



Mukachevo Minutes

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

September 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

- Positive response to TLT and worship symposium
- Kyle had a meaningful internship

Points for prayer

- Successful worship symposium
- Safety for our volunteers and for us as we travel
- Visa laws have changed and it is very unclear how that will effect us but it could mean more complications
- CRWM spiritual retreat October 20-23
- Housing for Jodi, our mission's intern arriving in October

Connections

Ukraine is ranked as one of the more corrupt nations of our world. (Transparency.org has more information about that.) Because of the pervasive corruption most people have only two options to accomplish anything — beneficial connections or bribery.

Churches in Ukraine also struggle to find their way in the midst of all the corruption. We hope that churches avoid falling into the traps of bribery, but find great value in building connections.

A major part of George's work is to connect with church leaders in Ukraine and beyond. As he hears their stories of joys and struggles there is one resounding commonality—a desire to connect with each other to share ideas, resources, and to encourage one another.

George spent the first week of September visiting pastors in Kyiv

and along the way there. He shared with them about two upcoming opportunities to connect— a worship symposium (see below) and Timothy Leadership

Training (TLT). We are planning tentatively to hold the first training in Kyiv in January. Everyone was very enthusiastic about both opportunities.

May God continue to build and strengthen his Church as congregations come together to learn, encourage, and serve God together!



Worship Symposium

“Our churches have no understanding of liturgy,” commented a church leader to George. In an effort to help churches begin to develop a theology of worship, together with

the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and the Association for Spiritual Renewal, George is organizing a worship symposium for the first week of October in Kyiv. Churches from all over

Ukraine plan to participate. The guest speakers are Greg Scheer, author, songwriter, and worship leader at Church of the Servant in Grand Rapids, MI and Dave Vroege, pastor of All Nations Christian Reformed Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



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

Discovering Missions

This year we started a new program, a mission's internship, for college students interested in exploring missions. Dordt College student, Kyle De Boer, spent 3 months with us this summer learning and serving.



Through reading books, talking with people, serving youth, and simply just living here, Kyle got a taste of the joys and challenges of missionary life.

We look forward to Jodi Vander Heide starting her mission's internship in October and being with us for 9 months.

Wedding Evangelism

Ilona and Yura fell in love. Not uncommon here, they came from different church backgrounds (Orthodox and Reformed) but neither really attended any church before they were faced with the question of what church they would get married in.

Ilona had been introduced to the Christian Reformed Church in Mukachevo through



her parents who had visited for a while. When she and Yura were looking for a pastor

to marry them, they asked George to conduct their church wedding. At that time they began attending the Mukachevo congregation and completed pre-marriage counseling with George. One year on, they are still faithfully attending worship services and Yura has volunteered to help with our children's worship pro-

gram. A few weeks ago, they started the process of becoming members of the church. It is exciting to see God work in the lives of people and bring them to the point that they want to publicly profess their faith in God and join a church community. We certainly didn't expect their wedding to be such a successful means of evangelism!

Follow the Mukachevo Congregation on their website

www.crcm.webs.com

Read about:

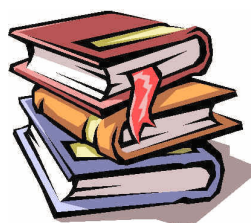
- **The potato harvest**
- **Church building plans**
- **Sunday School evangelism**

Continued Learning

In December we are looking forward to participating in a three-week growth and renewal retreat designed for missionaries and pastors. World Missions encouraged us to consider this retreat offered by Alongside Ministries as

part of George's continued education.

In addition, it is our hope and plan that George would be able to participate in a Clinical



Pastoral Education program as part of his continued education when we are back in the States for our next home service. Our home service is scheduled for fall 2012 with plans for continued education through spring 2013.