



Benson B. Phillips, Jr.

Nov. 29, 1941—Aug. 15, 2022

Memorial Time in California

Lord's Day, October 9, 2022
Living Stream Ministry Conference Center
Anaheim, California

Hymn 1

Welcome/Introduction

Opening Prayer

Designated Speakers

Hymn 2

Closing Prayer

*...Having served his own generation
by the counsel of God...*

Acts 13:36

*I have fought the good fight;
I have finished the course;
I have kept the faith.
Henceforth there is laid up for me
the crown of righteousness...*

2 Tim. 4:7-8

*But you have closely followed
my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith,
long-suffering, love, endurance,*

2 Tim. 3:10

*Let no one despise your youth,
but be a pattern to the believers
in word, in conduct, in love,
in faith, in purity.*

1 Tim. 4:12

*And He Himself gave some as apostles
and some as prophets
and some as evangelists
and some as shepherds and teachers,
for the perfecting of the saints
unto the work of the ministry,
unto the building up
of the Body of Christ,*

Eph. 4:11-12

Hymn 1 (#1212)

- 1 The Lord of all has shown His plan
 Unto each faithful one,
Who leaves behind the worldly things
 As virgins for His Son.
To be His Bride we must match Him,
 Within and outwardly;
To be this one who matches Him,
 Enjoy Him constantly.

- 2 Like virgins who so single are,
 They love the Groom so much,
They in His presence ever stay—
 Lord Jesus, make us such.
Lord, make us those who are so wise,
 Who gain You every day,
The wise ones who enjoy the feast,
 Who all the price will pay.

- 3 The virgins are mature in life,
 They grow so normally.
They daily eat and drink the Lord,
 Their lot eternally.
Our need today is growth in life,
 Christ's inward work indeed;
Not knowledge, teachings, gifts, nor pow'r—
 But life is all we need.

- 4 Lord, as the seed of life within,
 Grow more in us each day;
By spreading from our deepest part,
 Gain us in every way.
Lord, strengthen Thou our inner man;
 Make home in all our heart.
Fill us completely with Thyself
 In every inward part.

Hymn 2 (#839)

- 1 Lord, Thou art a potter skilled
And a glorious builder too,
Molding for Thy vessel great,
Building with Thy house in view.
I am both a man of clay
And a new-made living stone,
That Thy vessel I may be
And the temple Thou wouldst own.
- 2 Though of clay Thou madest us,
Thou wouldst have us be transformed;
With Thy life as purest gold,
Unto precious stones conformed.
We shall, through Thy building work,
Then become Thy loving Bride,
In one Body joined to Thee,
That Thy heart be satisfied.
- 3 What Thy heart desires and loves
Are not precious stones alone,
But together these to build
For Thy glory, for Thy home.
Thou, the all-inclusive Christ,
Dost a builded Church require,
That Thy glorious riches may
Radiate their light entire.
- 4 Not the person spiritual
In an individual way,
But the corporate life expressed
Will Thy heart's desire display.
Members separate and detached
Ne'er express Thee perfectly,
But Thy Body tempered, built,
Ever shall Thy fulness be.
- 5 Build me, Lord, with other saints,
Independence ne'er allow,
But according to Thy plan
Fitly frame and join me now.
In experience not my boast,
Nor in gifts would be my pride;
For Thy building I give all,
That Thou may be glorified.

Our beloved Brother Benson B. Phillips, Jr., was born into a God-fearing Christian family in Big Spring, Texas (about 100 miles west of Abilene), on November 29, 1941. From his youngest days his parents led him to be in Christian meetings habitually and to hear the Word of God regularly. After years of hearing the gospel, he was strongly convicted by the Lord at around age 12 that he was not saved and sought the help of his pastor, who helped him to receive the Lord in many tears. As a regenerated young believer in junior high school and high school, he eagerly led many of his friends to the Lord, and he picked up a lifelong burden for the preaching of the gospel.

After high school he eventually attended Wayland Baptist College in Plainview, TX, and was elected president of many school organizations. Through one of these organizations he preached the gospel with many others in surrounding churches as well as among Spanish-speakers who worked in the area. In addition to the gospel, he spent time laboring in three other directions successively: the basic truths in the Bible, the Pentecostal gifts, and the life practices among the Navigators ministry. During these years at Wayland he also became close to Brother James Barber, with whom he read a number of ministry books by Watchman Nee and through whom the ministry of Witness Lee, a co-worker of Watchman Nee, was introduced to many in the college.

After graduating in 1963, Benson moved to Dallas in January 1964 and attended seminary in Fort Worth. In the spring of that year he was able to hear Brother Lee speak in Dallas. Though he heard only two messages by Brother Lee, he was struck by the life and truth that was ministered and decided to get fully into the truth concerning the church as presented by Brother Nee and Brother Lee to see if they were right. After an intensive study of the New Testament on fifty-five points concerning the church, he was fully persuaded and made the firm decision to take the way presented in the ministry of these two brothers. In June of that year he went to Los Angeles to see the practical expression of a local church and to attend a seven-and-a-half week conference and training by Brother Lee. His soon-to-be wife Barbara followed him there and entered into the same revelation and vision of the church. All the saints who were in Plainview were also at that conference and training.

The saints in Plainview had already been meeting on the ground of the oneness of the church there, and Benson moved back there and met with them for a short time. But his heart was for more local churches in Texas, and in fellowship with the church in Plainview, he moved to Waco, TX, in November 1964, where Barbara was attending college. In January 1965 the two of them with three others began meeting as the church in Waco. Benson and Barbara were married there on January 23, 1965.

Benson and Barbara enjoyed the church life in Waco until 1969, when there was the feeling among the local churches in Texas to consolidate in one city. Around seventy saints moved to Houston then, and the

Lord began to add steadily to the church there. In 1973 Brother Lee asked Benson to consider moving to Dallas to strengthen the church there, and Benson did not hesitate to pick up the burden. In the years to come, he moved with Barbara and their three children, Benson III, Amy, and Susanna, frequently and sometimes for only months at a time to carry out this service of strengthening the local churches in Dallas three times again (1976, 1978, 1980); Oklahoma City, OK (1976); Boston, MA (1978); Houston again (1977); and Irving, TX (1981).

In 1975 Benson entered a new phase of his service in the Lord's recovery: his direct coordination with Brother Lee in Living Stream Ministry. His first commission was to move to Anaheim, CA, and oversee the purchasing of all the materials for a meeting hall for the intensified ministry trainings. During this service he learned much from Brother Lee how to coordinate in the Lord's work, and Brother Lee began to rely on him for many matters in Living Stream. After that project he returned to his service among the churches in the Texas area in 1976. Then, in 1979 Brother Lee opened a branch office of Living Stream Ministry in Houston, and Benson traveled there frequently to coordinate with the office. By 1980 the needs of the branch office began to exceed the resources in Houston, and Brother Lee agreed with Benson and the brothers to build another meeting hall and office space in Irving, TX (Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex). This time the coordination was long-distance but nevertheless close and detailed. In 1982 Brother Lee began holding one semiannual training a year in the new ministry meeting hall in Irving and lived in the facility some months every year. In July 1988 Brother Lee asked Benson to join the directors and officers of Living Stream for the oversight of the ministry office with him, and in 1996 Brother Lee asked him to serve as president of Living Stream after him. Benson continued in this service at LSM until the moment of his own departure in 2022.

In February 1988 Brother Lee began his first full-time Christian training for young adults in the United States in Irving and placed it under Benson's oversight. When Brother Lee returned to the U.S. from Taiwan in 1989, he decided to begin another full-time training in Anaheim. But Benson, not wanting there to be two trainings in the U.S. nor for anyone to miss the direct training from Brother Lee, felt to close the full-time training in Irving and send all the trainees from there to Anaheim.

Brother Benson is perhaps best recognized for his service in the Russian-speaking world after the collapse of the Soviet Union on August 18, 1991. During that month and in the midst of the political upheavals at that time, he and a few other brothers visited Moscow for a scheduled book fair, which was cancelled at the last minute by its organizers. In fellowship with Brother Lee, Benson and the brothers instead went out into the streets and subways of Moscow and passed out all the literature that they had brought there. At the same time they collected over twenty-five thousand orders for further literature and brought back these

names and addresses to Anaheim. Brother Lee saw the need for an immediate work in Russia and asked Benson to move to Moscow as soon as possible for the preaching of the gospel, the translation of the ministry, and the building up of new churches in Russia. The request was sudden and completely unexpected, but Benson agreed without reluctance, and in November 1991 he moved to Moscow with around forty full-time serving ones. For five weeks gospel meetings were held in Moscow, and five thousand received the Lord and two thousand were baptized there. Then, in early 1992 five weeks of gospel meetings were held in St. Petersburg, Russia, where nineteen thousand received the Lord and five thousand were baptized. This was the beginning of a strong church life in these two cities, which eventually spread to most of the lands of the former Soviet Union. Also, in November 1991 Benson began an extensive publication work in Moscow, which eventually produced hundreds of titles in Russian and the Russian New Testament Recovery Version. While living in Russia from 1991 until 1996, Benson perfected hundreds of serving ones in the gospel, in the publication work, and in the work of building up the local churches.

In 1996 he fellowshipped again with Brother Lee about where he should serve next and offered to be in Anaheim most of his time. After Brother Lee went to be with the Lord in June 1997, Benson served with LSM in the ministry of the Word and in the publication work, as one of the elders in the church in Anaheim, and among the co-workers worldwide. He traveled extensively to care for the churches, the leading ones, and many brothers and sisters in the churches until 2018, when his health began to limit him. In June 2022 he moved to Arlington, TX, and spent the last days of his long and fruitful Christian life and church life there. He went to be with the Lord Jesus, whom He loved and served, in the evening of August 15, 2022, with his dear wife and co-worker Barbara by his side.

Our dear Brother Benson will be missed dearly, and he will be loved and remembered by all his family as well as by us all as “a pattern to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12). Thanks be to God for His gift to us!

The family would like to express their deep gratitude to all the saints for attending and all the prayers during this time.

For links to recordings visit:

www.memorial-meeting.org

For letters and remembrances write to:

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