

THE SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF FYODOR PETROVICH KARPETS



"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."
2Tim 4:7-8.

We may endlessly talk about Fyodor Petrovich Karpets' personality and still not say enough. One thing can be said for sure: all his desires, feelings, thoughts, deeds, he subordinated to one great goal - to serve the Lord and people, and the main component of his ministry was trust in God and great patience. Dreaming from his youth to be a faithful servant to God, through his whole life he carried a strong faith in the Lord which in return, through his amazing lifestyle, impacted the lives of many.

F.P. Karpets was born on October 2, 1926 to the family of Agafia and Petr Karpets in the village of Zalesye in the Ternopil region. At that time, the area belonged to Poland. Parents and all relatives professed the Orthodox faith. From his uncle who was a priest, little Fyodor received his first lessons on the perceptions of God. In 1933, he went to a Polish school, where he successfully studied Polish and Russian. He was the eldest son in the family, and his brother Ignat and the sisters Xenia and Maria were in his care.

By the end of the 1930s, disturbing rumors of war forced many families to leave their native lands. People left for South America (Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil). In 1937, the family of Karpets, having collected modest belongings, also went on a long and far journey.

They sailed for a long time to the coast of Argentina, and then moved to Paraguay, where no one expected them or met them. The new life had to start in the impenetrable jungle, clearing a place for settlement and uprooting perennial trees. Then they sowed corn in the ground. They lived in cramped huts, built by their own hands, barely shielding them from rains. Children who lived in the colonies did not go to school. They were engaged in hard work, helping their parents and there was no one to teach them. Later, the first Spanish teacher came to their land who taught all children of different ages in one classroom. Fyodor was a very capable student and helped her during the class.

Among the arrived settlers were some Baptist Christians. These were the families of Maz, Kojic, Kurilovich and others. Their children, Fyodor's peers, invited him to the prayer meetings. He fell in love with the Word of God. Later, Pastor Val gave him a Bible, and he began to memorize whole chapters by heart then preaching to other people. In 1945, at the age of 19, he was baptized by brother Kurilovich. In 1947 brother Levshenya came and invited everyone to



The young pastor F.P. Karpets in on his way to the point of ministry



1954, Fyodor and Alina were legally married.

study at the Bible Institute. F.P. Karpets immediately responded to this invitation and left for Argentina, Buenos Aires, the same year.

In 1950, having graduated from the Bible Institute, he was ordained to the pastoral ministry by brother Shalenko and as a young minister went to Patagonia. Two years later he came back to finish his doctorate in theology, and met with Alina Kravchuk, a beautiful Christian girl. He proposed to her and got her consent. Having engaged with his love, Fyodor left for Brazil. In a few months there, with the help of local believers, he built a new church for future service. On March 20,

Since then the spouses began to work together in the mission field wherever the Lord would send them. 1955 - Brazil, 1956 - Argentina. In 1957, while in Uruguay, he got to meet with a team of young soccer players, and in a period of time, thanks to the fervent fasts and prayers of Fyodor, they all turned to the Lord. The owner of the beer bar was very frustrated, learning that the whole team of young players was getting ready for baptism. He knew that the number of bar customers would significantly decrease leading to the profit loss. He promised to shoot the young pastor. But God protected them, and the baptism took place.



1957, Uruguay. The soccer team is getting baptized

In 1958, at the invitation of the Russian-Ukrainian Union, Fyodor and Alina moved to Canada, Winnipeg. They settled on the farm some 300 miles away from the place of service. Overcoming great distances, the pastor was always on time, never missing the service.

In 1962 they had a daughter, Lily.

February 5, 1965, at the invitation of the Peter and Tavifa Granchuk' family, the Karpets family moved to America in Sacramento, and February 21, at a solemn meeting, Fyodor Petrovich Karpets was elected pastor of the church. The Christian newspaper of those days, called "The Voice of the Pastor" reported: "At last, after long prayers of the church, February 5, 1965 the family of F.P. Karpets arrives from Canada. How happy the church was for their arrival! And how heartily they thanked God for answered prayers. "



In 1972 the second daughter, Rosie, was born to the family of F.P. Karpets. In daily cares and concerns of the household, the Karpets family, like all other families, intensely prayed that God would open the door to America for believers from the former Soviet Union. They prayed for a long 25 years. Finally, God heard the prayers of the church and answered them.

In 1986, F.P. Karpets (at that time he was the Chairman of the Pacific Coast Slavic Baptist Association), together with brothers Kuzichev and Altukhov visited Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. They saw with their own eyes how the believers lived, what persecutions they experienced, what tiny houses of prayer they gathered in, and how poorly the large families lived. Wishing to help them, F.P Karpets left his business cards with his name, phone number and address everywhere he went saying that if there was an opportunity to immigrate, they were welcomed to America! At the same time, he reported that their church had been praying about this for 25 years. At that point, F.P. Karpets didn't know, that by handing out business cards, he opened the door to the third wave of emigration to enter America.

In 1989, emigration from the former Soviet Union began. Believers having Israeli visas began to leave for Austria, then for Italy, and then for America. The Karpets' family took great responsibility organizing the settlement of new emigrants. In an

attempt to help people move to America, Fyodor Petrovich became a sponsor for many families. A large number of people from Italy weekly moved to Sacramento, comprised of emigrants from Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, the Baltic States, the Czech Republic, Poland, Bulgaria and other countries. Not knowing English was a big obstacle for all newcomers. Everyone needed help, and thus turned to Karpets' family, which devoted itself to this service. Alina Karpets, Fyodor Petrovich, and sister Lucy Wagner were helping as interpreters. Sister Alina had a particularly huge responsibility to interpret for pregnant women, being ready to go with them to hospitals at any time of the day or night. Here are the memoirs of Ilya Gusev' family, also sponsored by F.P. Karpets:

"We arrived in America at the end of 1990, with a little 10-month-old daughter. My wife was pregnant with the second child. Brother Karpets met us at the airport and brought to his home, saying that he was taking care of our family. We hardly saw the owners during our stay in the house of Karpets family - they were busy helping new families: meeting them at the airport, finding apartments, signing for welfare, finding school, etc. They were called at night often: someone had a child, another's child got sick and somebody passed to eternity. But regardless of what had happened, we always heard the pleasant voice of our pastor F.P Karpets answering the phone, full of peace and love and ready to help at any time.

Sometimes sister Alina was not home for the whole day, she only came back by night. In those cases, all the house' duties were performed by the pastor: he washed dishes, went to the store to get food, prepared coffee, and did all of that without ceasing to care for other families. The needs had no end, but we never heard Fyodor Petrovich being irritated or complaining of fatigue, though his wife and he were 60 at that time! What great patience and life worthy of imitation!"

Volumes of letters arrived daily, people asked for help to leave their country to America. All the mail was sorted out on a daily basis, and the answers were sent on time. The rumor about Fyodor Petrovich Karpets, the person who helps everyone, and the church on Franklin Boulevard, spread far beyond California. Among the piles of letters with requests to help, there was one letter that stood out, it started like this:

"Hello dear brother Franklin! Please help us to move to America. Upon arrival we promise to attend church."

It was obvious that the supplicant didn't know who was who. The sisters sorting out the mail were in confusion whether to answer this letter or not: it was clear that the letter came from a non-believer. But Fyodor Petrovich said that we definitely must help this family to emigrate; perhaps, upon arrival, they will come to church and turn to God. And so it happened. Having arrived, the family came to church, and in a while turned to the Lord. How kind was our pastor to people! He used every opportunity to tell people about God and to add saved souls to the church.



In 39 years and 3 months of his ministry, he baptized 277.

N.A Bugriev about F.P Karpets:

"The church on Cromwell became one of the first missionary churches, and it was due to the persistent prayers and fasts of F.P. Karpets. In the early 1990s, he began to pray for 20 missionaries to be sent by the Lord to Magadan to preach the Good News and hold children's camps and the Lord answered the prayer. Then he prayed for 50, and again the church received an answered prayer. The youth got fired up by this service and began to cover other regions, like Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Urengoy and reached to Yamal. In a while,

on one Sunday service the pastor asked for hands of those who would pray that the Lord would send 100 people to a mission service and in a year 123 people went to the remote, cold regions to deliver the message of Christ. I believe that the missionary movement in this church will not die, because this is God's work"

V.M. Tsvirinko at the funeral service of F.P. Karpets said:

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints" Psalm 116:15. All who had the privilege of serving the Lord with F.P. Karpets could attest to the fact that he sincerely loved the Lord and His Church. We came to America 14 years ago and met in the church. Since then in my mind he has been the minister of God who always cares for the church, it seemed that he lives in the church. By his attitude towards his neighbors, he actually demonstrated the likeness to Christ in His service to people. I often heard of how he took part in the smallest, seemingly insignificant life's matters, while helping emigrants day and night. Looking at the life of F.P. Karpets, we can safely say that he will receive the crown of truth. He, like the Apostle Paul, fought the good fight, he finished the course, kept the faith, and now a crown of righteousness is prepared for him, which the Lord will give him."

All that he has done or told was done for people in the name of the Lord. He baptized more than 200 souls and after baptismal prayed for them. This is what his wife Alina testified about her husband:

"He got up at 5 o'clock in the morning and stood kneeling in prayer till 7:00 a.m., praying for the church and family, for the needs that were announced in the church and for families with problems." On his desk were all the prayer requests that were submitted to the church during the services, and he prayed all week for these needs until he received new ones the next week. Day after day of his life passed in constant prayer and Bible reading, which he read 60 times. This was the success of his pastoral ministry. When he left for eternity, the room where he prayed was empty, the prayers of Fyodor Petrovich stopped. He never was rude or said bad words. His speech was filled with kind, affectionate words that he spoke to all: children, the elderly and young people with whom he had to communicate.

I remember the last evening of his life. At about 12 o'clock in the morning a sister called me from the church, she needed an urgent medical help and asked

if Fyodor Petrovich could invite me to the phone. He answered: "Just a minute, sister, I will promptly invite my "pearl" to the phone."

He was 77, and sister Alina was 72, yet they preserved the love granted to them by God all the way to the end of their earthly days.

May 8 at 3.10 p.m. 2004, Fyodor Petrovich passed to eternity, having lived 77 years 7 month and 6 days.

Would every believer read the Bible 60 times with similar passion and love as F.P. Karpets, he would have qualities similar to his. To accommodate all emigrants with all their characters, traditions and needs would be only possible to the one who had a big heart, abundant patience and love to God and people, the traits that Fyodor Petrovich Karpets had.

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Karpets family with daughter Lily



The son Arthur's dedicaion - Logvinenko family. 2004.



At home behind the work desk



At church behind the work desk. Sacramento



On their way to heaven dear souls leave us the heritage of faith...