

(R-97-1249)

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 288772

ADOPTED ON JUN 09 1997

WHEREAS, Bethel Baptist Church began with seven people holding a home prayer meeting in 1921, and progressed to a tent erected on Ninth and "J" Street; and

WHEREAS, later these faithful few moved into the Mission Hall on Market Street and after a short stay moved to a store front on Logan Avenue; and

WHEREAS, as the membership grew spiritually and financially, it purchased a site to build a church at Commercial and Hensley Street; and

WHEREAS, the church continued to grow, and in order to accommodate everyone it became necessary to build a new church; and

WHEREAS, the foundation for the present church was laid at 2885 Clay Avenue; and

WHEREAS, from 1921 several ministers had the privilege of serving as Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church. 1921-1925 Reverend F.O. Brown; 1925-1927 Reverend W.T. Melton; 1927-1931 Reverend G.W. Hill; 1931-1945 Reverend C.H. Hampton; 1945-1948 Reverend W.J. Hutchenson; 1948-1979 Dr. C.H. Hampton and 1979-present Dr. John Ringgold; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Dr. Charles H. Hampton the building and expansion of the present edifice was executed and Bethel Baptist Church became a "beacon" in the

community with the membership growing from 50 to over 1,200 active members; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hampton organized several auxiliaries including an Usher Board, Missionary Society, Trustee Board, Brotherhood, Senior and a Gospel Choir, Male Chorus, Junior/Senior High and Young Adult Fellowships; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John Ringgold has served as the assistant to Dr. Hampton and in 1979, because of the display of his leadership, ability and loyalty, Dr. John Ringgold was called to Pastor the Bethel family; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ringgold is the author of the Hundredfold Harvest, an instructional and inspirational program of Christian growth, spiritual development and Christian maturity which helps believers achieve a higher level of faith in every aspect of life and service, and Defense of the Gospel, a bible study program and his first book Young Christians was dedicated to the youth of Bethel; and

WHEREAS, some of Dr. Ringgold's accomplishments as the undershepherd of Bethel Baptist Church since 1979 include: revision of the by-laws; Institute of Christian Ministries; a van and a bus for seniors; reactivation of the Annual Church Revival and Laymen's League; the acquisition of property for additional parking and 5.6 acres of land on Euclid Avenue, and Praise Team and Touch of Love street ministry; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of The City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, commends Dr. John Ringgold for nearly twenty years of unselfish ministry, dedication, devotion and congratulates the members on their Diamond Anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that June 21, 1997, be and is hereby proclaimed to be the "75TH DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH DAY" in The City of San Diego.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By Stuart H. Swett  
Stuart H. Swett  
Deputy City Attorney

SHS:jrl  
05/20/97  
Or.Dept:Dist.4  
R-97-1249  
Form=r-t.frm