

HISTORY OF SLAVIC BAPTIST CHURCH OF SEATTLE

Seattle Slavic Baptist Church has an extensive history with its birth dating back to the 1940s. At that time sister Elizabeth Georgina Hubuvala, coming out of Tashkent, found that within the Russian immigrant community there was an acceptance of the Word of God, and so she witnessed to them about the Lord. She gathered together with new believers to partake in prayer and the study of Scripture. As a physician by trade, she was not only able to treat people's bodies, but also find the necessary words for the salvation of peoples' souls. Soon after, a small group of believers came to be in which attended brother Adolph Dors (he is still alive, yet in his very late years: he resides in San Diego, California), brother Kudenchuk from Canada (has already entered eternity), brother Komashuk, also from Canada (Vancouver), who is still with us.

In June 1964, Peter Ivanovich Pabers arrived in Seattle. The life of Peter Pabers was differentiated in a wide variety of ways: he was a military cadre, a Colonel. In time of war, he was captured as a hostage. He understood what was waiting for him after the war if he returned to the USSR. He was helped to move to a different camp under a different name. There he met an evangelist and repented of his sin. Brother P.E. Rogozin showed him major help and kindness at that time.



Михаил Брагин (Петр Иванович Паберс) майор НКВД, вместе с женой. 1940 год.



Петр Иванович Паберс. 1970 год.

Thanks to him, Peter Ivanovich left to South America, received some scriptural education, and later, in 1951, he moved to the USA, the city of Ashworth. Here Peter Ivanovich worked hard with brother Platon Harchlaa and was an active participant in the creation of "Sower of Truth" magazine. When he heard that Seattle had a community of Russian immigrants, he decided to move to Seattle and was chosen to pastor the congregation of that small local church.

Being selected as the overseer of this church, he began a fulfilled ministry. The beginnings of this church could be dated back to 1964 and specifically to the time when there was a selection of the first pastor. Peter Ivanovich lived alone. He sent letters to his wife, witnessed of the Lord, and called her to repentance. However, she remained dedicated to the atheistic upbringing. On top of that, the KGB was a strong influence on her.

We found Peter Pabers' son. He lives in Moscow, and at his request as well as our own desire, we found the gravesite of Peter Pabers. Peter Ivanovich lived fairly impoverished, was often sick, but served till the very end. He entered eternity on July 17th, 1978 and a few of the sisters of the church buried him. The place of his burial is Abbey View Memorial Park, 3601 Alaska Road, Brier, WA 98036. His real name was Mikhail Bragin and the only people who knew this was P. Harchla and P. Rogozin.

Afterwards, brother Roman Hilchuck took the role of pastor of this church. He left us in 1990. Currently there is a search to find out more details about the service of this church during those times.

Those former immigrants sincerely and with full dedication served the Lord and cared for His church. Furthermore, they passed the baton to the next wave of immigrants and in a very touching way. In October 1991, on a bright Sunday morning, brother Chizhov Alexander Vasiliavich, who came to Seattle in 1965, was preaching. With his white hot sermon, he called the new arrivals to the service of the Lord and instructed the new brothers to continue in the service of the Lord as the former generation did. After finishing his sermon, he sat back down...and died. Yes, this is how quickly he left to be with the Lord. This was completely unexpected. This was a highly unusual way of passing the baton to the new immigrants.

Thanks be to our Lord for such faithful predecessors!