



DECEMBER 2013

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

- TLT trainings in Kyiv in November.
- New contacts made at a mission conference in December.
- Kyiv Christian Academy and Christian teachers who love their students and train them in the ways of the Lord.

Points for prayer

- Political situation in Ukraine—may peace and justice prevail, and people turn to their real King and Lord, Jesus Christ
- Continued spread of Timothy Leadership Training in Ukraine
- Safe travel and meaningful experience for E. European pastors traveling to worship symposium in Grand Rapids in January

Kyiv Connections

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



Christian Reformed
World Missions

1700 28th Street SE Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1407
www.crwmm.org

Merry Christmas!

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his
shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and
peace

there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,

establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

- Isaiah 9:6-7

This text has been taking on new meaning for us this Advent season as protests in the center of Kyiv are entering

their fourth week and don't seem to have an end in sight. We live in a nation (and a world) characterized by corrupt leaders, police that terrorize the people, tax inspectors that are used for political repression of those who oppose the powers that be, leaders who use their position to enrich themselves and their family, and people who live in darkness, without hope or a future.

The protests in Kyiv and in other cities around the nation have given glimmers of hope to people that there might be a better future in sight if they can align themselves with western Europe. People are happier and more energetic. Things might finally change!

Of course, we know that things have already changed because of what happened in a very similar political situation 2000 years ago. Into a world with corrupt political leaders, dishonest tax collectors, soldiers that terrorized the local population, and a king that was even willing to kill all the baby boys two and under to maintain his power a child was born. And His kingdom has no end. He lives and reigns today. Join us in praying for Ukraine—for freedom and political reform, but more than anything that people would come to the real King and enter into the everlasting Kingdom.



May the Prince of Peace fill your hearts and lives with His love and grace at Christmas and all year through!

Contact Information

1700 28th St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
Skype ID: rev.gdv
Email: gdevuyst@crcna.org

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

Elizabeth says...



Have a merry Christmas, and I hope that you have lots of presents!

I'm in first grade at Kyiv Christian Academy and we are learning how to

read. Our school Christmas program is coming up soon and I get to be an angel.

Abigail says...



Merry Christmas!

School is fun. My Mom is my teacher. We have 11 students in the class. 3 are from Korea, 2 are Ukrainian and 6 are American. 4 others are MK's like me. One of the most fun things we did in our class this semester was examining owl pellets. **(Gross!)**

Living in Kyiv is very different from everywhere else I've lived before. The drivers on roads here are totally crazy!

Matthew says...

Hi! Merry Christmas!

School this year is very different than last year. I miss the busy learning at Evergreen Christian in Grand Rapids. I have 11 kids in my class. One is from South Africa and another is from Nigeria (I think). I have three classmates from America. Three are from Ukraine. One is from Kazakhstan. And one is from Korea. My teacher's name is Ms. Childress. She is new to the school like me.



Kyiv is kind of interesting. It has a lot of history. I liked the monastery of the caves.

Our house is decorated for Christmas and I'm looking forward to celebrating Jesus' birth. This Saturday we are having our school Christmas program and we are looking forward to that too. I will be one of the shepherds in the program.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel!

As the year comes to a close we want to make sure that you know how thankful we are for each of you. Without your faithful prayers and support it would be impossible for us to serve God and you here in Ukraine.

As many of you already know, the financial situation at Christian Reformed World Missions has been difficult for

many years already. This has led CRWM to change the fundraising structure for missionaries. In the past we have had to raise about 60% of our annual cost. That number is now raising gradually to 90%. This year we are expected to raise a minimum of 67% of our costs. This means that we need to raise at least \$82,000. As of December 11 we were at 50% of our minimum fund-raising goal. We

would like to ask you to prayerfully consider including our ministry in your year-end giving. Donations can be made via mail to 1700 28th Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508 or online at www.crwm.org/donate. Please designate your gifts for George and Sarah de Vuyst.

Thank You