it as long as they live. In the midst of all this two young men surrendered to preach. One of them is our Chinese translator's son, Noah Song. The other one is Dr. Cagan's 23-year-old son John Samuel Cagan, who just graduated from Cal State L.A. with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. They are both very outstanding preachers. When John preached his first sermon it sounded like he had been preaching for over twenty years, and Noah can even pick a theme song, be preaching hard, sing the song and go back to preaching in the style of Dr. John Sung and Dr. John R. Rice. Unbelievable! Thank God for these young men! John will be studying at the Talbot School of Theology at Biola University starting in January. Although he has only been preaching for three or four months, he has been invited to preach evangelistic meetings in North India, the Dominican Republic and South India. I believe that he will preach world-wide as one of the great evangelists of the twenty-first century. If you want to see one of John or Noah's sermons, go to our website at [www.sermonsfortheworld.com](http://www.sermonsfortheworld.com). In the middle of the black page there is a red line which says, "For sermon videos click here." Click there and you will see buttons for each of the preachers in our church. Click on the button for Dr. Hymers or the one for John Samuel Cagan or the one for Noah Song. There is a fourth button to push to watch the sermons of other speakers who preach in our church.

The second greatest thing that happened this year was the birth of our first grandchild, Hannah Kim Hymers. She was born on March 30 to our son Robert Leslie Hymers III and his lovely wife Jin. Hannah is a beautiful baby and is able to pull herself up and almost walk in the crib already.

As I said, my wife Ileana and I took her mother Linda along with Jin, Leslie and Wesley down to Cancun to play on the beach in January. We had a lovely time even though I wasn't feeling too well from the treatments I'd been having for cancer. By the way, the cancer seems to be under control and perhaps even gone. Only time will tell, but I have lost 22 pounds of weight, which helps.

Take a peek at the "laundry list" of things that happened this year. Rose Chenault-Quinn passed away on February 13 at the age of 97. David Ralston, Roland Rasmussen and Danny Thomas preached and provided music in the Easter season and for my 75th birthday on April 12. Mrs. Hymers' birthday followed on April 16 and her father Rafael Cuellar, who is 85 years old, flew up and spent a few days with us.

Then the next big thing happened. God showed me it was time to make some major changes in our church. We added three young deacon candidates, Noah Song, Jack Ngann and Aaron Yancy. John Cagan preached his first sermon on July 10 and Noah Song preached on the 17th. Both young men are outstanding speakers – unbelievable! On July 31 Timothy Chan and Lara Escobar were married. On August 21 Peter Stephen Ngann was born.

The second part of the revival began on Thursday, August 27. We have found in these special meetings that when we pray carefully and maintain a spirit of prayer God is present in the services, but on alternate days when we don't focus on prayer God is completely absent and nothing happens. So this was a learning experience for us, even though I had seen first-hand three major revivals, one of which brought in about four thousand people to a Chinese church of which I was a member.

Dr. Neal Weaver, the president of Louisiana Baptist University, was with us for our Bible conference on Labor Day weekend. On November 19 Wesley Hymers, Christine Nguyen, Adela Menjivar, Setsuko Zabalaga and Virgel Nickell were baptized. In that same service John Samuel Cagan was licensed to preach the Gospel by our church. The next day we had our Thanksgiving banquet with Ron Clark playing the violin and Geoff Merrill playing the piano. What a time we had! Dave Shook is finally going to come back to sing country and western gospel music for us at the Christmas banquet on December 18.

GOD OPENED THE DOOR FOR US TO ADD OUR 34TH LANGUAGE, NEPALI. The people of Nepal can now read my sermons every week. Nepal is a very needy place, having had two earthquakes last year, and we are delighted to have been able to add the language of this small country deep in the Himalayan Mountains to our list of sermon manuscripts. Nearly every sermon I preach is now translated into all 34 languages in manuscript form. All sermons are recorded with television-quality camera equipment and broadcast throughout the world on YouTube and on our website in three languages, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and English.

I don't like to admit it, but I am growing older. I can't play baseball as much as I used to, which wasn't at all, so I haven't lost much! That's the thing I miss most of all!!! My wife had nearly everybody in the church over who didn't have a place to go for Thanksgiving dinner. We always have a good time with these events.

It is our hope that Christ will be manifested in your home and in your life during this beautiful Christmas season. God bless you all!

Yours in Jesus' Name,



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



Dr. Hymers and Ileana with granddaughter Hannah at about four hours old.

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AND SEE IF YOU CAN GET HELP FROM ONE OF  
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Dr. Hymers with John Samuel Cagan (left) and Noah Song (right). Both have surrendered to preach the Gospel and will be studying theology.



Dr. Hymers with John Cagan when he was being licensed to the Gospel ministry.



Adela Menjivar being baptized at age 87 by Dr. Hymers.



Dr. Hymers baptizing Mr. Virgel Nickell.



Dr. and Mrs. Hymers' 34th wedding anniversary.



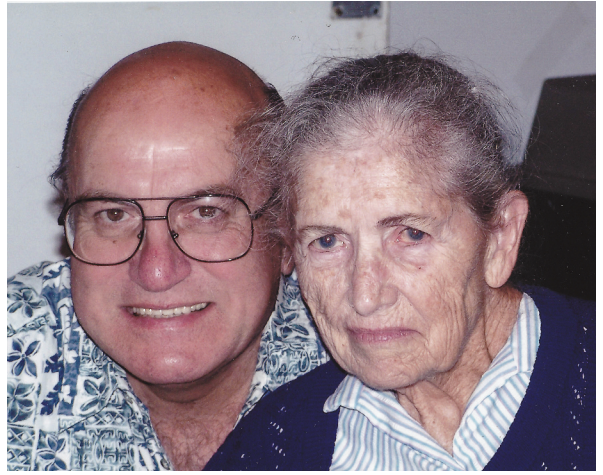
Rafael Cuellar (L), Leslie Hymers, Jin Hymers, Dr. Hymers, Mrs. Hymers with baby Hannah, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Kim.

***LOOK AT OUR CHURCH'S WEBSITE AT [WWW.BAPTISTTABERNACLE.COM](http://WWW.BAPTISTTABERNACLE.COM).***  
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Mr. and Mrs. James Roop. She is the church organist.



Dr. Hymers with Mrs. Rose Chenault-Quinn.



Rev. Mark Buckley with Dr. and Mrs. Hymers on New Year's Eve.



Dr. Chan performing the wedding of his son Timothy and Lara Escobar.



Dr. and Mrs. Hymers with Mrs. Hymers' mother Linda, Leslie and Wesley and Jin Hymers.



(From left) Dr. Hymers with baby Hannah, Mrs. Hymers, Leslie and Jin Hymers.

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