

# Inventory of the Ivan E. Voronaev Collection

AR 178



Prepared by Michelle Herr

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

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# **Inventory of the Ivan E. Voronaev Collection**

## **AR 178**

### **Summary**

Main Entry: Ivan E. Voronaev Collection

Date Span: 1919 – 1988

Abstract: Collection includes articles, correspondence, and periodicals relating to Ivan E. Voronaev's Pentecostal mission to Russia and Ukraine.

Size: .5 linear ft. (1 document box)

Collection #: AR 178

### **Biographical Sketch**

Leading Pentecostal missionary to Russia and Ukraine, Ivan Efimovich Voronaev was born Nikita Petrovich Tcherkesov in 1886. In 1908, following his marriage to Katerina Bahskirova, he received Christ while serving in the Tsar's army. Shortly thereafter, he was court-martialed for refusing to bear arms. Upon his escape, he was presented with the passport of a Christian brother from the Tashkent Baptist Church, whose identity Tcherkesov adopted as his own, Ivan Efimovich Voronaev.

Following his escape, Voronaev and his family crossed the Chinese border into Manchuria, where he began his ministry. In 1912, he received an invitation to assume the pastorate of a Russian Baptist Church in San Francisco, California. A few years later, Voronaev moved to Seattle, Washington, to pastor a local Russian Baptist Church. It was during this time that Voronaev first became familiar with the tenets of Pentecostalism. In 1917, the Voronaev family moved again – to New York. There, Voronaev founded New York Baptist Church, a church for Russian Baptists. However, during this time, Voronaev's daughter converted to Pentecostalism. After much prayer, Voronaev himself received Pentecostal baptism, causing his resignation from the Baptist church.

Voronaev founded the first Russian Pentecostal Church in the United States with a handful of believers from his former church. In 1920, Voronaev heeded the call to evangelize in his native Russia. After spending time in Constantinople and Bulgaria, Voronaev and his family received permission to enter Russia in August 1921. Over the next few years, Voronaev helped establish more than 350 Pentecostal assemblies in the Soviet Union under the name of Union of Christians of Evangelical Faith. His own assembly in Odessa numbered more than 1,000 believers.

Voronaev was arrested by Russian officials in 1930. Later, he was sent to a Siberian labor camp, where he was eventually joined by his wife. Vorovaev was released briefly in 1936, but was arrested again. A group of American Pentecostals, who had been helping to fund Voronaev's mission, raised money to free Voronaev from his imprisonment, but they only succeeded in returning the Voronaev children to the United States. Following his second arrest, Vornaev returned to the Siberian labors camps, but he was never seen again. His ultimate fate remains unknown.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Ivan E. Voronaev Collection (.5 linear ft.) consists of articles, correspondence, periodicals, and promotional materials relating to Ivan Voronaev's ministry in the United States, Russia, Bulgaria, and Ukraine. Much of the correspondence concerns the efforts to secure the release of Voronaev from a state prison camp in Siberia.

The major topics and issues included in the papers are: Pentecostalism, Russian missions, dissent, and the Union of Christians of Evangelical Faith.

### **Arrangement**

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title.

### **Provenance**

Donated by the Flower Pentecostal Research Center, 2010.

### **Preferred Citation**

Ivan E. Voronaev Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

### **Access Restrictions**

None

### **Subject Terms**

Voronaev, Ivan Efimovich, 1886 –

Voronaev family.

Pentecostalism.

Christian sects – Russia.

Children of missionaries – Russia.

Christians – Bulgaria.

Dissenters – Ukraine.

### **Related Materials**

Donev, Dony K. *New Voices from the Past: The Untold Story of the Life and Ministry of Rev. Ivan Voronaev*. Society for Pentecostal Studies, 2009.

Donev, Dony K. *The (Un) Forgotten: Story of the Voronaev Children*. Society for Pentecostal Studies, 2009.

## Container List

### Box 1

- 1.1 Articles – Bulgaria, 1920s
- 1.2 Articles – Bulgaria and Ukraine, 1920s
- 1.3 Articles – Pentecostals in Russia
- 1.4 Articles – Voronaev Family in Custody, 1930s
- 1.5 Article about Voronaev
- 1.6 Biographical Information
- 1.7 Certificate of Fellowship with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., 1920
- 1.8 Correspondence, 1919 – 1922
- 1.9 Correspondence, 1929 – 1933
- 1.10 Correspondence, 1934
- 1.11 Correspondence, 1935
- 1.12 Correspondence, 1936
- 1.13 Correspondence, 1937
- 1.14 Correspondence, 1938
- 1.15 Correspondence, 1939
- 1.16 Correspondence, 1940
- 1.17 Correspondence, 1941 – 1943
- 1.18 Correspondence, 1944 – 1946
- 1.19 Correspondence, 1947 – 1950
- 1.20 Correspondence, 1953
- 1.21 Correspondence – Perkin, Noel, 1934 – 1953
- 1.22 Goroshko, Anton – Ukrainian Pentecostalism, 1988
- 1.23 Gospel Call of Russia, 1927
- 1.24 Gospel Call of Russia, 1928
- 1.25 Gospel Call of Russia, 1929
- 1.26 Gospel Call of Russia, 1930
- 1.27 Gospel Call of Russia, 1931
- 1.28 Gospel Call of Russia, 1932
- 1.29 Gospel Call of Russia, 1933 – 1937
- 1.30 Ministerial Credentials
- 1.31 Photographs
- 1.32 Promotional Materials