



September 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

- Pledges of support in light of new fundraising model
- Great beginning to the school year at KCA
- New relationships with missions and ministries in Kyiv

Points for prayer

- Wisdom to know how to build sound relationships and to not overcommit ourselves.
- Our kids as they adjust to a very different school environment and a new group of kids
- May God's Kingdom come in mighty and transformative ways to Ukraine

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

Prayer, People and Partners

As we are moving into a new season of ministry in Kyiv, Ukraine, we are focusing this coming year on three things: prayer, people and partners.

Prayer is the foundation of our ministry. We pray for clear and fair understanding of the social and religious situation in Kyiv and around Ukraine. We also pray for God to bring the right people into our paths so that together we can form healthy partnerships that bring about the lasting transformation of God's Kingdom. Fundamental to that, we believe, are healthy churches with good leaders engaged in transformational ministry centered around Word and Sacrament and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Some of the people that we have been meeting are other missionaries, especially missionaries sent by Mission to the World and by the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. We have also been getting to know the pastor of the main Evangelical Presbyterian church in Kyiv, Ivan Bespalov. Recently we have been invited to come alongside a Korean Presbyterian missionary,

Pastor Kim Byeongbeom, who has been working for 13 years in Kyiv for his church's mission and for Operation Mobilization. On September 1, George had the privilege of proclaiming God's Word at Pastor Kim's church. Pastor Kim also asked to get together weekly for prayer.



Pastor Kim and his wife, Natasha

Currently our main partner is Russian Ministries and their Ukrainian branch, The Association for Spiritual Renewal (www.russian-ministries.org). ASR is involved in training the next generation of leaders via a program they developed called "School Without Walls." Currently they are training young leaders in all of the nations that once made up the Soviet Union and also in Mongolia.

We hope that as we spend time in prayer and as God directs us into the paths of more people, there will be more opportunities for new and fruitful partnerships.





Contact Information

1700 28th St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

- Email: gdevuyst@crcna.org
- Skype ID: rev.gdv

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



Heading out for the first day of school full of excitement!

On August 22 Abigail, Matthew and Elizabeth began their new school year at Kyiv Christian Academy (KCA). Sarah also began teaching fifth grade. The kids were very excited for their new classes.

Abigail is in fifth grade, so she enjoys having her mom as a teacher. She's also in one of the largest classes—8 girls and 2 boys. Abigail mostly loves making so many new friends!

Matthew has begun third grade. He was worried because he didn't have a teacher at the start of the school-year. The elementary school principal and one of the parents have been filling in for the time being. But thanks to the prayers of many people, his new teacher, Miss Childress, will be arriving in September.

Elizabeth has one of the smallest classes in the school—only six students. But she loves going to school. Her teacher, Mrs. Holm, is from Australia, so she has been learning some of the stories and

rhymes that are common “down under.”

Sarah loves teaching in the classroom and being part of the community at KCA. Her first year is challenging with everything being so new, but we've been impressed with how well the administration communicates and includes the teachers in the decision-making process.



Sarah and Abigail's class—grade 5

Even George has been invited to teach the teachers at KCA! The Association of Christian Schools International requires their teachers to take continuing education in Biblical Studies. George has been invited to be part of a group to lead courses for the teachers.

1025th Anniversary of the Baptism of the Rus

According to church legend, in 988 Prince Vladimir, leader of the Kievan Rus

kingdom, made Christianity the official religion of his realm. This led to the baptism of the nation (if the king chose Christianity, all of his subjects by default also chose Christianity).

On July 28 the Russian and Ukrainian Orthodox world celebrated the 1025th anniversary of this event. Here are a couple of pictures from the prayer service held at Vladi-

mir's hill in Kyiv near where legend says the nobility and then all the people of Kyiv went down to the Dnipro river to be baptized.

