

October 19, 1998

Oral Interview with Dr. Brougher, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Glendale located at 209 North Louise Street.

Jerry - I usually begin these interviews by asking people if they were born in Glendale.

Dr. Brougher - No I was not born in Glendale. I was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee and was there for about 9 months and my dad was a Baptist preacher and he was called to the First Baptist Church of Portland, Oregon and I had 5 years of life in Portland. Then dad was called from Portland to come to Los Angeles and I came to Los Angeles with him and Madalyn and the rest of the kids?? And we became pastor of the Temple Baptist Church in Los Angeles at the corner of Fifth and Olive and that's where I consider I grew up and went to school--to the Fremont Avenue Elementary School in Los Angeles and then to Los Angeles High School and then to the University of Redlands and to the Newton Center in Massachusetts Seminary-- Baptist Seminary, and then I came out here because I had been ill and they said you better get out to California where you'll get some good climate. And I came out here, although I'd been here before, grew up and doctors told me in Massachusetts there was no hope for me, that I was going to be bedridden for the rest of my life. I'd been married one month when this hit me, so I came out here and here ever since.

Jerry- What year was that?

Dr. Brougher- It was 1927--1927 and September that I came to town, and the 15th of October, we celebrated last Sunday, my 71st anniversary as the pastor of the church.

Jerry - Oh my gosh, congratulations.

Dr. Brougher - They invited me to come for only 6 weeks.

Jerry - Oh my goodness, so when you came to California it was not only for your health but you were also going to become the pastor at this church.

Dr. Brougher - It worked out that way but I didn't know it when I came. I didn't come out for that purpose, this church was looking for...they tried to get dad to come because this church at the time was going to face the depression. The depression didn't hit nationally until 1929 but in 27 everything was dropping out of the --as far as this town was concerned they were --things were in bad shape, in 27. And if you're talking about -- do you just want me to say the things that I think.

Jerry - Sure, absolutely.

Dr. Brougher - The church had just built this big building and it had \$100,000 debt on the main building of this church.

Jerry - Now that was 1926?

Dr. Brougher - 1927, they dedicated the building in 26 so that one year had gone by and they had agreed to the bank that they would pay \$10,000 a year on the principle plus 6-1/2% interest. And a whole year went by and the \$6,500 was not paid--not one penny--and the \$100,000 main debt was not--they were supposed to pay \$10,000 a year and they hadn't paid anything. And they hadn't paid their pastor for 2 months and dad had just left Temple Baptist Church in Los Angeles after raising \$2 million dollars to buy that big auditorium there that was known as the Philharmonic Auditorium--that was the Temple Baptist Church. The church built it but couldn't swing it so they were going to lose it but they called it Temple Baptist Church for about 6 months. Then they turned it into a theater. The history of that church is not what we're here to talk about today, but it's all a part of the Southern California picture. And so dad was known to be a money raiser. This church thought here in Glendale, downtown, Dr. Brougher might save us and pull us out of trouble. He said "No, I can't come. I've just been gone a year from Southern California and I wouldn't come back til 5 or 6 years go by because churches get over loses faster." So dad wouldn't come and they said well can you tell us somebody you can get to preach for 5 or 6 weeks til we find somebody. Baptists' have to search for themselves--they don't have a Bishop and a ecclesiastical hierarchy to do things for them so these church are autonomous and is--so this church was on its own. So dad said "My son's going to be out here because he's ill and the doctors recommend he come to California so he'll be coming in and if you want him he could do a good job for you." "How old is he," she said. "Twenty-five, but he's just graduating from seminary. " " We've got to have an experienced person Christmas-- just desperate. But we can let him preach for 5 or 6 weeks while we find somebody. " So they wrote me a letter and I was up in Oregon at the time and said "We'd like to have you come and preach for us for 4 weeks of September and 2 weeks of October but don't consider yourself a candidate for the pulpit because we want some older man whose had experience" And they gave me two pages of single spaced type written paper to tell me the disaster trouble they were in.

Jerry - So they were that blunt with you?

Dr. Brougher - So I wrote back "That suits me all right, I'm just a kid act. I didn't expect to take anything like that on but if you want me to preach I can sure preach on Sunday for you." And the job was and I came the first Sunday and a very wealthy family friend --they said one of our cars is not needed, you take the car and drive out to Glendale to take streetcars. So I came out here, 25 years old, driving a Stuts Bear Cat. That was the fanciest sports car. They looked at me and thought "What's this guy?" and they took me up into a little upper room and they said--5 or 6 men--and they said "We're sorry, this is the Labor Day Sunday and we can't expect very many people in church cause

they're all out taking vacations but next Sunday and the following Sunday things will...we sometimes have as many as 100 people here and the church seats 900. So a hundred people looks like a drop in the bucket." So they said "So don't worry." Just about the time that they said there might be 100 people here, somebody knocked on the door and the janitor, no it was the head usher, came in and said "Sorry to disturb your people's prayers but I just had to have the help--the ground floor is already filled and it seats 600 and we've got to open the balcony and it hasn't been dusted. Will you come and help us?" And they all...we'll the thing that happened was that it was a time of dearth as far as Baptist preachers were concerned. The First Baptist Church of Los Angeles, one of the biggest churches in this area, the pastor was in the hospital. Temple Baptist Church, that dad had been the pastor of, just lost its pastor and was looking for a pastor. The First Baptist Church of Hollywood was looking for a pastor; the First Baptist Church of Alhambra was looking for a pastor; the First Baptist Church of Pasadena was looking for a pastor; the First Baptist Church of Burbank was looking for a pastor. The result was that when somebody who knew dad well, liked him, on the Times staff heard that I was going to be preaching here, well he put my picture on the front page of the Times and said Dr. Brougher's son is going to be in Southern California for 5 or 6 weeks preaching at the First Baptist Church of Glendale. And the result was that they didn't have any pastors so there was nobody to stay home and be loyal to so they all came over here.

Jerry - So people literally came from miles around to see you.

Dr. Brougher - It wasn't my fault. But by the time 3 weeks had gone--3 Sundays, 6 services-- the annual business meeting came the first of October but getting ready for that you have to get a budget and you get other things ready--they had a meeting right here in this room with about 30 people in it to adopt a budget, to get something to recommend to the membership. And they talked of everything and they asked me to be here. I don't know why except they were desperate because I was just out of school, I never had a church yet. But I had a father and he knew I was going to be a preacher so he'd taken me in on some of the things of life. Anyway, the plot was that they asked me every time they'd come to a budget item--"How much do you think we ought to have for advertising, what do you think we ought to have for ?" It came to the salary of a worker that was a visitation lady, and she was here in the room, and they said "Mrs. Wood, would you mind going out while we talk about your salary?" So she got up and went out and they decided that as poor as they were they could at least try to pay what they were supposed to pay her so they didn't cut the salary but they didn't add to it. They just put it in the very same amount, \$10.00 a month, and next on the item was the pastor and they said "Mr. Brougher, would you like to go out please?" I said "But I'm no going out on the basis that I'm the one going to get that salary; that's the next pastor you're going to get but you're going to pay him. That's what you want to think about tonight is how much can we afford to pay him and tell me. And no, that's not me, because I can't be your pastor." Then one of the men spoke up, "What do you mean you can't be our pastor?" I said "Well, I have a written signed agreement that I would not let anybody talk to me about

being the pastor because I'm too young and inexperienced and everything else." Somebody started to argue about it and a man got up and said "I'm the man who wrote the letter, and the search committee has agreed that the Baptist Church is serious of preachers and then tries to decide which one you want and it split the church and everybody disagrees because they all differ as to what they want. We'll take them one at a time when they come in and say 'do you want him or don't you want him.' If we don't want him we look for another one but lets agree what we're going to do. So we are not going to have a split church because of having us do the giving. And that's the reason we wrote it. And that's what we're going to stick to too. We admit that we never knew that there'd be anybody out of school who would be able to take care of himself in the pulpit and preaching and get the people and the first Sunday. We thought that was just because it was new but now that three Sundays and the crowd holds up why we're going to change our minds. No we're not going to change our minds we're going to stick to it." I said, "I'm going to go." One of them said "Just a minute, what would you want if you were going to be here." I said "I won't even tell you what I want--I don't know what I want. I haven't prepared for this kind of thing." I said "Well, the only way I can help you in judging about that item in the budget is my dad and Will Rogers were good friends and they had two debates; the first one was unresolved that cowboys have done more for civilization than preachers and Will Rogers was humorous you know, and dad had a reputation for being humorous also, so that was the debate. And then they had a second debate unresolved that most picture actors, Will was in the movies by that time, have done more for civilization than preachers before organizations. Well the Optimists Club in Los Angeles, which was one of the big clubs then, and so they --so I said they had the debate resolved that motion picture actors have done more for civilization than preachers and dad said he couldn't expect motion picture actors to do too much for civilization because they don't have to have an education, they don't have to have any degrees, don't have to write their own scripts, somebody else writes it for them, they don't know how to act because somebody tells them how to and where to stand, the director, and so how can you expect them to, he kidded jokingly with Will. " So when Will got up he said 'The preacher's right, the preachers get the poorest salary of anybody in the world and we motion picture actors, get the best salaries of anybody in the world and so on, etc.' Which to the American public, this is Will talking--he worked for the American public long enough to know they'll pay all the thing it's worth. So they batted back and forth" and I told them this and I said "Now, all you have to do is decide what this new preacher's worth and pay him that." In about 10 minutes they pulled me back in and said "The committee that told you that were not to be considered as a pastor is right here. " The chairman of the meeting said "And they have decided that the decision to not ask a young man or anybody as inexperienced as a man like you was a mistaken decision. So, we've all resigned and we're turning the sole problem of a new pastor over to the Board of Deacons." In the Baptist Church, the Board of Deacons is generally the ruling body anyway. All four of the guys were deacons at the time. But they had not fashioned a resolution they had not decided that they will or will not do anything so they can do as they please. So the meetings over. They told me when I came in ,

I sat down, well then there was a half hour of discussion and it happened, -- you're going to have more on me than you're going to have on the town of Glendale.

Jerry - But I'll tell you, you're part of the town of Glendale after having been here for 71 years--you are Glendale.

Dr. Brougher - Anyway, the point is that they said they wanted to talk to me about whether I should be pastor--that was on a Monday night. Monday afternoon, that same Monday, 3:00 in the afternoon, I met with 3 prominent, outstanding medical men, doctors, and they said "We cannot promise you anything in the condition that you're in--you may never be able to do any work. You may live the rest of your life in bed. That's what they told you in Newton" and I said "Yes. They said we believe you will have a better chance of getting well out here where there's no snow and cold ice and windy weather and, therefore, we recommend that you go to California." So I've come and I've had this statement from that doctor, doctors there, and so I said "I came out here because I knew California, I lived out here all my life so far." And so I heard them say this to me this afternoon that I was to come out to here from Boston and so here I have a doctor says that live in California, I have you folks saying will you be our pastor, both in the same day, and so what must I but to accept that. The Lord must be in it—because if there were a heaven and when I realized why there was big crowd, because all these churches were empty. What the Lord would do to give us this church at the same time. So I said "It looks like that and I will accept your call to come if you folks will recognize that I'm young and will need all the help I can get from you folks and if you'll have a vote of the people because the Baptist church has to have a final vote by the congregation. If its unanimous, they all feel the same way, why I'll stay." And, they took the vote at the next Sunday meeting, but there has to be 2 weeks notice, so it was unanimously, enthusiastically that I should be called. Two weeks later, they made this notice in the...and they had a weekday meeting and sent me out of the meeting and I was out here for a half-hour or 45 minutes and I thought well something's gone wrong because it wouldn't take that long to take roll call. There was an old lady who had-she had been a member of the church for quite a long time, but she'd been away on a trip. She hadn't heard me preach, she says the salary up there that I was going to get paid \$300 a month and that was too much for any young man--it'd just ruin him--he would go to the devil the first thing you know with that money and so they talked and talked and talked because she could vote no and that wouldn't be unanimous then. Finally, the presiding officer who was an ex-preacher said "According to Roberts Rules or Order, a unanimous vote is a vote for the motion and no 'no' votes and if you can keep quiet, we'll have a unanimous vote." So they persuaded her to keep quiet essentially. I had heard that she was a talker. So I got up my notes that I took at seminary on Theology and I went right down the line. The first prayer meeting night I preached on what I believe about God and the second one about what I believe about Jesus Christ what I believe about salvation, you know all those, and third, after the third prayer meeting she said "Forget it pastor, you're a better theologian than I am. I'm 100 percent for you." So,

she came over. And so I've been here ever since. That's how I got started in this church and paid off the first--paid \$100,000-- paying debt in 11 years instead of 10 and we--curious crowd didn't stay up to the peak all the time but it was a good attendance. And by the way, the old lady who died less than 2 months ago was the first girl, was a child when I came, I baptized her, the first one in a row of about 10 children that came forward to be baptized, and we baptize by immersion in the Baptist Church, so she had kept in touch with the church all the time ever since 71 years.

Jerry - Had she lived in Glendale the entire time.

Dr. Brougher - No, she married and she moved up to Gold Country up in Placerville in Sacramento and that area. She kept in touch with the church. We have a little church paper that I'll give you a copy of that she got every week so we send out to all the members who are here or not.

Jerry - So, you have known her from almost the day that she was born until the day that she died.

Dr. Brougher - That's right. Well no, people don't get baptized when they're born they have to be we call it "believer's baptism." They have to believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ, as their savior and Lord--testify that that's the case in front of the audience so that means that when they get to be a member of the church, they'll also be sure to be Christians. Anyway, we have this big building paid for in 11 years and then in 1950, 27 to 50, into the 30 years we got ready for it to build Fellowship Hall which was a big gymnasium and banquet hall.

Jerry- So that building dates from 1950.

Dr. Brougher - Yes. We got the education building, which is the next building ?? We figured when we built it we could have 900 in the Sunday School. We had buildings 2 stories and 6 rooms on each floor. So, with that paid for, we got music wing, four times as big as this room, high ceiling, high. And had that taken care of and paid for and we sat right here in this room and the second month I was here, a judge who was well known in this City and he said "Well, we have this good thing about the out church, we have enough land so we never have to buy any more property." And the land ended 6 feet from this wall right here. And, we now own the whole block up the side and we own four blocks on Maryland. And they're all future development, the education building is on property that we didn't own when he was talking, but Fellowship Hall was that property he was talking about. So in addition to parking lots, that four lot parking lot on this side, we got two here and four across the street, so when we have a crowd for anything, why we have plenty of parking.

Jerry- Before the building programs started with Fellowship Hall then the Music Room and the Sunday School and all, was there any development or was it vacant land?

- Dr. Brougher - No, it was houses, residences. This was all homes all through here. Very few, I don't think there was, you know one apartment house when I came here.
- Jerry- So the two tall buildings were the Glendale YMCA across the street and the church itself.
- Dr. Brougher - The YMCA was just one year old and we're talking about paying debts. They owed the bank \$100,000. But the Methodist Church had not built its main building but it had built a building recently and owed the bank \$75,000. Trying to think, the Presbyterian Church was in debt to the bank and when the depression came, they just said, "Well pardon us, we don't have enough money for anything"--they can't pay. The bank said just forget it.
- Jerry- So they forgave the loan?
- Dr. Brougher - No, they didn't forgive the loan but they just didn't push them. They didn't take the property because 25 years later or 20 years later, the churches had revived and they took care of paying all their bills. But, we paid ours on time, except for one year. And when we wanted to borrow some money for these buildings here, why we went to the same banker and he said "I'm sorry, Jim, I can't touch it." Downtown Security Pacific was a new bank and they said "The boys downtown said no more churches no more schools no more people ." "We would have to offend the whole community. " "We insist on being paid" I said, "Who made that decision?" I said "Well tell me who they are." He said "No, that's one of the things I've been ??? to be protective of them they put pressure on them. " In about two or three months I got a telephone call from the manager of a local bank he says "Will you come down and see me?" And I said "Sure," so I went down to see and learn the names of those guys downtown. But I didn't learn the names. Sounds like somebody got to them. "I says, why?" She wrote me a letter "As long as Jim Brougher is pastor, give him what he wants." I paid all the debts off.
- Jerry- That's wonderful.
- Dr. Brougher - I had good credit as far as the church was concerned all the time.
- Jerry- Were the members of the congregation in those earlier years in the 20's and 30's were they made up of people who were primarily from this area--did others come into the City to come to the church?
- Dr. Brougher - They made up areas of the City--lets see, we had 3 Chiefs of Police in our membership, after I came here, lasted 5 or 6 years each one, and one Fire Chief, City Clerk, really very civic minded congregation. Much better than it is now. Anyway, the fact that we were able to pay off all these debts and all the property and different things. And we had an active busy membership and we wanted to go ahead and progress and I was very grateful they had the money. The president of the First National Bank of Glendale, he came to our church, and two judges were in our church. One of the judges wasn't

very smart because he turned me down. Right up the street here, four or five houses, was the head of the telephone company. He was at one end and I joined the Kiwanis Club and so he said "Do you want some more property?" and I said "Sure we do." He said "I'll let you have my home and vacant lot next to me for \$7,000." This was back in the days when the depression was still around. The judge was sitting here when I brought the trustees and he said "You're making this into real estate business--there's no reason we need a lot of property. " He said "Brougher, I told you when you first came here we had all the property we want and here we've bought all these lots. What's the idea." And they, rather than have a fight, they succumbed to this, why we didn't buy it. Later on, we bought it--paid \$150,000 for what we could have got for \$7,000.

Jerry - How many years later was that?

Dr. Brougher - 25, I guess.

Jerry - Isn't that incredible.

Dr. Brougher - When I first came here, to go back into the history of the area, San Fresquite Canyon Dam crumbled and then ran down clear through Fillmore to the ocean. Washed out all the bridges all the trestles, railroads and everything else.

Jerry- Quite a few people lost their lives in that flood.

Dr. Brougher - Yes, quite a few did, and the Sheriff of Los Angeles County, he carried over from the time when my dad was pastor, and he was some ... and dad was well known. There was no question about it--I rode on my dad's coat tails. I had a lot of privileges a lot of activities because he had started it going and I wanted somebody to say "Well, Jimmy Brougher, he's just like his dad, he can raise the money to use for revenue." He set me up a committee to survey the damn and flood waters, checked how many people needed help and so forth. I came back and reported to what was then called the Glendale Breakfast Club. The Los Angeles Breakfast Club was the parent club.

Jerry- They're still in existence.

Dr. Brougher - Yes they are and I'm still their chaplain.

Jerry - Oh really, and there on Hyperion?

Dr. Brougher - Riverside Drive. Anyway, I spoke before the Glendale Breakfast Club at their request and said bring us your same report you brought to the County officials and lets hear what you have to say. And I said "I didn't see one single live person--needs help because they washed out and drowned or else they were not touched ... wall of water 25 feet high that went right into the ocean" and so I said "As far as I know now ,I saw three big truck loads of food from the San Joaquin Valley and wouldn't touch it." So I said "Until I

see something different, I don't ask for any help." A guy got up and said "I never had an experience like this to have a preacher have a chance to raise money out of us when we're all feeling generous and he doesn't skin us for everything we've got." He said "I move we make him an honorary member of the club." So, I got a good opportunity to serve. Being all things when I was young, when they wanted something done they would call on me--to make a speech or something that was clever. They made me an honorary member of their organization. I couldn't figure out a telephone call came and said "This is (and he named himself) and I'm the manager of the Breakfast Club. We have a four minute spot on the program next Wednesday that was going to be filled by the Governor and he can't come. Could you fill the spot." Why should I, 25 years old--26 maybe by that time--me to fill the Governor's spot--if he said we want you to talk, that would sound reasonable--to tell me I was trying to fill up the Governors. So I went down. I took the four or five minutes they said they had and I told--the club has as its main idea talk of friendship. So I got some old jokes on friendship, told one, then told the other and in four minutes I had a speech told and they had four good laughs and I said you got something to think about. He jumped up and said "This is the kind of speech I like." Boy, he got up in no time at all and said "I move we make him a members." So they made me an honorary member of the Breakfast Club in Los Angeles which then was a \$1,000 membership.

Jerry- Do you recall what year that was?

Dr. Brougher - 1932. The depression was just beginning to ease up a little bit.

Jerry- That was a lot of money for those years.

Dr. Brougher - That's right. They had some very wealthy men at the Los Angeles Breakfast Club because they were all--the Breakfast Club was started by 30 or 40 horseback riders--they banded together so they'd come down to the stables with the horses, go for a ride to Griffith Park, come back, shower, and eat breakfast before they went to work.

Jerry- So it literally was a breakfast club.

Dr. Brougher - Yes, it was literally a very wealthy mans--they all owned their own horses and were somebody. Boy I tell you we had everybody and his dog at that Breakfast Club. The first day I was there as the chaplain I had to say something literally going on with President Calvin Coolidge came out here and he was on the agenda. I don't think anybody else believed me but there were two sisters graduated from Poly High the same year I graduated in 1920. They would come with the comedy jokes. One girl was Baby Schnooks.

Jerry - Sounds vaguely familiar. And that was one of them?

- Dr. Brougher- And those two girls came and put on the program for the president. I was riding in high society for a while. But, I should tell more about the City and how it developed I suppose.
- Jerry- What were you're impressions when you first arrived --when you drove up to the church?
- Dr. Brougher - When I drove up to the church I thought of it as being a village church--a country town church. It was two big buildings, one at the corner of Broadway and Brand and the other on the other corner, the same corner with the cross street with the Bank of America and then Security Pacific Bank was a three or four story building on Broadway. Everything else was down. I had a friend by the name of Madison B. Jones who was a lawyer and who had sat on the Board of Trustees of my dad's church in Los Angeles and was Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the University of Redlands where I graduated.
- Jerry- He built a nice house up on Kenneth Road.
- Dr. Brougher - Yes he did, a real southern mansion. That was Madison B. Jones' house. He came in here one day and said "I just had something happen" he said. Then he tells me "Glendale is going to be a real City someday." I said "What happened." He said "I sold my corner at Wilson and Brand," four lots on the corner, "for \$50,000." And he thought he struck a gold mine. I'll never forget because he was so--well the home I'm in now--the lady lost her brother, lost her sister, had a heart attack, heart disease, and she called me up and said "I'm going to die the same way, in 60 days or 6 years some ?? because I have the same family disease in my heart as my sister and brother had and I want to give this house to the church to use as a parsonage but I'll have to have \$100 a month as long as I can live in order to get a one story apartment. If the church will give me \$100 a month why that home will be theirs." Well, I told the trustees, and one was the same judge official, the know it all, he said "Well, we can't take care of that because then it becomes an annuity. You can't issue an annuity contract unless you have a permit to do it in Sacramento." Well the other guy said "Can't you get one?" "Yes, yes I can get one if you want one." So we told him to get one and he got it and then came along with it a caboose. You could not accept more value for the amount of money you promised unless, except that you have this rule that said all this church can offer is \$490 a year for the house because the house was not valued at \$7,000 so 7 times 7 is 49 so that 's all we offered and she wanted \$1,200. So we had to turn it down. I felt very bad and said We can't do what you're talking about. She said "I didn't think you could." I thought why dog gone fool, why did you get me all stirred up. She said "I have a nephew whose a lawyer and he said you wouldn't be able to do it." She said "but he said if I offered it to the church as a corporation the rules, laws that govern corporations handling and then he said but you're not a corporation, you're just a small guy, I'll give it to you." So, she got well and lived 16 years and I've lived very happily in the home not 71, but 61 years anyway.
- Jerry- Sounds like she was a smart cookie.

Dr. Brougher - Yes, she was. But to think that she would figure out that she had to... she said "I know Baptist people better than you do, you're a young man" she says. She said "After you've been around the Baptist Church for a long time, heck you know they're jealous, helpless and sure some cat would be saying mean things about you and me because I gave it to you, but now that the Baptist Church turned it down, why I can do it."

Jerry- With a clear conscientious.

Dr. Brougher - So, she gave me the home and I've been in it every since. Can you image a home up in Brockmont Park area which is the best and two lots, one vacant and one the house is on. Four bedroom house and two baths. Appraised for \$7,000.

Jerry- It's hard to imagine that now a days. Dr. Brougher, sounds like someone's been smiling down on you for many years.

Dr. Brougher - The Lord has been smiling on me for many years, I'm not kidding you one little bit. There's no way that I could gather enough influence to have me come into the pastor of this church that man could arrange. I could never pull strings enough to get this bunch to want me to be here. It's been entirely in the hands of the lord, I give him the credit for everything. In my yard now, I have 46 fruit bearing trees, avocados, one that ripens every month of the year. I have avocados all year round. Persimmons, two peach, two apricot, 10 kumquat, if you don't like kumquat then you don't know what I'm talking about.

Jerry- I do know what you're talking about and actually I think they're a Middle Eastern fruit.

Dr. Brougher - Yes. But, I had a telephone call for me and the man on the line said "My name is Armstrong and I'm living in Ontario and we're having to raise money for a YMCA building. Somebody told me that you're a good speaker and I should get you to kick off the speaking. Could you come up to speak?" I looked at my date book and said yes, I'm free that night I could come up. He said "How much do you charge" and I said I don't charge anything. I never ask for anything for myself. If you want to give me something, as far as you're concerned, you can give some to the church but there's no set fee or charge. And he said "How's \$25 sound?" In those days, \$25 was like \$250 now. I said "That's just fine but aren't you Armstrong Nurseries" and he said "yes" and I said "Why don't you give the \$25 cash to the YMCA that you're raising the money for and give me some stuff out of your garden supplies and I'll plant it in my garden." He said "Oh, if you'll take that kind of stuff I'll give you \$50 worth." So, when I got through speaking for the YMCA, why the Rotary Club was there in town and said "Do you want to speak for us sometime?" and I said "yes." The old man, Armstrong he was a Rotarian and his son was a Kawanian and his top man was a Lyons Club and there were 3 or 4 other clubs and they all had enough influence with the nursery so that

they'd give me some trees or something. So, for 10 years until we got the YMCA building paid for, I got an annual invitation to speak and raise money for them and all of my fruit trees, all of my orchids, all of my roses from then on he was crazy about roses, he had two national champions.

Jerry- That he'd developed?

Dr. Brougher - Yes. And then Mrs. ,what's her first name, something Armstrong won the national champion named after his wife. So I got my whole camellias, I bought one little camellia bush, it died and I said "Why?" He said "Because you planted in alkali soil, it's got to have acid soil." He said "Dig a hole 3 feet deep, 4 feet square and throw away the dirt and put in one-third peat moss and on-third leaf mold and shore up the sand and top soil and so forth and then they'll grow." So I dug a ditch all along the driveway because It'd be in the shade and then they grew. So before I trimmed them they grew clear up to the top of the second story roof to get a thousand pink camellias off of the top of the pink camellia bushes for Easter Sunday. My kids all helped me pick them.

Jerry- You probably could have had your own rose parade.

Dr. Brougher- Sure. So that's all.

Jerry- Now where was that--was that YMCA out of Glendale or..

Dr. Brougher- It was in Ontario.

Jerry- Oh, in Ontario. Oh my gosh.

Dr. Brougher- That's where his garden--his store was--his nursery was.

Jerry- Before he had expanded all over Southern California.

Dr. Brougher- Yes. I've had so many things done for me without me asking for it. Take all the years I've been here and I started out at \$3,000 a year and I've never had more than I have right now which is \$10,000 a year and I have a beautiful home, beautiful garden, drive a good car.

Jerry- Someone is truly smiling on you.

Dr. Brougher- No doubt about it.

TAPE 2

Dr. Brougher- I am old fashioned if you want to call it that--I don't care what you call it but I believe that part of the responsibility of my life is not only to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ on Sundays but wherever I go to represent Christ through my speeches and I have averaged a record one speech a day for 70 years.

Jerry- What an incredible record.

Dr. Brougher- Even now in my old age I get a couple every week, a call up from the Kiwanis Club, or a church some place or something special in the civic organizations and I was brought into the Masonic Fraternity without having any knowledge what the Masonics were currently about. They don't ever ask you unless you say that you're interested. This Madison B. Jones was walking down the street, he had just started a new lodge. It was in the paper and I read about him and when I saw him I said "Dr. Jones, I'm glad to see you because I want to congratulate you on the new lodge you're starting. Sometime I want to talk to you about becoming a Mason." He said "That's all I have to hear." I became what they call the Grand Chaplain. The whole State organization, the Grand Chaplain, of course, the Grand Council of Masons of California and later on I became the chaplain for the Shriners, the branch of the Masonic and one of the men at the Los Angeles Shrine became the Imperial Potentate so he had me as his chaplain so I went all over the United States he had me talking to different Shriners. But I really feel, sometimes when I think about it, that I felt that I was sort of God's representative in all of the things where I went when they made me chaplain. I now serve as chaplain of the Kiwanis Division 3, 18 clubs in this area I was chaplain for Council of Masons. I'm chaplain for the Propellers Club. Somebody heard me and said "We're going to have a club meeting, can you come the day before Christmas? We want something Christmassy. Would you come and speak to the club and weave in some Christmas ideas or something while you're talking." So I went down there to the Biltmore Hotel and came in and sat down and they took me up to the head table and I sat down at that table and I had lunch and I heard a man say "Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman, I want to tell these... ding, dang, damned everybody," do you expect me to print a bulletin and you don't give me any news at all and I have to come here to get it." He really cussed them out. When they introduced me the man said "I don't think Mr. Martin would have talked the way he did if he'd known that we had a Baptist preacher in here as a speaker." Well, he jumped up to apologize and I got up too and said "Don't say anything, I've worked in the woods of Oregon for 6 summers and I've heard all those cuss words and I can give me some accommodations you never heard." They all laughed at him and then as I got through speaking he got up and said "I think I need the influence and I think I know damn well he said. I move we make you an honorary member." And I've carried this membership from Los Angeles to Long Beach Propellers Club since 1942. At every meeting, that's where we pray, we take 5 minutes to give as they call it "wisdom." I told them at the last meeting about the woman who was 72 years old and she had a baby and it was a miracle. Three of her neighbors came in to see the baby. She said "You can't see it now, it's asleep." "We won't wake him up--we'll just tiptoe across the room to see him." The woman said "No, you can't see him til he wakes up and cries." "When he wakes up and cries--why do you want him to cry?" "Well I can't remember where I put him." Seventy-two years old--can't find the baby.

Jerry- Oh, that's great!

Dr. Brougher- Stories like that I tell them. I tell them about the phone ringing in my office 7:00 at night and a voice says "The liquor I ordered you have not delivered and the companies beginning to come. Can't you get it right up?" Well I knew she had a wrong number but I recognized her voice. I said "This is your pastor." "My pastor-- my pastor, what are you doing in the liquor store?"

Jerry - Is that a true story?

Dr. Brougher- No. I take any piece of trivia and tie it into myself instead of ???

Jerry- You said that Madison Jones brought you into the Masons. Was that about the time that the Masonic Lodge on San Fernando Blvd. was being built?

Dr. Brougher- Just before that.

Jerry- Were they one of the lodges that was in the consortium that

Dr. Brougher- I have to express I have no idea what's the matter. Why a group of business men, individuals skilled in making money and doing things wise... Look at the Verdugo Club? Now, how could that Verdugo Club go under financially when all those guys were there. And same with the Masons.

Jerry- Just a bit earlier.

Dr. Brougher- The Masonic Hall on Central went under and the one on Brand even went under. With all the money that I have raised for these buildings here, and I find myself with a 100th of the population, why couldn't somebody, those guys, make a success of it? I belong because when we start to get in trouble, why then they yell for me to come and help them. Sometimes I can raise enough money to save them but there's sometimes when they don't ask me and there's sometimes when they ask me but they won't do what I tell them to do to give them safe sleep. But I was in on all that ?? First time I went to the Masonic Temple, I was a member, was about a quarter to 12:00--midnight my phone rang--first year I was here--my wife and I heard the phone, Jackson between Broadway and Wilson, a little apartment in there, \$25 a month for an apartment and I got a call about a quarter to 12:00-- just was getting into bed for Saturday night. The phone rang and I said "Who's calling this time of night" and they said "Are you a Mason?" and I said "No I'm not." and I said "My father is the one you want to tell them about Masons because he's active in the Masonic Temple." He was then Grand Chaplain. So, they said "You can marry couples, can't you?" and I said "Yeah." They said "A couple have come into the Masonic Temple down here on Brand and they thought it was a church" because it had a stained glass window in the front. And he said "They came in to see if they could find a preacher--they wanted to get married. Can you come down and marry them." I said "Do they have a license?" and he said "Yeah, we got a license." So I said I would come down. I came down and got there a quarter after 12 and they were all standing around waiting and there was about 50 or 75 people. They said

"We're worried, you're not a Mason." They asked "Does the Masonic fraternity allow non-Masons to?" --See these couples were Masons. I said "I don't know a thing about it. If you want me to marry them I'll do it, I'll take a chance." One person said "What about your church--can we get in the church this time of night?" I said "Sure." That whole bunch came up, turned on the lights here in the church, and one of the ladies in that bunch was a good pianist and she played the Wedding March and they marched down the aisle and I married them.

Jerry - Sounds like an emergency wedding. How funny!

Dr. Brougher - That was my first interaction with any of the Masonic bunch. But they hadn't talked among themselves so many of them did not know I wasn't...they thought since I'm marrying somebody why I was. So when I came into the Masonic fraternity, I was already used to it and there were some who said "Aren't you the man who married that couple before?" This City to me has always been my ideal of what a clean, descent, American, small town should be. I've gone through the depression. If you look at the record you'll see that many organizations were thriving before 1927-1929. The depression hit and many of them are no longer in existence because they couldn't make it. But we're an American community and we just handle our own business and survived and we're here. That's why there was no hierarchy or somebody who's going to pay us for it. I always liked that spirit--people here know the Lord has asked me--I don't wish for anything better as far as having a church.

Jerry - And you felt that that's been pretty continuous since 1927? You feel like the City government has pretty much been consistent in that as well?

Dr. Brougher - The City Fathers, as their called, I played a mean trick on them. They invited me over to pray for the opening--they always had an opening prayer--they asked me to come over. So I said "Yes, I would." They called on me to pray and I prayed and I said "Now that I've asked God to bless the City, I have to give you some bad news because on the way over I heard on the radio would you help folks here as a counselor are going to be called on to close your senior citizens' playground down on Colorado. They all looked around. Because 60 percent of the people down there have AIDS-- Band-Aids, some other aids, rolaid and some kind of a drink with aids, lemonade." And they were ready to kill me.

Jerry - And they were probably kicking themselves for not knowing better.

Dr. Brougher - So I've always had a good time with the City officials. The City officials have always been good to me and I have been very, very grateful to them and I say so. God leads me to this place and realizes because I'm sick that ??? and I got out here. I couldn't have gotten this church in a thousand years if they hadn't been desperate. And all of the things that have come to be-- how can I arrange for a man who was chairman of the board and trustee of the biggest Baptist church in California to be a friend of mine and a friend of dad's, and call me Jimmy and have known me ever since I was my Masonic

career was all--just happened to be that way. Somebody did something, somebody was a friend and saw to it that I had what I needed.

Jerry - I'm in awe because I hear that when you came back to California in 1927 that you were sickly. I've heard for a good part of my life that a lot of people consider doctors to be god-like because they have the ability to heal. Now here are several doctors that told you that you were sickly and that you might be bedridden for the rest of your life. They certainly weren't god-like in telling you that and there certainly was another calling that you had. I think it is obvious from the sharpness that you've got today and the age to which you've lived so far, you certainly defied those doctors that told you that.

Dr. Brougher - They were good doctors. Fischer was a hot doctor and Dr. Leonard Westfall was one of the founders of the sanitarium and Emery, Dr. Emery. I'm trying to think of the names of the doctors. Three of them came in and sat down and said "We want to talk to you, Jimmy." They all knew me as Jimmy. "We have some real bad, serious news for you." " Sit down and make yourself at home" I said "I don't have anything to worry me right now." They told me I have to go to the hospital and there's no hope for me. Dr. Elliott Rice was an eye specialist who was sure I was going to be blind by the time I was 16. Dr. McCaffery, the doctor that did the surgery on my eyes, I had both eyes with implants. That's when the Lord took care of me.

Jerry - Just an incredible story.

Dr. Brougher - My wife, a good preacher's wife, my mother was a preacher's daughter and a preacher's wife and a preacher's mother and she said that the most important thing that you have to do is to be sure to get a woman that will stand by you in all circumstances--all kinds of difficulties. During my dating period, by the time I was 14 or 15 saying "Is this the girl that God has for me?" Saying no, I didn't go out with them anymore because they weren't going to be in line for a preacher's wife, we'll that's just wasting my time.

When I graduated from college they had a back page of humor and there was list of all the guys that became engaged in college and the girls names were down at the bottom. After 12 or 14 names appeared, ones that were going to be married, down at the bottom was "Jimmy loves them all." I loved them all. My wife got hold of that book and said "Anybody else who answers to Jimmy in your classes in college?" I said "No." She said "this is you!" I said "Yeah, that's me." I go out with a girl 3 or 4 times and she'd smoke or ... I had a bunch of rules; nobody could have lived up to them I don't think.

I preached in the First Baptist Church of Portland. Why? because my dad was known and he pastored there and I grew up there from the time I was 2 until I was 7. So I was in this big church and because dad was there. I spoke. So they'd march by and shake my hand and say "We knew your daddy," Here came a woman, her husband and her son and daughter. The wife spoke up and said "We used to have a cottage on Dearhart where you have a cottage and you used to play with Helen when you were kids." I

was 2 years old. And then she said "Would you come and have lunch with us?" I said "Yes." So I had lunch with them and the man came back to Sunday evening service and that was all. My wife was out in the kitchen with her mother most of the time. And I said to her "See you next summer, maybe."

Christmas, I got a Christmas card from her. I thought where did she get my address back there in school? But anyway, everyday she'd pressure me to speak. Fifty word message that you got for what we called "a night letter." I got 7 night letters for Merry Christmas. After I got those I wrote to her. She didn't answer. I came the next summer to our summer cottage on the coast of Oregon and I phoned her and she was busy. I had always made the rules since I was looking for my wife to be an angel sent from heaven. I made rules--if I invited a girl to go out 2 times and she said no then I'd know that that was a sign she wasn't the right one. But with Helen it was different. I kept prodding at her--she kept saying no that she was busy.

Then came her birthday, somewhere or other, her birthday was the 16th of August, and I drove up the coast, we have this cottage and I bought a box of candies, salt water taffy. I rang the door bell and her mother came to the door. I asked "Is Helen in?" She said "No, I'm sorry, she isn't." I said "Give her this box of candy and tell her I came to see her. I've been bothering you folks with telephone calls all summer and I never had any success so tell her good-bye." I'd never been out with her and her mother said "I guess I better tell you. She's engaged to marry another man." I said "Why didn't you tell me?" She said "Because she's her daughter and I don't have any idea why Helen would even look at him. He smokes and drinks and gambles just a popular sport boy--she met him down at college, I just cry when I think about it. My mother, her grandmother has prayed with her and talked with her and nobody can make any sense to her. " Right away my search for a wife was gone because she was already engaged. I said to her mother, "Bring her down to the beach and the cottage and I'll talk to her and see if I can't persuade her not to break your hearts." So, she came down and I went over to her cottage and I said, "Helen, would you like to go for a drive?" Since you were here when you were a little girl would you be interested in seeing what changes have been made. She said "yes." So then as soon as I got her alone I could talk to her as a pastor. The second night, Tuesday night, I couldn't get the words but I'll try again--I took her out again. The third night, Wednesday night. This is going to be the last--if I don't get any results then it's no use. I had reasoned with her that she should not wear the ring unless she was sure. I said "Are you sure that you want to break your mother's heart, your father's and your grandmother's and all the family because you have a flair for this guy physically or something?" She said "I thought I loved him and I wanted to marry him--but I don't know now." As soon as she said "I don't know...." I said "Well then, you should give him the ring back and don't keep it until you make up your mind for sure because nobody's going to look at you as long as your wearing that ring--you're gone, just as though you had a wedding ring on there. An engagement ring--why if I had known you were engaged I wouldn't have phoned you all the time. If I'd been out with you one

evening I'd have known you were engaged if I saw the ring. Get rid of that ring--tell him to hold it. Then be honest with him and in a month or two if you still think he's the only man in your life then talk to him. In the mean time give some other fellows a chance to talk to you. You can't tell, if you hadn't been engaged and said no, no, no to me, maybe I might have had a date with you and who could tell what might have happened. "

The third night we got together. Ox Cove Hill, there's a column up there honoring John Jacob Astor who Astoria was named after. That was the year 1926 they built that tower and I sat with her one night looked down over the Columbia River and Youngs Bay and out the Columbia and I was saying to myself and started praying saying "What can I say to her to make her think straight?" and all of a sudden I realized that she was talking. She said "It bothers me, the fact that I closed the doors to everything else--but I was really sure. When you said that if I hadn't had this ring on you might have asked me to marry you. Were you serious." I said "Sure I was serious. When can we get married?" We were married in two weeks on only three dates. We've had 60 years of the happiest marriage. We've got 4 children and one of them's the Associated Pastor for here. Two girls are both members here--public school teachers and

Jerry- Talk about somebody's who's your soul mate. That's a phenomenal story.

Dr. Brougher - God's been good to me. Anything can happen in Glendale-- thank the Lord. And how long I'm going to live I don't know but I'm going to be talking about the Lord until I die.

Jerry- I tell you what. I'd like to come back in another 10 years and interview you again.

Dr. Brougher - That's a deal. I thought my dad was pretty much my ideal all the way through my life. Dad died at 98. Two weeks before he was 98 I said--I was 50 and I said "I'll keep on going to 98 then I'll follow dad." Well now I'm 96. Two more years--I got a lot more to do in two years so I changed and now my hero is Moses. Moses and his staff separating the waters.

Jerry- I like that.

Dr. Brougher - I say now that I'm going to live to 120 so I better go for 120.

Jerry- And I'm rooting for you as well. Dr. Brougher, I think I'm going bring this interview to closing. Now we've gone way past the original hour that I talked to you about.

Dr. Brougher - Yeah, but let me tell you first. I saw Glendale City College move from down here where the library is up to its present campus; I saw the Methodist Church built over here; I saw the Presbyterian Church stained glass windows and all kinds of things all rattled in the quake and saw them get their beautiful church. I've seen this City continue to be an ideal place to raise your

children, to live, to spend your life and I didn't ever think that I would stay more than 5 years in some place because I was going to follow my dad's lead. He'd just jump, jump, jump rather than stay. My grandfather did the same thing and here I have 71 years in one place. I don't know any place where there's anybody who's done--but I think that some of the Catholic people they have priests that stay a long time. The Baptist, no. So I thank God for everything good that happens to me.

Jerry- You're one of the few people that I have every known that's been on the same job for probably more than 40 years and seems to love it.

Jerry- Dr. Brougher, I really appreciate your taking the time to talk about your experiences in Glendale. I am sure that when future generations take this tape and its subsequent transcript from the library to look at it, their going to really learn a thing or two about Glendale and a lot of its prominent citizens, including yourself.