



# Mukachevo Minutes



CHRISTIAN REFORMED  
WORLD MISSIONS  
2850 KALAMAZOO AVE SE  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49560  
VOICE 800-346-0075  
FAX 616-224-0707  
EMAIL: CRWM@CRCNA.ORG  
WEB: WWW.CRWM.ORG

Prayer letter of George & Sarah de Vuyst  
Serving with Christian Reformed World Missions in Ukraine

April 2009

## Our vision

We see healthy congregations emerging through church planting and leadership training as well as in partnership with existing Reformed congregations in Ukraine in order to bring healing and transformation to lives and communities throughout Ukraine and beyond her borders in the post-Soviet countries of Eastern Europe so that more and more people hear the gospel and lives and communities are transformed.

## Points for praise

- Trainings for pastors in Russia were well-received
- New relationships made with those attending English Bible Study
- Connections made with Ukrainian churches interested in Reformed teaching

## Points for prayer

- April 30-May 2 Mukachevo church retreat
- Mukachevo congregation continues to search for land for a church
- For God to work in the lives of the English Bible study participants as many of them are nominal Christians. Pray for the service project on April 25.

## Pastors Learn How to Activate Members

George spent 11 days in St. Petersburg, Russia, leading two seminars for pastors on how to activate their church members. He used the very practical materials *Discover Your Gifts and Learn How to Use Them* by Alvin Vander Griend. The training was well-

received and CRWM missionaries in Russia,

Gary and Galya Timmerman, were pleased with the discussions and connections made.

The Reformed congregations in Russia face many challenges and George hopes to lead further trainings to help equip Russian pastors with the knowledge and tools needed to establish healthy congregations.



George leads training for pastors in St. Petersburg, Russia

## English Bible Study Draws Record Attendance

What does it take to change the world? This is the question being discussed in the English Bible Study that Sarah leads on Saturday afternoons. The six-week study was initiated by a viewing of

the film *Amazing Grace*. On April 25 the group, averaging 13 participants, will conclude the study with a service project for physically disabled adults. The service project idea is quite

nizing a game night for the disabled with the goal of “showing God’s love to those who are generally neglected by society by providing an opportunity for fun and laughter”. Many of those attending the Bible study come because they want to practice their English. We pray that they get not only English practice but an encounter with our life-changing God!



radical here and faced a bit of opposition, but now the group seems eager to do something for the community. The project involves orga-

## How to contact us

Ilona Zrini 10/2  
Mukachevo 89600  
Transcarpathia, Ukraine  
Phone: +38-031-31-54517

[gdevuyst@crcna.org](mailto:gdevuyst@crcna.org)

More stories and pictures  
posted at

[www.devuysts.com](http://www.devuysts.com)

### Mission Trip Opportunity

#### Volunteers needed to lead Bible Camp in Romania

Every summer a good friend of ours who is a Reformed pastor in Romania organizes an English Bible Camp for youth in his church district. This year the usual Summer Mission's Team through World Missions isn't coming to Eastern Europe. Reverend Soos needs a group of 6-8 people to lead the 1-2 week camp in early August. The English Bible Camp is instrumental in reaching young people in Romania who are disinterested in the church. In past years, the attendees have seen from North American young people how being a Christian is more than observing religious traditions but in fact a life-transformation.

## Healing Childhood Wounds Restores Marriages

Sveta opened up last week and told us about the abandonment she experienced as a child. "I only had a family until I was 7 years old," she says. When she started first grade her parents moved her from their village and enrolled her in our city's school for orphans and poor children. She remembers standing at the top of a large staircase, in a ragged dress too

big for her, as most of the children went home for the weekend. She waited for her parents to come but they did not and she wept.

Even as Sveta grew up and married, she contin-

ued to struggle with poverty and abandonment. Today Sveta teaches English for the language school Sarah started, and she's been participating in the English book club. We have come to the end of the book on marriage, *Getting the Love You Want*, and Sveta, along with all 8 of us, have learned some valuable tools in how to heal the childhood wounds in ourselves and our spouses, enabling us to have healthy and happy marriages.

Next, we plan to start a new book, *Good and Angry*, on the topic of parenting.



Some of the English teachers for the language school, most of whom attend the book club

## Becoming a Healthy Church: Part 3

The Mukachevo congregation will hold it's 3rd annual church retreat over the May 1st holidays. It will provide the

congregation with valuable time for fellowship and learning as we take a closer look at "first-fruits giving" and stewardship. We are excited to see the church members using their spiritual gifts and taking ownership—a model not often found in Ukrainian churches.

## Home Service 2009

Our home service is scheduled for this fall Sept. 1-Dec. 4. We will be visiting Michigan churches that we did not officially visit in 2007 as well as our partner churches in Maryland and Florida. We look forward to seeing many of you and will post our weekly schedule on our website at [www.devuysts.com](http://www.devuysts.com).

We are in need of a full-sized car or minivan while we are in the Grand Rapids area September 1-October 11 and November 15- December 5. If you are able to rent or loan us a car during this time, please let us know.



**Home Service Vehicle Needed**