

FYODOR PETROVICH KARPETS

Fyodor Petrovich was born in Zalesye village in Poland, to the family of orthodox believers Peter and Agafiya Karpets. From his early childhood, young Fyodor was instructed by his uncle, who served as an archimandrite in the local church, to have a right worldview and attitude towards God. In 1937, the hardest for those countries, his parents left the homeland due to the persecution from the authorities for their support of refugees who fled from communist Russia. The whole family moved to South America. In 1949, Feodor went to study at the missionary school, where Peter Deyneka taught students to the missionary service to the Slavic people.

In 1951, the young Fyodor began his ministry in Patagonia, then served one and a half years in southern Argentina, and in 1953 continued his ministry in Brazil. Later Fyodor met with Alina Kravchuk, a young energetic missionary, and they got married in 1954. In 1957, they both began serving in Uruguay, where, after one of the evangelistic meetings, a whole football team compiled of emigrants turned to Christ. Since at that time the missionaries in Uruguay were under danger and threat, beginning in 1958 Fyodor and Alina continued their ministry in Canada for 8 years in the Russian-Ukrainian church. In 1965, at the invitation of a small group of believers from Sacramento, a large family of Fyodor Petrovich, including his wife's grandfather Adolf Kravchuk and grandmother Vera, moved to the United States.

At the request of the church leadership, Robert Louis, a member of the Southern Baptists Association, appealed to the local authorities asking them to assist Russian-speaking believers with their intent to purchase a lot for the construction of the house of prayer, since prior to that they had rented premises from various churches. By coincidence, one of the leading positions in Sacramento City's Administration was held by an official with whom Robert Louis took classes in college. Hence, considering the city's expansion and its population growth as well as the fact that the Office of the Funeral Bureau outgrew their existing building on Franklin Boulevard, this official contributed to the process of transfer at no cost of the old building and its territory to the new Russian-speaking community of emigrants.

In 1966, Fyodor Petrovich Karpetz began serving in a new prayer house built under his leadership with a membership of 30 church members. Adolf Kravchuk, the person with 20 years of experience as choir director in one of the largest Slavic churches in

Argentina, assumed choir leadership and organized a string orchestra. Alina Karpetz, the young choir singer, organized a women's group engaged in a charity activities. Their first action was to send clothes to Brazil for the victims of a major flood. In just the first year of the women's group activity, the lepers, orphans and missionaries received help from them for more than \$2,600 US dollars (around \$20,000.00 currently).

The church of Pastor F.P. Karpets became a home to a Russian language school, Sunday school classes, and a missionary department engaged in Gospel preaching outside the church among the incoming new Slavs emigrants fleeing the countries of Europe after hard years of captivity and persecution.

The family of Pastor F.P. Karpets spent many years caring for people. They were first to receive the arriving emigrants and provide them with first aid and instructions. In 1990, after 20 long years of praying for Russia, the church led by Fyodor Karpets found itself in a new circle of care about believers from Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and Russia. As a tireless minister, the pastor and missionary, he met and accompanied, blessed and instructed all those who had a need and voiced a request.

Since new emigrants kept coming, the church membership grew, the new Baptist churches branched out from the First Slavic Evangelical Baptist Church of Sacramento, where Fyodor Petrovich Karpets was the honorary elder at that time. Due to Fyodor Petrovich's age, he transferred the responsibility of the senior pastor to Peter Filippovich Kunda, an emigrant from Kiev (Ukraine), who previously ministered in the church's affiliated branch at Franklin Boulevard. Currently the church's branch at Franklin Boulevard is pastored by brother Alexei Konstantinovich Dutov.

To date, by the grace of God, the youth mission groups from the Slavic churches of Sacramento served in most of the former Soviet Union's territory, the CIS countries from the Polar region to Chita, and worked in Kyrgyzstan and Israel. In 2003 alone, the church of Fyodor Petrovich Karpets blessed and supported 8 mission groups totaling to 60 missionary workers, set up children Christian summer camps which served more than 1,000 children from different families, as well as orphans and abandoned children. Also, the First Slavic Evangelical Baptist Church sent more than seven missionaries with their families to permanent places of residence in hard-to-

reach places throughout the territory of the former USSR. They organize churches and preach the Gospel while the church provides them with financial and spiritual support. In March 2004, Fyodor Petrovich and Alina Adolfovna Karpets celebrated the "Golden Anniversary" of their 50 years of marriage.

On May 4, 2004, Fyodor Petrovich was in the church and participated in the elder's council meeting, where to his custom, he read the Word of God in the beginning. He looked very vigorous, and at 10:00 p.m. he was still talking with brothers in the churchyard. Upon his arrival home, as usual before going to bed, he read the Bible in his home office. About 12 o'clock midnight he was found by his daughter sitting in a chair motionless; immediately after that she called an ambulance.

Fyodor Petrovich was in the hospital since Wednesday May 5th. Saturday May 8th at three o'clock in the afternoon, at the age of 78, Fyodor Petrovich Karpets peacefully transitioned into eternity.