

SHORT HISTORY

LIVING STONES SLAVIC EVANGELICAL BAPTIST CHURCH RANCHO CORDOVA, CA

In 1999, there were a few Slavic families of believers who lived in Rancho Cordova. Some were members of the Ukrainian church located on Coloma and Benita streets, others were members of the Second Slavic Baptist Church located on Easter, Sacramento.

Due to the permanent relocation of the churches, these families began to gather for prayer on the house during the week while attending the churches mentioned above. For prayer meeting they were gathering at the house of sister Kuts and others. These were the Kuts, Shal, Pavlioglo, Zhelezoglo, Krasniy, Metlenko, and other families.

They all had a desire to plant a church near their homes, so, they asked for permission and blessings from their respective churches where they were members. Along with that, Vladimir Metlenko who was a deacon went to the Association's committee with a request for a blessing of the church plant in Rancho Cordova, and to get help with the filing of the necessary paperwork.

The Association offered help through Fyodor Dezhnyuk. Over the summer, God provided the opportunity to rent a spacious building at Sun River Church.



First meeting of the new church's elders board

On June 22, 1999, they had their very first service where over 40 people were present. That same day the elders board was formed, and they began shepherding and overseeing the life of the local church. That was how the Lord laid a great foundation of the first Slavic Evangelical-Baptist Church in Rancho Cordova.



First church service

As the church grew, their needs also became numerous and they began renting some facilities from the Presbyterian Church on 10560 Coloma Road. With this expansion, they were able to have Friday's Bible Study, which was led by Ivan Zakharovich Oselsky.

On November 5, 1999, during their first members meeting, they affirmed all of the 32 membership applicants. The Association's representatives were also at the meeting: Nicolay Timofeyevich Martynyuk and Nicolay Gerasimovich Tsuman. As was previously decided, Vladimir Petrovich Metlenko was proposed as the head pastor of the church and was presented to be affirmed by the church members. However, with the insistence of the Association's representatives, Fyodor Dezhnyuk was proposed as associate pastor.

Both candidates were presented before the church to be ordained as pastors: Metlenko V. P as head pastor, and Dezhnyuk F.F as associate pastor. Nicolay

Zhelezoglo was proposed as a deacon who was at that time serving as a church secretary.

As the church grew the membership also increased. They began to look for a bigger building for the services, and God helped them. They were offered to rent a building from the Adventists at 3405 Viking Drive.

Their first service there was in February 2000. In April of 2000 during the evening service, they had pastor ordination of Metlenko Vladimir Petrovich and Dezhnyuk Fyodor Fyodorovich, and Nicolay Zhelezoglo as a deacon.



Ordination on April 30, 2000

The church began to rapidly expand and could not be contained in the new building, which had capacity of 150 people. Because of that, they moved some people to the cafeteria and installed a live-stream for the main service. But this was not satisfactory for a lot of people.

The atmosphere of the local church began to change and after celebrating the 2002 New Year, the associate pastor and over 10 families left the church. In their absence, the Lord replenished the church with new families of immigrants who expressed the desire to join the local church.

In that same year (2002), Donskikh Nicolay Pavlovich was chosen to temporarily be the head pastor. Later, in November of 2002, Nicolay Petrovich Krasniy was ordained as the head pastor.

In March of 2003, the church moved to a new rent building located at 10560 Coloma Road.

In May 2004, Goncharov Nicolay Frantsevich was chosen to temporarily be the head pastor.

In January 2005, the Association presented Yanovskiy Sergey Velyamovich as the head pastor candidate for the local church and who was affirmed by the church for one-year probation period. That same year, Nicolay Sidun was ordained as a deacon.

In September of 2005, the church purchased the same building that they were renting, and it became the property of the local church. At that time, they changed the name of the church to the Living Stones Church. Church services were taking place in a new building with a new name.

In March 2006, after a probationary year, Sergey Vilyamovich Yanovskiy was ordained as the head pastor.

There were a lot of changes and growth. Both inside and outside, the building took on a new look and was continuously built up and renewed. Along with their pastor, the church experienced many God's blessings.

In 2008, with the efforts of some pastors under the leadership of Aleksandr Borisovich Pronin, the local church begins the Blagovest Bible Institute.



Graduates of the Blagovest Institute

In 2009, the church celebrated their 10-year anniversary.

The church continued to live and thrive. Many people had the tears of repentance and came to the Lord, were baptized, and joined the church. The next generation of young men stepped up into various ministries. God blessed them in their service and helped those who were serving.

On July 21, 2013, the church ordained Voykov Peter and Andrey Kravtsov as deacons, and Nicolay Martynov as an evangelist.

After another three years, in October 2016, Krasnov Aleksandr Anatolyevich was chosen as the head pastor and is the church's pastor until today. This year the church celebrates its 20th anniversary.

“Till now the LORD has helped us.” (1 Sam. 7:12)

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