

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS AND CHURCHES OF THE ASSOCIATION

CHRIST HAS RISEN! HE HAS RISEN INDEED!

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Happy Easter! Christ has Risen! Christ has risen indeed!

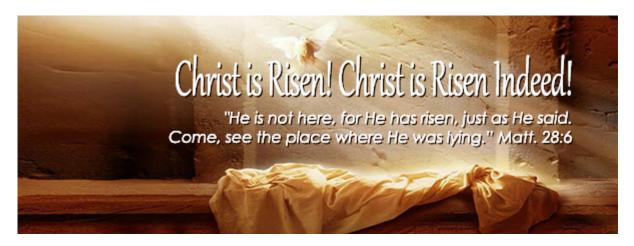
In its significance, this event cannot be compared to any other event in the history of the Earth. This is an event of universal proportions! The ramifications of the resurrection of Jesus Christ go beyond our salvation, redemption, forgiveness, and peace with God, but also encompass the confidence of the eternal life which we have in Him. He has risen, and because of His resurrection, thanks to His victory over death and hell, He gives us the confidence of the resurrection of our bodies!

We can speak of the Easter traditions, Easter songs, magnificent church services which are attended by the once-a-year crowds. However, if in our lives we did not experience a personal encounter with the Risen One, if we have not been raised to new life in Christ, if we were not regenerated, then celebrating another Easter will not bring us true joy, and will not give us true freedom from the bondage of sin experienced by the Israelites who came out of the slavery of Egypt. Then they sang a true song of victory!

Christ has Risen! This is what brings us inexpressible joy of His presence in our hearts, the type of «burning of the heart» that the two disciples experienced on their way to Emmaus when the risen Jesus Christ joined them on their way.

The celebration of the resurrection of Jesus is a celebration that cannot be ruined by the circumstances of life, pandemic, political climate, economic crisis, or social distress. Today, humanity can be divided into two categories: those who believe, and those who deny His resurrection. We are blessed if we are among those who, not by tradition, but who truly can say with full confidence: «Christ has risen indeed! »

Ivan Mileyev



PASTORS' CONFERENCE

On February 27, Second Slavic Baptist Church hosted the Association's pastors' conference. The conference was attended by over 30 church pastors and provided two seminars. The first seminar was dedicated to the establishment and the design of small groups, and was taught by Aleksandr Ivanov, the head pastor of House of the Gospel Slavic Baptist Church in Fresno. The second seminar was taught by Ivan Mileyev focused on Leadership in Light of the Growing Grumbling. For more information about the conference, and links to the seminar recordings can be found on the Association's website.



Conference's Participants

On March 21, Second Slavic Baptist Church in Sacramento had an especially joyful service during which three young brothers were ordained as deacons: Yevgeniy Ivanilov, Vladimir Kruglikov, and Vladimir Lobkov. The ordination was officiated by Ivan Mileyev, Vladimir Petrovich Brutskiy-Stempkovskiy, Viktor Koleukhov and other local pastors. For more details, read in an article by I. Mileyev – click this link.



Three New Church Ministers

DEDICATION SERVICE AT THE NEW BUILDING OF THE GOOD NEWS CHURCH

On March 14, Good News Church in Tacoma, WA had a grand opening ceremony for the dedication of the new church building. Concerning this, the head pastor of the church, said the following in the pastors' Viber group: "Thanks to everyone who prayed and supported us (also financially) in the process of purchasing and renovating the church building. Yesterday, we were able to have a dedication service to serve for the glory of God. However, what makes it special is not the renovation or the physical building, but people who are saved by God's mercy and grace. Praise God and thanks to all of you!" For more details, read in an article by G. Gavelovskiy which can be found on the Association's website.



Church Service at the New Church Building

THE NEW HOPE CHURCH NOW HAS A WEBISTE!

This is great news! One more church begins to share the Gospel to the entire world, and to serve through the gifts that the Lord has given to this church. You can access the website, here at the following address: https://www.nhbcrc.com/.



CHURCH CELEBRATION

On Sunday, March 14, Grace Avenue Bible Church celebrated their 22-year anniversary. The celebration was even more joyful because there was also an ordination of a new church deacon – Bogdan Kostyuk.

For more about the celebration <u>read an article by I. Karkhut which can be located on the Association's website – click this link (in Russian only.)</u>



Ordination of Bogdan Kostyuk

ANOTHER TRIP TO MEXICO

On March 10-14, 2021 a group of people went to a missions trip to Mexico to host a two-day camp for the local children. The group was made up of 30 members from two cities – Sacramento, CA, and Salem, OR. During this trip, God has done wonderful things while both testing and growing the faith of this team, but also blessing them in their ministry. You can find out more about the trip, <u>by reading an article by L. Bezinskiy, pastor of the House of Prayer Church who also was a part of this missionary experience.</u>



Just like in the days of preaching at the time of Jesus Christ: people sat on the hill and listened

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE PEOPLE

On March 7, House of the Gospel Church in Fresno, along with a few other churches in the area had a wonderful opportunity to serve their city through the Serve Fresno Initiative. This event was designed to clean up the city, and to make the streets and sidewalks beautiful. The head pastor – A. Ivanov talks more about this <u>in his article on the Association's website – click this link.</u>



The Service Was Attended by About 300 People

UPDATE FROM THE EDUCATION MINISTRY

On February 27, Montebello Church had a session in the Masters level. The students were taught on the Introduction to the Pentateuch. On March 6, there was also a teaching session for students in San Francisco and Concord. The lessons were in the Zoom format. The session was taught by Sergiy Tarasenko on Homiletics. On March 12-13, Bryte Church had a session in the Masters level and the B.A. level. The students were instructed on Management of the Christian Organizations. On March 19-20, the Hope to the World Church had a session during which the students studied Theology on Friday taught by Sergey Pronin, and Survey of the New Testament on Saturday taught by Vyacheslav Komlev.



Teaching Session by V. Komlev at the Light to the World Church

EXPRESSING OUR CONDOLANCES

Two of the pastors of our churches have lost their loved ones. The family of J. Sheremet, pastor at Grace Family Church and a member of the Association's Committee have lost a son. And Rudy Vince (Slavic Evangelical Baptist Church at Anaheim) lost his wife who was a faithful companion, helper, and missionary. The memorial service <u>can be viewed here.</u>

We express our condolences to brothers and their families and pray to God for Him to comfort their hearts with the grace of God.

SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF A. A. PICHAJ

At the moment when we were announcing the passing away of our dear brother A.A. Pikhay, we did not have his full biography. Thanks to his son Mark Pikhay and the editor of Our Days Newspaper, it is now possible to access the biography of Adolf Andreivich on the Association's website under the section: **About Us --> Our History --> Famous**Ministers. Direct link to the article about brother Adolf can be found here.

UPDATES FROM OUR PARTNERS

E. S. GONCHARENKO WENT TO BE WITH JESUS

On March 19, after a severe sickness, Yevgeniy Semyovovich Goncharenko passed away on the 71st year of his life. He was the most famous conductor and composer of the Slavic Union of ECB. The name of this minister is known not only in Moscow, not only in Russia, but also around the world from the U.S. to Australia...Without any exaggeration, Yevgeniy Semyonovich can be named the keeper and mover of the music and choir ministry of the

Evangelical Christian Baptists. For more about him and his ministry, <u>read on the Russian</u> <u>Union's website (in Russian only.)</u>



PRAY FOR THE SICK BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN MOLDOVA!

In Moldova COVID is on a rampage with many who are sick. The following is a message from Pastor in Moldova, P.F. Michalchuk: "Please pray for those who are sick in Moldova. COVID is on a rampage. The government decided not to do the lockdown due to the lack of finances in the budget. There are many of those who are sick at home because the hospitals are not able to receive any more patients. According to the official data, we are third in the world in the fatality rate per 100 thousand. However, the statistic only tells half the story. The people are not doing the tests because they cost 38 euro, and this is an unattainable price for the majority of the Moldavian population. Free tests are only given to those who are in need of urgent hospital care. Majority of the people are doing self-treatment at home as they can. We are dependent on the mercy of God."

CONFERENCE «MEDIA ECB»

Euro-Asian Federation of ECB is planning to have an online conference "Media of ECB"



on April 8-9. The program will include discussing the opportunities of unified partnership of unions of ECB from different countries, departments in the organization of Radio and TV ministry in establishing social network, information about useful technologies, principles of establishing and developing the YouTube channel, and how to effectively share new information.

Those who are interested in this conference can register by reaching out to the executive secretary of the Federation through email apatov@gmail.com. The members of the Association's churches can express their desire to participate in the conference by

emailing pcsbaca@gmail.com. The conference will be in Russian.

CHURCH SERVICES WILL NEVER END

Slavic Theological Collegiate had a discussion in March on the theme of: "Church Services Will Never End". The participants emphasized that despite the pandemic, quarantine, and the prohibition to have church services in church buildings, the church services will not end. There are services in homes, in families, and online fellowship; there are intercessions in prayer for the sick and "serving the neighbors" in the Name of Christ.

This program also briefly touched the theme of "Why Do I Need the Membership in the Local Church?" There was a good and emotional discussion. Everyone who wishes to listen to these discussions, will find these edifying and useful. To gain access to it, click on the following: https://youtu.be/wUZRQ3KiMyg (in Russian only.)



Discussion was Led by I. Leschuk, S. Moroz, V. Komlev

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

BETH MOORE LEFT THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN BAPTISTS

Beth Moore is popular in the Slavic community and influential in her books and Bible lessons on women's ministry. However, she declared that she is leaving the Southern Baptists' denomination and said that she is no longer in agreement with certain issues in the history of this organization. She stated that some of those things "should have remained in the past."

"I am still a Baptist, but I cannot longer identify with Southern Baptists" – said Moore in an interview with <u>Religion News Service</u>. She is actively opposing the limitations in regards to the involvement of women in church leadership and recently became very tolerant to the sin of homosexuality.

Sources: Christian Post and RC.

CHRISTIAN WORLD SAYS GOODBYE TO LUIS PALAU

One of the very first world evangelists who was intorduced to the Slavic pupulation after the fall of the Soviet Union was Luis Palau. Argentinian by nationality, he was well-known around the world in his passionate preaching of the Gospel. He also wrote books and brochures on evangelism which were translated to hundreds of langages. "We lost a giant in Christian history" – that was the commentary of many christian leaders as the news spread about his death. Praise God for His faithful servants!

Source: Christian Post.



EVENTS

EVANGELISM TRAINING SEMINAR

Pastor Vasily Chursin, director of the "EE - From Heart to Heart" ministry in Eastern and Central Siberia, will conduct seminars for those who would like to learn how to share the Gospel with non-believers. The seminar program includes:

- 1. How to see where God is working
- 2. Survey as a tool for evangelism
- 3. Personal testimony in three minutes
- 4. Clear presentation of the Gospel
- 5. How to lead a person in a prayer of repentance

Seminars will be held in the following churches:

- April 10 from 9 am to 5 pm at the "House of the Gospel" church, Fresno (pastor Alexander Ivanov). Church address: 3941 E. Mono Ave., Fresno, CA 93702
- April 16 from 3 pm to 9 pm at the "Choose Life" Church, Oceanside, (pastor Sergey Kolivayko). The address of the church is 1106 Whaley Street, Oceanside, CA 92054
- April 17 from 9 am to 5 pm at the Evangelical Christian Church of Montebello (pastor Valery Konopelkin). Church address: 2000 W. Olympic Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640

Everyone is welcome! Phone for inquiries: (916) 272-9955. Seminars will be in Russian only.

If you have some news you would like to share with others, please send them at pcsbaca@gmail.com.

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