



## *...From the Archives*

### **LET SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH REJOICE FOR 137 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

**PSALM 48:11-14** *11 Let Mount<sup>b</sup>Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgments! 12 Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers, 13 consider well her<sup>c</sup>ramparts, go through her citadels, that you may tell the next generation 14 that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever.<sup>f</sup>*

It all began May 13, 1885 in a little upper room on REQUINA ST with three members, the pastor, his wife and a member. In the words of Dr. T. L. GRIFFITH some 45 years later in 1930, he said how well the SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH has measured to its privileges, how well it has answered the call of the soul for worship, how well it has overcome its handicaps can best be judged by its achievements.

Well here we are some 92 years later surviving, but thriving in Gods' rich mercy and grace to continue rejoicing. We have not only come through, but we have celebrated **THE FOUNDING YEARS 1885-1887, THE DEVELOPING YEARS 1887-1920, THE BUILDING YEARS 1921-1940, THE EXPANDING YEARS 1941-1963, THE SERVING YEARS, 1963-1985, THE CHALLENGING YEARS 1987- TO THE PRESENT.** We have done this with the guidance and leadership of 8 Pastors.

The challenges have been great, but surmountable. Our young family leaders have become our generous seniors and have increasingly been overcome with death. Our neighborhood has changed so many of our faithful members have great distances to come to church. Our doors are only open on Sundays and choir practice days so we modify and make adjustments move on. Through prayer we become creative to meet the many challenges before us in this changing society. They say religion and social justice should be separate, but we know God's word says to pray for all.

Our aging population required a more comfortable and accessible edifice, some thought it was a dream for us, but we made it with Gods' grace and became a historical sight. Then came the greatest challenge of all, the pandemic. We fell on our knees face down and cried out to the Lord, what do we do now? And he answered with a gifted, skilled membership and modern technology and we zoomed our way on all the time remembering... the sanctuary is in our hearts and where ever we are he is with us.

We are being tested again with construction challenges in our edifice, Count it all joy, my sisters and brothers, we know when we meet trials of various kinds, we know that the testing of our faith produces steadfastness. And we know to let steadfastness have its full effect, so that we may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. So we won't be anxious about anything, but in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving we will let our request be made known to God.

So we are gathered together today to rejoice and offer praise and thanksgiving for 137 years of Christian service and knowing with God the best is yet to come! Praise God for 137 years of Christian Service!

### **SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES/Memorial and Historical Commission**

**To preserve and enhance our historic legacy so that our contributions will be maintained and enriched for both present and future generations.**