



NOVEMBER 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

- Growing interest in TLT
- Peaceful elections that have put a strong contingent of reformers in power

Points for prayer

- For peace in Ukraine
- For the 5 leaders working to implement their 6 month TLT plans
- For upcoming TLT training on December 17-19 for pastors and students at Grace and Truth Seminary in Kyiv
- Former CRWM missionary Lee Baas will be joining us to conduct three trainings for pastors in crisis care counseling. Pray for his safe travel and these trainings on Nov. 17, 19 and 22.

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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Next Generation Christian Professionals

A key project that we are working on with our partner organization, "Mission Eurasia," focuses on helping young people in the former Soviet Union to develop a healthy, Christian worldview. Young Christian professionals and students have never had the opportunity to learn about what it means to be a Christian in all the different spheres of God's world. On October 4 we were able to co-sponsor and participate in a forum in Chisinau, Moldova that gathered over 500 young people from Moldova, Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. Together with Christian leaders from



around the world we were able to share the biblical basis for seeing our vocation as our mission and to focus on different areas in which Christians can integrate

their faith in their workplaces. Pray that God will be at work in the hearts and minds of these young people so that they can become His agents of transformation in their communities by engaging in their professions from a distinctly Christian perspective.



Worship Symposium (special fund #806028)

On one hand Eastern Europeans have a great history of Christian worship that extends back over a thousand years. On the other hand, compromise and corruption by the Church during the time of the Tsars and under communism have led Protestants to largely ignore questions of worship and liturgy.

Participating in the annual Worship Symposium at Calvin College has helped to rebuild a healthy under-

standing of worship and to challenge many of the misconceptions churches in the region have. This year 5 Ukrainian church leaders received scholarships to attend the Symposium. In Ukraine the average salaries are around \$250 a month take-home, which makes a \$1000 plane ticket outside of the realm of possibility for most. Please consider contributing to help subsidize their airfare by making a donation online at www.crwmm.org/donate.

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

Happy Thanksgiving!

Again this year there is so much to be thankful for. More than anything, we're thankful for God's continued grace and mercy extended to us each new day through his Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ. We're also thankful to be able to be a part of God's mission to our world here

in Ukraine. We want to express our thanksgiving to each and every one of you for your partnership in the gospel. Your prayers and support continue to overwhelm us and fill our hearts with thanksgiving!

Timothy Leadership Training (TLT)

From October 22 to 24 TLT Master Trainer Rev. Robert Spontak and I led the first course, "Caring for God's People" for 5 church leaders from the Kyiv area.

Rev. Mykola Romaniuk of



Irpen Bible Church, a Baptist church of around 500 attenders in a town just outside of Kyiv, quickly saw the potential in this training and has plans to train his 40 small group leaders with these materials over the next 6 months.

Mohammah, a refugee from Iran and a deacon from Holy Trinity Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Kyiv, also participated in the training. He was overwhelmed with the practicality of the training and has plans to introduce it to the leaders of his church as well as to



translate the materials into Persian.

Pray for God to use the plans that these participants made to bring his Kingdom more fully into the lives of these leaders, their families, churches and communities in powerful and unexpected ways.

Update of Current Events

It's hard to begin to describe the events of the past few days, much less the past few months. Ukraine continues to fight a war against Russia. October 26 elections for the parliament cemented a pro-western and pro-reform government. This has led to Putin's ramping up the pressure on Ukraine and the global community. On November 2 the separatists held a farci-

cal election in territories under their control to try to grant themselves some legitimacy. Behind that stand some 30,000 Russian troops massed at the border. So, in all honesty, it looks like things might be getting worse before they get better.

Please continue to lift up Ukraine in your prayers. Please pray for President Poroshenko, Prime Minister Yatseniuk, the new govern-

ment and leaders of the EU, US and Canada. Pray also for Putin and Russia's leadership. These leaders are holding power and what looks to us to be a critical time in the history of the free, democratic "West". How they respond to Putin's aggression may be the basis of life for the foreseeable future for millions, possibly including everyone in Europe and North America.