

**SHORT HISTORY OF**  
**THE SECOND SLAVIC BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**SACRAMENTO CITY**

**MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> 1997 – MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup> 2017**

Before 1997, the city of Sacramento had only one Slavic Baptist church, where the late F.P. Karpets served as the lead pastor. It was located in south of Sacramento. This church membership grew very rapidly. In the 1990s, many emigrants arrived from the former USSR, and the premises of the church did not accommodate all those wishing to attend worship services. Due to the above circumstance, the morning Sunday services were organized into two: 8:00 am and 11:00 am, and at 6:00 pm in the evening. But even two services could not solve the space shortage in the church building. It happened that mostly elderly members were assigned a seat inside the worship hall, while many young people were outside, on the street for lack of space inside the premises.

Then, in view of those current circumstances, a group of brothers appealed in writing to the brotherly council of the First Slavic Baptist Church with a request to give permission and blessing of the local church ministers to start an affiliate church in the northern part of the city, so that people would not have to drive far away. After all, the distance to the church was 20 - 25 miles.

Responding to the request, the fraternal council of the First Slavic Baptist Church discussed this proposal and allowed brothers to open an independent Second Slavic Baptist Church in the northern part of Sacramento. Having received the blessing of the church and personally of the pastor Fyodor Petrovich Karpets, the following group of brothers registered the Second Slavic Baptist Church of Sacramento:

- Grigory Ivanovich Lakhno
- Mikhail Antonovich Kioroglo
- Vladimir Ivanovich Troshin
- Alexander Skachko
- Vladimir Cherenkov
- Alexander Adamov and
- Daniel Nakhtigal

The Lord blessed the new undertaking, and we rented the worship hall from the Seventh Day Adventists, the church building on Eastern Avenue. The first worship service was held there on March 16, 1997. The worship hall was crowded with people and accommodated for about 300.



The first membership meeting regarding church members' admission and the approval of ministers was held on April 23, 1997. Brothers from PCSBA (Pacific Coast Slavic Baptist Association) attended and led the membership meeting:

- Chairman of the PCSBA - Nikolai Timofeevich Martynchuk,
- First Deputy Chairman of the PCSBA - Sergey Ivanovich Neverov,
- Secretary of the PCSBA - Adolf Pihay,
- Ministers from the First Slavic Baptist Church, headed by F.P. Karpets and
- Ministers from the Russian Baptist Church of Bryte.

At that membership meeting the local church confirmed the members of brethren council and ministers:

- G.I Lakhno – Senior pastor
- M.A Kioroglo – 2nd pastor

- Alexandr Adamov – secretary
- Vladimir Cherenkov – administrator
- Vladimir Troshin – deacon
- Alexandr Skachko – deacon and
- Daniel Nakhtingal – deacon



*Lakhno Grigory Ivanovich*

One hundred twenty three church members were present at the first membership meeting of the church. The Lord continued to bless us, and the church grew quantitatively and qualitatively. Soon after that, the first choir was formed and led by the choir conductor Peter Moskalets, the youth choir (choir conductor - Vladimir Rud) and the Sunday school (director - Nadezhda Titarenko). Worship services were held on Sundays at 10:00 am and at 6:00 pm, and on Thursdays - prayer meetings at 7:00 pm. We keep the same services' schedule until now.

Literally in less than two years, in early 1999, there were more than 400 members in the church. The hall rented on Eastern Street was not large enough to accommodate all, and we rented another worship hall on Stephen Dr. Street, which could seat about 500 people, but this was not enough for us either. And the church decided to build its own prayer house. In 1999, the church bought land for construction on Watt Ave., where we are now.

In the same year, the Third Slavic Baptist Church of Sacramento was formed, branching of the church and headed by Pastor Vladimir Troshin.

In early 2001, Grigory Ivanovich Lakhno asked the church to release him from the duties of the Senior pastor of the church due to health conditions. The church granted his request and elected Mikhail Antonovich Kioroglo to the service of the church's senior pastor, Nikolai Chepurny and Pavel Lomov as his assistants.



*Mikhail Antonovich Kioroglo*

A little later, in 2001, the "Bethel" Slavic Baptist Church branched from our church, headed by pastor G. I. Lakhno.

In July of the same year the construction of a house of prayer began. God helped us by the joint efforts and under the direct supervision of the church's senior pastor M.A. Kioroglo and church administrator Anatoly Moskalets, to build the building of the house of prayer in nine months. It is our current home. And on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002, the first day of Easter, we held the first worship service in the new building. Then on

May 12, 2002, the solemn dedication and consecration of the house of prayer took place with the participation of the chairman of the PCSBA Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Tsvirinko and numerous Slavic and American guest ministers. It is noteworthy that the building of the Second Slavic Baptist Church of Sacramento was built first among the third wave of immigrants in the state of California...



During the summer of 2005, with God's help, the building of the youth complex was also completed and consecrated. Now the Sunday school, the youth department and many other departments and groups of our church cheerfully work in it.

Thanksgiving and glory be to our God, this marked the end of a difficult stage, when we built the physical walls of the church, but the construction of spiritual walls continues to this day. Throughout the years of service, our church has been constantly experiencing abundant blessings from God. During this time hundreds of people repented of their sins and made a covenant with the Lord through holy water baptism, dozens of young people got married, many believers came to us from different churches of the CIS countries and local churches and became members of our church. Yet many of our brothers and sisters were temporarily separated from us, having gone to eternal heavenly places to their Heavenly Father.

By the beginning of 2006 the church had 762 members. In January 2006, the senior pastor of the church M.A. Kyoroglo, considering moving to another state, asked the church to elect a new lead pastor of the church. After fasting and prayer, the church nominated five candidates for the ministry of the senior pastor in the local church. And then on April 30, 2006, the deacon, Valery Brutsky-Stempkovsky, was elected to this service at the membership meeting. On May 28, 2006, the elected minister was ordained as pastor. On the day of ordination, solemnly, the senior pastor M.A. Kyoroglo transferred office of a difficult and very responsible ministry in the church to Valery Brutsky-Stempkovsky, the new pastor.



Presently, our church has 1,032 members who successfully minister in a variety of ways. This includes: 36 people in the church council, more than 30 preachers, 6 choirs (the Gloria choir, the symphony orchestra "Svetly Mig," the Agape choir, the youth choir, the male choir, the teenage group and the children's choir), several orchestras, and other musical groups, more than 100 youth and more than 70 teenagers, more than 200 children in Sunday school, many children in a music school, and involved in the ministry of 30 different church departments:

- The department of music and signing
- The youth department

- The Sunday School
- The family ministry department
- Teenage club “AWANA”
- Teenage club “Skala”
- Focus Teen Ministries
- The musical school
- The mission department
- The charity and mercy department
- The women’s ministry department
- The singles and widowers department
- The radio broadcasting department
- The internet broadcasting department
- The sound tech department
- The church website
- The church information flyers
- The prayer groups
- The financial department
- The offering collection department
- The administrative department
- The ushers department
- The parking department
- Costumes manufacturing for different church ministries
- Church building decorations
- The department overseeing church camps
- The department of kitchen work
- Library
- The guard’s department → In total – 30 departments!

In addition, there is also a successfully working Russian school at our church.

Over the years, several special services took place in the church, when new ministers were ordained for service. The new pastors and deacons were elected, ordained and blessed by the local church and ministers from the PCSBA.

On October 30, 2016 our church elected four more brothers for the pastoral service and 12 brothers for the deacon’s service.

Therefore, **“Thus far the Lord has helped us...”** (1Sam. 7:12). Today our hearts are filled with special joy and gratitude to God for all His mercies and blessings to us! We will pray and believe that God will continue to be with us, protecting and blessing His Church with all the heavenly and earthly gifts - all of brothers and sisters.

May the Lord bless all of us to be always faithful and obedient to Jesus Christ and His Holy Word!

***“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen”***  
*(Eph. 3:20-21).*

M.A Kioroglo

V. Brutsky-Stempkovsky

Sacramento, March 26, 2017