



Mukachevo Minutes

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

April 2011

 **Christian Reformed
World Missions**
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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

- Timothy Leadership Training meeting biweekly in our home is going well
- 16 children under the age of 9 attend Sunday School and worship services in the Mukachevo church
- Strengthened connections with pastors across Ukraine

Points for prayer

- Effective learning and fellowship during church retreat in May
- Kyle De Boer as he learns and serves as a missions intern
- Greater connection with pastors and development of a church network

Resurrection

At four years old, Anastasia, whose name means “resurrection”, is one of the youngest members of the Mukachevo congregation. Her presence in the church is a sign of new life. Under communism children were not allowed to attend church and even today few churches welcome children in worship.



The Christian Reformed Church in Mukachevo is working hard to develop as a

healthy congregation where people of all ages are nurtured in faith. Not a single member of the church had experi-

enced Sunday School as a child. In fact, the idea of teaching children in church was something radically new that needed explaining and training.

This Easter, Anastasia will join the other children in

church in a skit of Jesus’ resurrection and in songs of praise to our God who has conquered death and continues today to bring new life.



Anastasia joins other children in a Christmas program at church

Prayer Mission Trip Planned for Eastern Europe

World Missions is partnering with Prayer Missions International to support CRC missionaries and local partners through prayer.



From September 7 to 19, participants will

visit CRC missionaries in Ukraine, Hungary and Romania and offer focused times of prayer for the missionaries, their churches, their pastors, diaconal ministries and the commu-

nity as a whole.

We invite anyone who is interested to contact your pastor or visit the website, www.prayermissions.org, for more information.

How to contact us

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More stories and pictures at
www.devuysts.com and
www.devuysts.blogspot.com

Church Retreat

The Mukachevo congregation will be holding their fifth annual church retreat from May 1-3. This year's topic is "Skills for Healthy and Effective Communication."



Fellowship is important

Our friend, Richard Otterness, (missionary with Reformed Church of America in Hungary) will lead the sessions. Pray for God's blessing on our learning and fellowship that this congregation may continue to develop into a healthy body of believers.

Missions Intern

We look forward to having Kyle De Boer join us in May for a three month mission internship. He will be learning firsthand about missions, Ukrainian culture and language, and ministering to youth. You can pray that God would bless his learning and service and enable us to be good mentors.

As young adults, short term mission trips played a big role in both of our lives, confirming God's call for us to become missionaries. We offer this mission's internship as an opportunity for young people to experience missions and seek God's direction for their lives.

Connecting with Pastors

We just returned home from a 1,400 mile trip around Ukraine visiting friends in Kiev and pastors in three other cities. Everywhere we went we were greeted with warm Ukrainian hospitality. In each place we heard stories of these pastors' joys and challenges as they seek to break out of unhealthy church molds and to



Our kids join pastor's kids in watching a movie

build congregations with active members, participatory leadership, and transformational impact on their communities. A recurring need is for a strong network where churches can share resources, discuss common problems, and fellowship together. Furthermore, we see great potential for the



Lots of eroded roads on our trip

Timothy Leadership Training to expand across Ukraine to provide more pastors and church leaders with powerful tools with which to develop healthy churches.

Financial Status

Thank you for supporting our ministry in prayer and financial support! Forty percent of the cost of our ministry is funded through the gift of ministry shares from Christian Reformed churches. Churches and individual donors give

gifts designated to our ministry to fund the remaining 60%.

In the next three months an additional \$21,500 is needed to meet our goal.

Financial support can be made by check, credit card, or online

at www.crw.org/donate.

We appreciate your prayers and gifts and are honored to be your hands and feet serving in Ukraine!

We recently discovered that mail we've sent from Ukraine hasn't been received, including our thank you letters. Here's another "thank you" to all our partners!