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## NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS AND CHURCHES OF THE ASSOCIATION

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### **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY 2021 NEW YEAR!**

Dear brothers and sisters! Merry Christmas and happy 2021 New Year!

Light came into the world! The heavenly glory came upon the shepherds at the fields in Bethlehem! The praise of angels has filled the fields of Bethlehem. This is wonderful news about what God is doing. The Savior, Christ the Lord has come into the world!

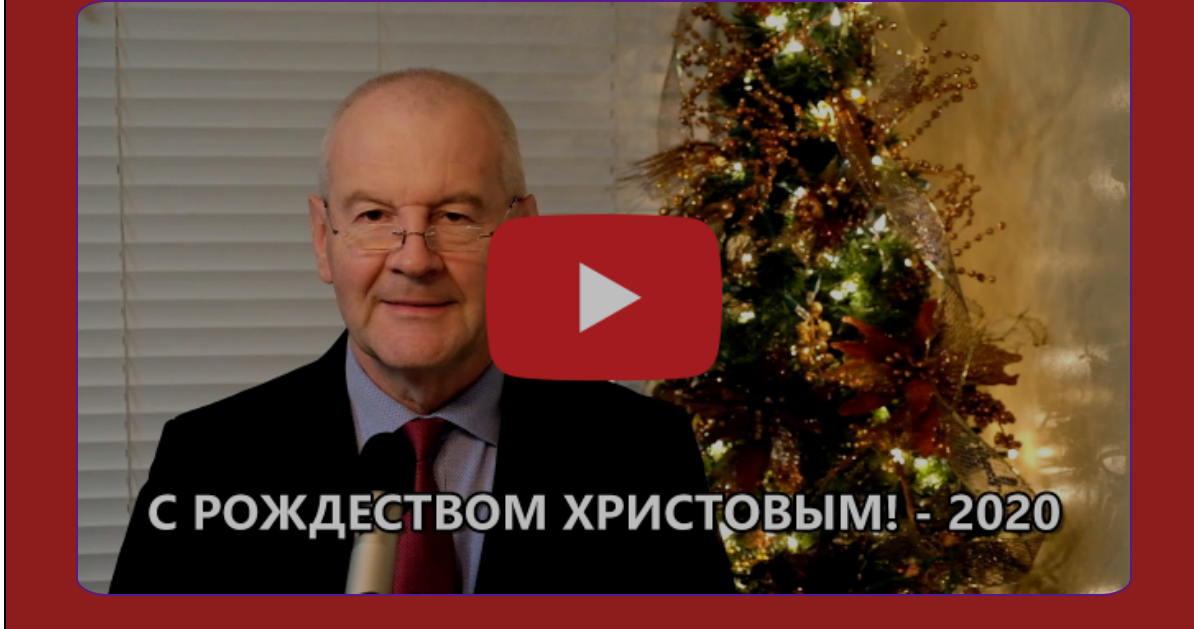
This joyful news belongs to all of the people of the earth. The scope of this event is of global proportions. God Himself accomplishes this, but he is also using simple people for the achievement of His plans – Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. He also chose the specific location of the birth of His son – the manger in a small town of Bethlehem! These events are not accidental. God has orchestrated everything from the eternity past, even though He has revealed some details of His plans through the prophets of the Old Testament.

During these days of celebration, we are filled with worship, adoration, and proclamation of God's love to the world, to people who are in darkness! "By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory." 1Timothy 3:16.

May the circumstances that we are going through, the limitations and the difficulties of our times not cause us to lose the joy of Christmas, and prevent us from the desire to proclaim the Gospel to all of the people of the earth! Merry Christmas!

Ivan Mileyev  
President of PCSBA

I. Mileyev's Christmas video greeting (in Russian only.)



## WHAT IS THE REASON FOR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION?

For many people around the world, Christmas is a time of decorating the houses, Christmas trees, putting up of the Christmas lights, giving and receiving presents, a time of special music and singing, and much more. For others, it is a time of intense shopping in search of presents for friends and relatives, followed by preparation of all kinds of festivities, with some hope of a brief rest period. Unfortunately, in this season of preparation and celebration we sometimes lose the purpose of this wonderful celebration – rejoicing in the birth of Jesus Christ.

I. Sheremet shares his thoughts on this subject [in his article that is located on the Association's website](#). You may also listen it to [the radio program – click here](#). Both are in Russian only.



## WE RECEIVED CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Association continues to receive Christmas greetings from various organizations. To access the Christmas greeting, click on the link below. We are very pleased to receive best wishes and would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas. [The list of all greetings can be seen on the Association's website – click here](#).

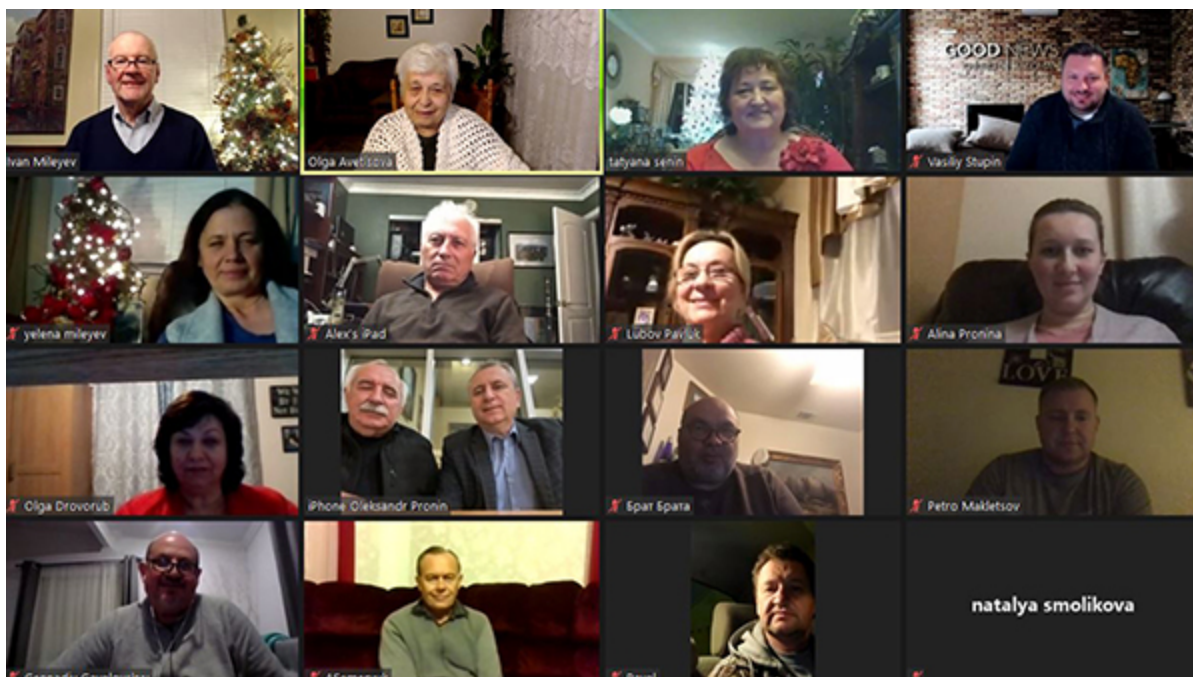
## WEEK OF PRAYER SCHEDULE

The Association's leadership has prepared the schedule for the New Year's week of prayer. [You can access it here \(in Russian only\).](#)

## ASSOCIATION'S MINISTRY LEADERS' MEETING

On December 11th, the Association's ministry leaders had their last meeting of this year. This time it was dedicated to giving thanks to God for the past year and to plan the upcoming year.

For more information about the meeting, [visit the Association's website – click here.](#)



## PRISON MINISTRY NEWS

The prison ministry always had enough things to do. However, lately, those who are involved in this ministry have been unproductive. Due to the pandemic, they are not allowed to come to prisons, and every form of communication with the inmates happens only through writing. However, over the last two to three weeks, the Lord has accomplished amazing things in this ministry. He opened up the doors to ministering to women in jails who are awaiting their sentencing. [The leader of the Prison Ministry, V. Butayev shares more about this.](#)

## PLANS OF THE MISSIONS MINISTRY

With the change of leadership in the Missionary Ministry, there have been some other changes as well. There were also changes to the ministry team as well. Some could no longer be a part of this ministry while others joined their ranks. The new team is now developing new plans for the upcoming year. [The leader of the Missions Ministry, I. Zhukov, shares more about this – click here.](#)

## WOMEN'S PRAYER MEETING

On November 28, 2020, the Moms in Prayer Ministry held their meeting over ZOOM. The theme of the meeting was "God Almighty as Sovereign over the Universe". The meeting attendees included women from our local churches, but also two women from



Germany. [The Leader of this ministry, O. Drovorub shares more about this \(in Russian only.\)](#)

## UPDATE FROM THE CHURCH

[In his article on the Association's website,](#) Pastor Dennis Gerasimov shares about life of the church where he was maturing as a Christian and became a pastor. The church is still called Slavic Evangelical Christian Baptist Church in Hayward, but soon it will be renamed to Mission Boulevard Baptist Church.



*Church service at the church in Hayward at the time of the pandemic*

## ORDINATION AT THE CHURCH IN SEATTLE

On December 20, Slavic Baptist Church in Seattle had a special service during which they celebrated the ordination of two pastors Ivan Shepel and Sergey Bistritskiy. During this service, four other men were ordained for the deacons' ministry: Aleksey Kozorezov, Aleksandr Sagun, Vasiliy Kozorezov, and Timothy Shepel. The pastors and chairpersons of both the Pacific Coast and South-Western Associations were able to take a part in the ordination ceremony: Ivan Mileyev, Andrey Chumakin, Sergey Marchenko, and Igor Tribushnoy. For more about this ordination celebration, [read an article by I. Mileyev – click this link \(in Russian only.\)](#)



*New ministers with wives*

## **MERGING OF TWO CHURCHES**

In light of the challenges due to COVID 19, stepping down of Pastor Benjamin Gorelov due to health, and high rent cost, Slavic Evangelical Missionary Church of Orange County decided to merge with the sister church – the Forward Church. The head pastor of this church was and after the merger, will continue to be Bogdan Kipko. [The details can be found on the Association's website.](#)



*In the Slavic Evangelical Missionary Church during the announcement of the merger  
Pastor B. Kipko - on the right*

## **CHRISTMAS TRIP TO MEXICO**

At the beginning of December, Christians from a few different churches visited Mexico to encourage the local churches, and to organize Christmas celebration for the local children. One of the pastors from the House of Prayer Church talks about this in a summary, which [can be found on the Association's website \(in Russian only.\)](#)





*Ministering in Mexico*

## **LEARNING CONTINUES**

The pandemic was not able to put an end to the Education Ministry's commitment to education, and the learning continues in various cities and churches of California. Read a summary by the leader of the Education Ministry, A. Pronin [about the November and December updates – click this link \(in Russian only.\)](#)

## **MEETING OF LEADERS OF WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

On December 4, 2020, the leaders of the Association's Women Ministry were able to take a part in a ZOOM meeting. The Association's president, Ivan Mileyev greeted the women and noted the importance of the women ministries in churches as co-laborers in the harvest. During the meeting, there was an analysis of the work done in the 2020, and new plan of ministry was presented for the upcoming year. For details, [read an article by the ministry leader, Y. Mileyev \(in Russian only.\)](#)

## **USEFUL INFORMATION - MISSIONS**

In the previous newsletter under the **USEFUL INFORMATION** section, we provided information about websites of Baptist unions and associations. In this letter, we want to provide information about some missions that the churches of our Association take an active part in. The list of missions [can be found on the Association's website – click this link \(in Russian only.\)](#) If you would like to join in ministering to these organizations, you can find all the necessary information to help you do that.

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to Andrey Zabolotnyy who is our translator and serves at Slavic Baptist Church for finishing the Master's Seminary. We wish him blessings in ministry at both the church where he serves, as well as others. For more about Andrey, please [read a summary by the pastor of the church, I. Verstak – click this link \(in Russian only.\)](#)



*Andrey with his family*

## **THEY ARE ALREADY HOME!**

Some of us are completely consumed by making decisions on various life's issues like preparing for holidays, preparing our children for marriage. On the other hand, some have been completely released from such concerns and met their Creator and Lord. This December, that is what happened to two of our well-known ministers in our Association.



On December 9, 2020, after a difficult but brief battle with an illness, Vladimir Mikhailovich Korniyenko passed away at the age of 66. He was the associate pastor of Haven Church in Concord, CA. The head pastor of the church shares about the ministry of this dear brother [in a summary that can be found on the Association's website – click here \(in Russian only.\)](#)

After a few days, on December 13, after a difficult and long illness, Sergey Ivanovich Neverov went to be with the Lord. He was a pastor and a passionate preacher of the Word. A [eulogy](#) and [a testimony by pastor A. V. Delchman can be found here \(in Russian only.\)](#)



Dear relatives and friends, members of Haven and House of Prayer churches! We are grieving with you and pray that the Lord will comfort you and encourage you by the hope of future meeting them in heaven.



## ATTENTION!

The website of the Association has a new section: Resources – Useful Information (Russian part of the website.) At this point, this section contains only the information about the unions and associations organized by Slavic communities and people. Later, however, this section will also have other useful information.

Get to know this section and visit it regularly as needed. If you have additional information of the content that is found there, contact us at [pcsbaca@gmail.com](mailto:pcsbaca@gmail.com).

## CHANGES AT SIERRA PINES CAMP



We would like to announce that the campground went through major changes. There was a complete restructuring of the campground. The PCSBA committee appointed Vasilij Stupin to fill the vacancy of the chairperson of the Board of Directors at Sierra Pines Camp. He took this position at the beginning of December 2020. One of the most important priorities now is in filling the vacancies for positions of camp director and camp manager due to the departure of Nicolay Bugriyev and Andrey Smyshkov.

For more information, [read an article on the](#)

[Association's website.](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENT

To provide better services at the camp, Sierra Pines Camp is looking for a golf cart and a cargo truck. If you would like to donate these, you will be able to receive a receipt for tax write off, as well as enormous gratitude of the camp's new team and the leadership of the Association. Please call at 916-719-5071..

## ASSOCIATION'S RADIO – broadcasts of the past month

**ATTENTION** Twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday, from 3:15 pm to 3:30 pm, we broadcast on **87.7 FM**. You can also listen to this radio via the Internet using a direct link - <http://ethno.fm:8500/ethnofm.mp3>.

[During the past month, the following programs](#) were aired on the Association's radio – see below. In order to listen to a program of interest, please click on its name. All recordings are in Russian only.

- [At the threshold of Christmas. I. Sheremet](#)
- [Association's plans for the new year. I. Milejev](#)
- [Why God can't just forgive us all of our sins? A. Kalinskiy](#)
- [Missionary news. Ministry of the Kirnev Family Missionary Ministry. S. Kirnev](#)
- [What does Christmas mean to you? F. Avramenko](#)
- [Overview of the Association's ministry. I. Bruyako, and L. Pavlyu](#)
- [Civil union and cohabitation. S. Sipko, O. Askalenyuk, and V. Zuyev](#)
- [Christmas Greeting. I. Milejev](#)
- [Overview of the Association's ministry. Prison ministry. V. Butayev](#)



- [New Year Greeting. V. Stupin](#)

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## UPDATES FROM OUR PARTNERS

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### NEWS FROM ANCIENT ITALY

The November's newsletter from Ilya Danilyuk, who is a missionary in Italy, [can be accessed here – click this link \(in Russian only.\)](#)

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## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE U.S. PRESIDENT

In his Christmas address to the nation, President Donald Trump thanked God for His precious gift of sending His Son Jesus Christ Who changed the world and its history.



« More than two millennia after the birth of Jesus Christ, his teachings continue to inspire and uplift billions and billions of people all over the globe. His Divine word still fills our hearts with hope and faith. And, Christians everywhere still strive to live by Jesus' timeless commandment to his disciples, 'Love one another».

« Above all, during the sacred season, our

souls are full of thanks and praise for Almighty God for sending us Christ His Son to redeem the world. »

« Tonight, we ask that God will continue to bless this nation. And, we pray that He will grant every American family a Christmas season full of joy, hope, and peace. »

Majority of the News Networks did not include this greeting, and it can be found only in a few websites. The full text of this address, as well as the video could be found at [Life Site News](#) and on a [YouTube](#) channel of this organization.

### PASTORS' MEETING

Leo Mayzner, the organizer of the online meetings of pastors from various countries, invited I. Milejev to be a special guest on the recent meeting. To find out why he was invited, please read an article by Ivan Vladimirovich, which can be found [on the Association's website – click here \(in Russian only.\)](#)

### THE CENTER OF HOPE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN HAS BEEN BURNED DOWN

Bible Mission Slavic shared some sad news. During the night of December 10, the Center of Hope in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, was burned down. This center was housing women and children who found themselves in desperate life's circumstances. [The details about the fire could be found here.](#)

The Mission is asking for help at the time of this distress, and for any financial help possible. The address to send donations, [can be found in the same article – click this link.](#)



*This is what the Center of Hope looks like now.*

### PLEASE PRAY!

1. For the satisfactory and peaceful conclusion to the Presidential election of our country
2. For the protection for churches, and the wisdom for the church pastors to make every-day decisions
3. For peace in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Russia, and other countries around the world

If you have some news you would like to share with others, please send them at [pcsbaca@gmail.com](mailto:pcsbaca@gmail.com).

### ATTENTION TO GMAIL USERS:

Check **All Mail** and **Spam** folders for missed incoming emails.

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### The Editorial Team:

- I. Mileyev- Editor in Chief
- O. Avetisova - Editor
- A. Zabolotnyy - Translator
- S. Mizera – English Translations Editor
- S. Timopheyeva - Russian Version Editor





