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## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER - 2024

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS AND CHURCHES OF THE ASSOCIATION

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### MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

This is the holiday of celebrating “the appearance of grace and the love for mankind by our God and Savior!” (Titus

3:4) This is a celebration of God’s saving grace for all people! (Titus 2:11) This is the manifestation of God’s love, “which was demonstrated in that God sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him” (1 John 4:9).

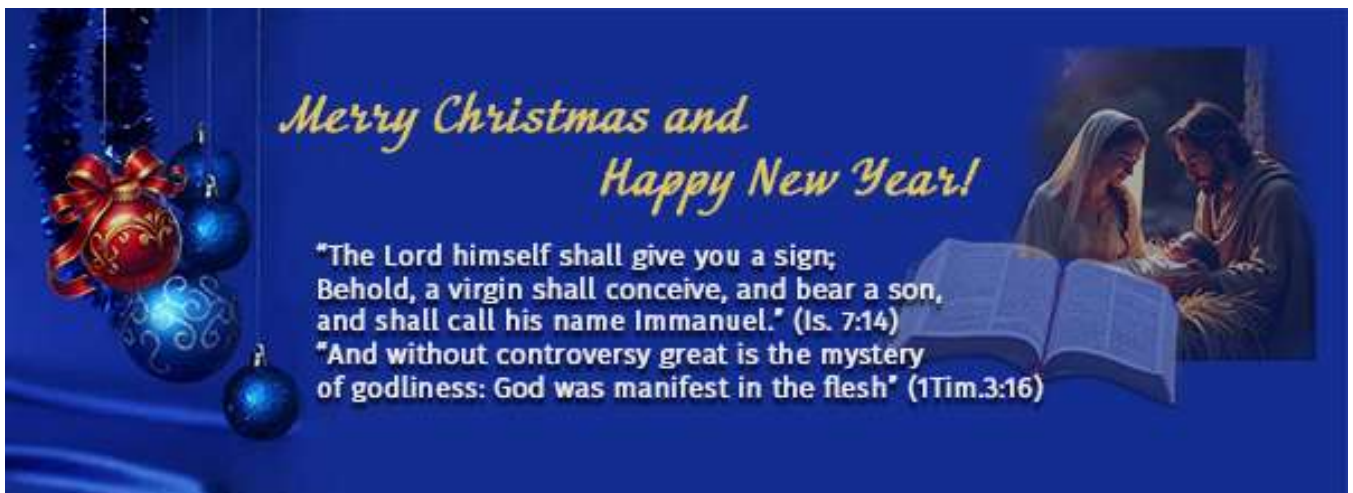
We love Christmas traditions, decorations, carols, and gifts, but it is so important to not forget the main gift of Christmas. Jesus Christ our Lord is the reason for this season. The Apostle John writes about this by saying: “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). People can accept God’s gift of salvation on God’s terms. A person must have a childlike faith in Jesus Christ, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

At our present time, when the world is full of evil, death, and wars, our hope, joy, and peace can only be found in Jesus Christ. He is our reality, and our hope! He is the center of this holiday season. Without a personal relationship with Christ as our Savior, this holiday will lose its meaning. Let us carry the light of the Gospel to those

*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased!” (Luke 2:14)*

who are still living in spiritual darkness. May the Christmas season be a time for the genuine “personal salvation” of every person on earth, so that we can say with the Apostle Paul: “Thanks be to God for His indescribable Gift!” (2 Cor. 9:15)

President of PCSBA, Ivan Mileyev



## **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION'S STAFF**

On December 6, the leaders of the Association's ministries and departments met at the Second Slavic Baptist Church for a pre-Christmas celebration. All the leaders of the Association's departments, and the members of the executive committee and their wives, were invited to this event. This is the only time when not only those serving in the Association meet, but also those who help them “in the background”- their husbands and wives. [More details...\(in Russian only\).](#)



*Event participants*

## **LEADERS' RETREAT OF THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT**

From November 8 to 10, a team from United the Movement had a leaders' retreat to talk about the future of the youth ministry. The main emphasis of the plans was on

the spiritual growth of the youth, and spreading the ministry vision to others. [More details...\(in Russian only\).](#)



*During the retreat*

## **CHRISTMAS EVANGELISM**

On December 1, 2024, the New Hope Church participated in the 25th annual celebration of the Christmas tree lighting in Rancho Cordova.

The church has been involved in this event for the 6th time in a row, and consider it as one of their biggest evangelism efforts of the year. On this day, the church members share about the true meaning of the Christmas season. [More details...\(in Russian only\).](#)



## **GOOD SAMARITAN AT THE HOUSE OF PRAYER CHURCH**

On December 1, during the evening service at the House of Prayer church, they had a “Good Samaritan” theatrical performance. This play was a result of an extensive preparation, and was dedicated to depicting the parable of Jesus Christ. The theatrical group “Vestnik” from Bryte Church, which consists of young men and women with special needs, showed reverence as they shared an important Gospel truth to the audience. They pointed to kindness, and emphasized that Christ is the foundation of it; that He was the kind and selfless one who is ready to help everyone in need. [More details...\(in Russian only\).](#)



*Scene from the skit*

## **GLORY TOUCHING EARTH**

On December 7, the New Hope Church had their Christmas concert titled, “Glory Touching Earth.” This type of concert evangelism is something new for the church. Over 300 people came to the concert. The main purpose of the event was to share the news about the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ! [More details...\(in Russian only\).](#)



## **BACKWARD KINGDOM**

This year, First Slavic Evangelical Baptist Church in Sacramento organized a light show display with its first set of performances taking place on December 13 and 14. Many neighbors were able to attend this joyful event, to be able to feel the joy of the upcoming holiday, and to find out about the Kingdom that was made available

thanks to the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. [More details are available in an article by Y. Zakharnev \(in Russian only\).](#)



*Christmas lights – truly magical!*

## NEW ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE



The editors of the Divine Vineyard Magazine released its latest issue for this year. The magazine has a lot of information that is useful for life.

We are grateful to God for the talented and selfless staff, as well as for all those who are sending us information for publication. Without the involvement of brothers and sisters of all age groups, highest level of educational and spiritual understanding, our magazine would not have been as interesting and bountiful. [More about the magazine can be found in an article by L.](#)

[Pavlyuk \(in Russian\).](#)

## WORSHIP AS A LIFESTYLE

On December 8, First Slavic Baptist Church in Sacramento had a special church service with a guest youth choir from Grace Avenue Bible Church. They proclaimed and sang about faithfulness of the Lord and the importance of serving Christ from a young age. [For more details, read an article by the choir's conductor, E. Kachalova \(in Russian only\).](#)



*Youth Choir at the Grace Avenue Bible Church*

## **MELODY OF CHRISTMAS**

On December 7, Grace Avenue Bible Church had a special “Melody of Christmas” celebration dinner for married couples. Over forty married couples were able to come to this event. The main speakers were Mikhail and Vera Orlov. Mikhail and Vera have a lot of experience in family counseling and presented what God’s Word says about renewing commitment and strengthening the marriage relationship. [More details...\(in Russian only\).](#)



## **EVENING OF CHILDREN ‘S PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

The Sunday School and Music Academy of the Spring of Life Church in Mukilteo, WA, featured a children's choir, vocal groups, and musicians during the church service on December 8. They also included a small puppet show as part of the

presentation. It lasted about 10 minutes and helped everyone to understand the theme of the church service better. [More details...\(in Russian only\).](#)



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

For the eighth year in a row now, the Spring of Life Church in Mukilteo, WA, invited everyone for a Christmas concert. This year it was on December 14 and 15. The concert is very precious to those who appreciate live music. The important part of the program was a performance of Christmas masterpieces, and a short sermon by the church's pastor. The sermon about the importance of Christmas is usually right before the last song of the program. [More details...\(in Russian only\).](#)



## WEEKEND OF CELEBRATION AT THE REVIVAL CHURCH



Saturday, December 14, and Sunday, December 15 were days of great joy to the Revival Church. On Saturday evening, there was a women's fellowship where the women were able to have a nice dinner and spend quality time together. The next day, the church had an ordination service for two new deacons. Ivan Mileyev and the church's pastor Mikhail Cherenkov ordained Aleksandr Mazur and Yevgeniy Tishchenko. [More details...\(in Russian only\).](#)



*The children's choir brightened up the church service*

## **TRANSFORMATION OF CHURCH BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS**

During these weeks before the holidays, the Lord allowed the Transfiguration church in Minnesota to finish a massive renovation of the church building. Almost half a year ago, after a lot of prayer, the church members unanimously agreed to begin this project, and by God's grace, everything was completed. They expanded and fixed the main sanctuary, upgraded all the Sunday School classes, the library, as well as the room for media and equipment. [More details...\(in Russian only\).](#)



*During the renovation process*

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## MISSIONARY NEWS

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### NEWS FROM TORREVIEJA, SPAIN

Help for immigrants, fellowship for couples, youth meetings, and much more is carried out by the church "Light of Life" in the city of Torrevieja. And all this is in order to spread the Good News and give people the opportunity to be saved from eternal destruction. It is impressive how dedicated and selflessly pastor Viktor Kovba is serving with his wife Tatyana. The Lord is abundantly blessing their ministry. [Read more details at this link \(in Russian only\).](#)



*Participants of an evangelistic evening for the youth, "Ukrainian Evenings"*

## **MINISTRY IN VALENCIA, SPAIN**

The family of Alik Shipuk has been serving in Europe for many years. He shares about the work of God in their city as a result of their ministry. [Read more details here \(in Russian only\).](#)



*Baptism of three youth who joined the church*

## **SERVING IN UZBEKISTAN AMONG THE UZBEKS AND GYPSIES**

In August of the current year, the Missionary Department and Grace Family Church organized two children's camps in Uzbekistan: in Bukhara and Syrdarya. [While reading about how it went](#), many people were asking the question: "What's next? Will there be follow up on the work that has been done?" As it turns out, God clearly showed that He cares for the gypsies and the Uzbeks, and that He loves and takes care of them, just as he does other peoples. [Read the continuation of their story at this link \(in Russian only\).](#)



*Some of the gypsy children after the lesson, where they made Christmas ornaments for the first time in their lives. Adults from left to right: translator, pastor of the local church, gypsy wife and husband.*

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## NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

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### **NEW FIELDS MISSION'S MINISTRY IN UKRAINE, THAILAND, AND OTHER COUNTRIES**

Many of those who came from the former Soviet Union are familiar with this missionary organization, and many of them are directly supporting it. Thanks to this support, the missionary work continues in Ukraine, Thailand, South Sudan, Russia, Kazakhstan, and many other countries. Read more about their ministry at their website: <https://newfields.org> (in English). You can also subscribe to their newsletters in Russian by reaching out at: (913) 214-2992 or sending an email to: [info@newfields.org](mailto:info@newfields.org).



*Giving out humanitarian aid in Lviv, Ukraine*

## **MISSION EURASIA AND THEIR MINISTRY**

Mission Eurasia, under the leadership of Sergey Rakhuba, has been serving in 13 countries of the former Soviet Union and in Poland. Their ministry is vast: organizing leaders' training, publishing books and materials, children's ministry, humanitarian aid, and much more. For more about their ministry, please visit the website: <https://missioneurasia.org>. Those serving in this ministry speak both English and Russian, so if you would like to support this missionary ministry, you can reach out to them at: (630) 462-1739, [info@missioneurasia.org](mailto:info@missioneurasia.org).



*At the time of one of the aid distributions in Ukraine*

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## USEFUL INFORMATION

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### THE GOSPEL BEHIND BARBED WIRE

“Millions of Russians for Christ” was the original motto of the Russian Christian Radio, organized and overseen by the father of Yarl Nikolayevich Peesty, Nikolay Ivanivich Peesty. This ministry exists to this day, and has truly helped millions of people come to God. From the first day when the Russian Christian Radio was organized in 1946, the Gospel has been proclaimed not only over the radio, but also through personal outreach by going to churches and sending letters to inmates. In 1994, Pirkko Home Liberation Center Ministry – Adaptation was organized, and since 1995, the magazine “The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire” has been published. In addition, in 1995, they started to print a magazine titled, “Evangelism Behind Barbed Wire.” The magazine’s 6th issue of 2024 [can be found here \(in Russian only\).](#)



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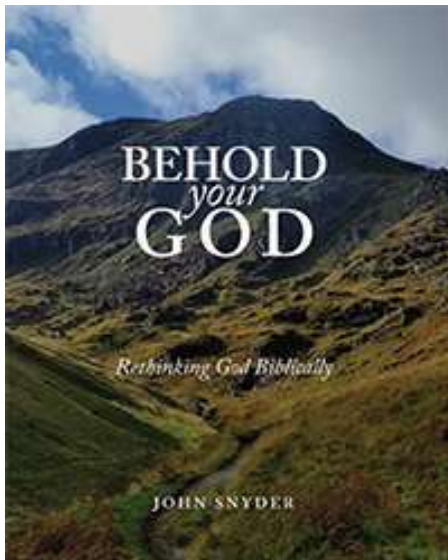
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Prison Magazine in English!

Have you ever wondered what *The Gospel Behind Barbed Wire* is like? We translated one issue into ENGLISH for that very purpose!



## BEHOLD YOUR GOD!



Many conservative Christians are concerned about how God is depicted in contemporary churches, and the methods that the churches use in order to attract people to church. Oftentimes the methods that the churches use have nothing in common with Christianity. People are incentivized to come to church but are not led to Christ, to God.

Christian organization Media Gratiae has developed an online training course, "Behold Your God," in which John Snyder and many other famous ministers talk about how well-known Christians (Aiden Tozer,

Timothy Dwight, George Muller, and many others) approached this issue, and what they did. The video course can be found in Russian on [the John Snyder channel](#) or [on the "Behold Your God" playlist on the "Time is Short" channel](#). You can also find the workbooks for this course at [The Media Gratiae website](#). This course can be used in small groups as well as for personal biblical training.

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## EVENTS

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## BETHLEHEM VILLAGE AT BRYTE CHUCH

Just as in previous years, Bryte Church is planning to organize a Christian celebration and are welcoming everyone to attend, especially those who are unbelievers. The church parking lot will be used to recreate the life of Bethlehem at the time of Jesus Christ and will involve hundreds of people who will be dressed in costumes of the first century as they depict various groups of people and their lifestyles. There will be a special tent for those who would like to talk or pray with the pastors. Of course, the children will also have various games.

The celebration will take place from **December 20 to 22, 5:00-9:00 pm.** at: 1000 Sacramento Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95605.



## CONCERT AND SKIT AT ROCKLAND CHURCH

On December 22, during the morning church service, Rockland Church will have a choir and orchestra with Gennadiy Zhilovskiy as its conductor. This will be a 50-minute concert, followed by a sermon about Christmas.

Then, on **December 31, at 7:00 pm**, the church will be showing a play: “Without Spot or Wrinkle,” based on a script by Nadezhda Garkusha.

Everyone is welcome to come at: 5132 Elkhorn Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95842-2505. A Live stream can be seen [at the church’s YouTube channel – click this link.](#)

**CELEBRATE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS WITH US!**





First Slavic Evangelical Baptist Church is inviting you join them in celebrating Christmas. A self-guided lights trails leads you in search for a hidden kingdom of the one true King. With thousands of lights surrounding you, you'll find marshmallows to toast, warm drinks, music, crafts, and more!

Visiting dates are December 13, 14, 20, 21, and 22. Gates open at 6 p.m. Free admission.

Address: 7238 Cromwell Way, Sacramento, CA 95822.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Dear ladies!  
Integrity Women's

Ministry is inviting you to celebrate Christmas by coming together in worship, fellowship, and contemplating the great birth of our Savior!

The event will take place on **December 27 at 6:00 p.m.** at Bryte Church.

The program will include:

- Interesting themes
- Getting to know each other
- Singing
- Fellowship around food
- Presents
- Surprises



Registration cost is \$15 before December 27. To register, contact (916) 598-6789.

**AT-THE-DOOR REGISTRATION WILL BE \$20!**

Childcare: \$5 – please sign up ahead of time at (916) 600-0186.

## EVENING DEDICATED TO THE COMPOSER SERGEY SULIMA

On **January 18, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**, First Slavic Evangelical Baptist Church, located at 7238 Cromwell Way, Sacramento, CA 95822, will have a special evening dedicated to the composer Sergey Sulima. Everyone is welcome. Free admission!

But please register at: (279) 944-7450. Video invitation: [can be found on the YouTube channel](#).



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Previous editions of the newsletters can be found on the Association's website:  
[for the last year](#) | [for all the years.](#)

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

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