



Mukachevo Minutes

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

January 2012

 **Christian Reformed
World Missions**
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Our Vision

We envision healthy congregations emerging to bring healing and transformation to lives and communities throughout Ukraine and Eastern Europe's post-communist countries.

Our Mission

Together with our partners in Ukraine, we are training church leaders in Ukraine's post-Soviet, post-Christian, and post-atheist society in order to develop healthy churches with a biblical understanding of Christianity so that the Kingdom of God may transform all spheres of life and society.

Points for praise

- God's provision of Robert as pastor of the Mukachevo congregation
- Productive growth and learning retreat
- Partners who support us in prayer and financially. We are right on target with our minimum fundraising goal. Thank you!!!

Points for prayer

- Transitions for the Mukachevo church and for us as we prepare to leave Mukachevo in July
- Less costly rent for the Mukachevo congregation either through negotiations to reduce the rent or through another location
- Timothy Leadership Training in Kiev Jan 23-27

Pastor Robert is Ordained

For seven years we have prayed and longed for the day when the Mukachevo congregation would have their

own local pastor. God, in his faithfulness, answered that prayer by blessing the church with Robert Shpon-tak and his

wife Anett. After serving as an intern pastor for two years, Robert was ordained on January 8 and has become head pastor.



Robert and Anett display a deep commitment to the church and a unique passion for developing a healthy

congregation. Robert is gifted with discernment of cultural norms and traditions.

He is great with people. Furthermore, Robert is determined to lead the church with financial transparency. Each of these qualities are hard

to find among leaders in Ukraine. We are nothing less than awed by God calling Robert to serve here in this church. Robert and Anett are indeed an answer to many prayers!

It is with some healthy trepidation, however, that Robert takes on this new role. The church is grateful that George will continue to mentor and provide support over the next six months before we leave and even thereafter through internet calls and occasional visits.

Christmas in January

In Ukraine, Christmas is officially celebrated on Jan. 7 because church holidays follow the Julian calendar. As part of our Christmas worship service, the children of the Mukachevo congregation recited the story of Jesus' birth and sang songs. It was a special day of celebration for us as a family and as a church.



Watch Children's Christmas program online at www.devuysts.com.

How to contact us

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

Highlights of 2011

New Church Members



Kyle's summer internship and the arrival of Jodi



Good discussions with the English Book Club



Witnessing growth through Timothy Leadership Training

Deepening relationships at church retreat



Being involved in ministries at church



Celebrating Christmas with family

Looking Ahead

The word that best summarizes our foreseeable future is *transition*. We have only six months left in Mukachevo during which time we are helping the Mukachevo congregation *transition* to operating without our direct involvement. In Ju-

ly we will *transition* to Grand Rapids for home service and continued education. The children will, Lord willing, attend a Christian school for the first time. In May or June of 2013 we will *transition*



to the capital city of Ukraine, Kyiv, in order to train Christian leaders in Ukraine and the former Soviet Union primarily through the Timothy Leadership Training. Pray that God would direct each step according to his will.