

The Baptist Tabernacle of Los Angeles

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Jack Ngann
Pastor

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

December, 2024

Dear Friend:

In this Christmas season, we reflect on this year's incredible memories and milestones. It has been a year filled with family gatherings, special celebrations, and shared moments of joy. We are so grateful for God's blessings and the love that unites our family. Here's a glimpse into our year:

Wesley continues to write and publish children's books even as he works multiple jobs and serves the Lord in his church in Arizona. Leslie was named for the second year in a row by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* to their list of 100 Top Accountants – an honor he well deserves. Even more thrilling, Leslie and his wife Jin were both California delegates at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee in July. We all rejoice that Trump was re-elected. There is hope for America yet! Our whole family had a vacation together in Chicago before the convention.

In April we embarked on a memorable road trip to Arizona with Jin's family, renting a 15-passenger van and a large house in Scottsdale. We explored the Grand Canyon, and I shared happy stories from my childhood there, making it a truly heartwarming experience.

Our new church, the Chinese Baptist Tabernacle of Greater Los Angeles, continues to grow in its new building in San Gabriel. We have a large sign on top of a tall pole that advertises the church in English and Chinese. Pastor Jack Ngann and Dr. Christopher Cagan take turns preaching in the morning and evening services. Several members of the local Chinese community have begun attending regularly on their own.

Our website, www.sermonsfortheworld.com, is blessing pastors worldwide in a new way. Dr. Cagan has set up "zip" files of all my sermons for 39 languages. Now, with just a single click, pastors can download my entire sermon library in their chosen language directly to their computers!

I have had a deep love for acting and the performing arts. In April, we were thrilled to watch Hannah and Sarah showcase their talent and passion in the play *Matilda*. Their energy and enthusiasm shown on stage. This Fall, they continued to impress us with their performances in *The Sound of Music*. It was an absolute joy and honor to be there, celebrating their incredible accomplishments! I am looking forward to seeing them perform in *Newsies* in just a few months.

Our family has always been highly active, participating in numerous events together over the years. Our grandchildren Hannah, Sarah and Robert IV celebrated their 8th, 6th, and 3rd birthdays. My dear wife Ileana finds great joy in helping care for them, and one of the highlights of my week is when our son Robert Leslie brings them over for a visit. In August, I loved watching the Ringling Brothers Circus at the Crypto Arena, and later that month the family had a special dinner at Club 33 in Disneyland. We celebrated Leslie and Jin's wedding anniversary with a family dinner and later celebrated our own 42nd anniversary. Ileana is truly loving, diligent and kind – she has made my life immeasurably happy. In early November we celebrated Leslie and Wesley's 41st birthdays at the Bourbon Steakhouse in Glendale.

I have lived in Los Angeles for many years. So I was especially thrilled to be in Dodger Stadium with the family to see the Dodgers beat the Yankees in the World Series!

In October Ileana's father, Rafael Cuellar, celebrated his 94th birthday. He used to fly here, but this year Ileana went to Guatemala to enjoy this wonderful time with her father and family. Rafael is definitely alive and kicking! On December 14 another of my old friends, Bill Hathaway, celebrated his own 94th birthday. Bill was a missionary to Japan for many years, and still publishes one message on video every week. I know that Bill will serve and proclaim the Lord until he is called home to Heaven.

Each of these moments has called me to remember the unbounded goodness of God in my life. I was once a young man, lost and without hope in the world. But God saved me by His Son Jesus Christ. He picked me up, put me on my feet and set me on solid ground. He called me into the ministry, a life of preaching the Gospel and serving the church. He blessed me with a loving wife, wonderful children and precious grandchildren, filling my life with many years of love and deep fulfillment! I can only think of God's immeasurable love in sending Jesus to be born, to die, and to rise again for me and for you.

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As we look forward to 2025, we pray for health, joy, and continued blessings for all of you. May this Christmas season bring peace to your hearts and joy to your homes. Merry Christmas!



Leslie and Jin with President Trump at a fundraiser in Beverly Hills. Both also attended the Republican National Convention as delegates!



Ileana in Guatemala with her father, Rafael Cuellar, for his 94th birthday. He has a MAGA hat!

Yours in Jesus' Name,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. L. Hymers, Jr." in a cursive style.

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

With thanks to Leslie, Wesley and Dr. Cagan



Blowing out a candle at a restaurant for our 42nd wedding anniversary. Ileana is the most wonderful wife in the world.



With Ileana in a lovely garden. The occasion was our boys' 41st birthday!



Gathered round the cake at my son's house as we celebrate my 83rd birthday.



On a family vacation to Arizona. Robert, Hannah and Sarah are with me in front. Back row: Jin's mother, Ileana's mother Linda, Jin, Leslie, Wesley and Ileana.



With the family for a summer walk at the Santa Monica Beach.



With Leslie in the parking lot of our new church. The sign is in the background!

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