



MAY 2014

### 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

- We are at peace despite political crisis
- Meaningful TLT in Hungary and Holland
- God's blessings on Mukachevo congregation
- Outpouring of support and encouragement

### Points for prayer

- Peace in Ukraine
- Teachers for Kyiv Christian Academy next school year
- Wisdom and guidance in ministry opportunities

# Kyiv Connections

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



**Christian Reformed  
World Missions**

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## Taking Stock

On April 20 the Christian world celebrated together the glorious resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We gathered with our friends at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church in Kyiv to worship and celebrate. This year the promise of Easter has taken on special meaning for everyone in Ukraine as the threat of war makes everyone take stock again of what is important and permanent.

As the situation in Ukraine deteriorated in February and March we too had to go through our things and decide what had meaning and what could be left behind possibly to never be seen again. It was an experience I never dreamed that we would have to go through.

Looking over the last prayer letter

we sent out at the end of February my head spins thinking of all that has happened since then. Russia illegally annexed the Crimean peninsula on March 16. We left Kyiv to Mukachevo on March 18 because of fears of a Russian invasion. Sarah and the kids decided to return to Kyiv on March 31st since the invasion didn't materialize. I traveled from Mukachevo to Debrecen, Hungary and Zwolle, Netherlands to lead Timothy Leadership Training (TLT) courses. On April 13 I finally returned to Kyiv.

We are thankful for all your prayers and generous support during this highly stressful time for us. We've felt uplifted by the notes and responses to our update. Thank you!

## Timothy Leadership Training

The first two weeks of April were taken up leading trainings in Hungary and Holland.



### Contact Information

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

## 10th Anniversary Celebration in Mukachevo

On March 30 we were privileged to participate in the celebration of 10 years of God's faithfulness to the Christian Reformed Church of Mukachevo. We enjoyed catching up with old friends and meeting several new members of the congregations. Together we had a celebration of thanksgiving for God's grace and faithfulness!



## Culture Corner

Today is May 1st—May Day. It's a big holiday in the former socialist countries of Eastern Europe. May Day, or "International Workers' Day" began as a commemoration of the May 4, 1886 Haymarket shootings in Chicago. Workers were striking for an 8-hour workday. Somebody threw a bomb at the police and the police then opened fire on the striking workers. Four were



killed. European and American socialists held demonstrations in 1890 to commemorate the workers and in 1891 May Day was formally

recognized as a holiday.

In the former Soviet Union May Day was a celebration of the worker and Soviet military might. Maybe you remember the parades on Red Square in Moscow. In post-Soviet Eastern Europe May Day has become more of a family holiday to celebrate the coming of spring by spending time with family outdoors. This is a return to the traditional observance of May Day before the socialists took it over. Even so, political rallies are still commonly held on this day.

## Kyiv Christian Academy—a new CRWM partner

After months of revising a partnership agreement and delays due to unrest in Ukraine, in April Kyiv Christian Academy and CRWM signed a formal partnership agreement. That means that CRWM can now recruit teachers for the school and be involved in other ways as well. For the coming academic year (2014-15) the school is

in need of a secondary English teacher and an ELL teacher. Would you like to come to Kyiv and serve with us? We would love to have you!

Contact CRWM for more information on how to serve as a teacher at KCA.

