



SEPTEMBER 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

- A good start to the new school year.
- Celebrating Sarah's "special" birthday!
- God is at work through his church in Ukraine, in the warzone, and caring for refugees.

Points for prayer

- Pray for Peace!
- Pray for Putin—to stop his aggression and for God's miracle of raising him up to new life in Christ.
- Pray for Ukraine's leaders to make wise and godly decisions.
- Pray for the church in Ukraine to be ministers of reconciliation and peace, to care for all during this time of great need.

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

"Normal Life"

"Normal life" has begun in earnest again in the de Vuyst home. On the 21st of August the kids began school (Sarah had to start already on the 14th). George is keeping up with the political situation and working with our partners on several different projects for the fall season. August is also the month that Europe goes on holiday, so not much happens.

This year, however, August was very different. On the 24th Ukraine celebrated its 23rd year of independence from the Soviet Union. Reports claim that this was also the day Russia began

its large-scale invasion of Ukraine. This invasion picked up pace over the past weekend and led us to change our prayer letter. Currently reports say that there are between 15,000 and 20,000 Russian troops fighting in the east of Ukraine.

That said, we want to assure you that we are safe in Kyiv. There is no military activity anywhere near us. We are prepared to evacuate by car on short notice if necessary. And we thank you for your prayers, because without them I don't know how we would ever be able to get through the events of this year.

War and Refugees

Nobody imagined what the small protests at the end of last November would lead to. Now Ukraine has lost the Crimea to Russia and is fighting a war against Russia in two of its eastern provinces. There is great suffering, and loss of life and property.

The situation has led to a refugee crisis in Ukraine that we are responding to through our partners, Peter Deyneka's Russian Ministries, the Association for Spiritual Renewal and World Renew. It is unclear exactly how many internally displaced persons (IDPs) there are currently, but reports say

that there are about 260,000 IDP's in Ukraine and up to 800,000 refugees that have fled to Europe or Russia. Beside the IDPs, there are also hundreds of thousands of people who have not been able to leave their homes and are in need of emergency aid.

Currently World Renew has released \$10,000 in emergency aid to help feed IDP's. We have also launched a fundraising campaign. We are looking into

the possibility to help with short-term housing grants. We also hope to be able to help equip pastors and other leaders with materials and training in pastoral responses in time of crises.

continued....



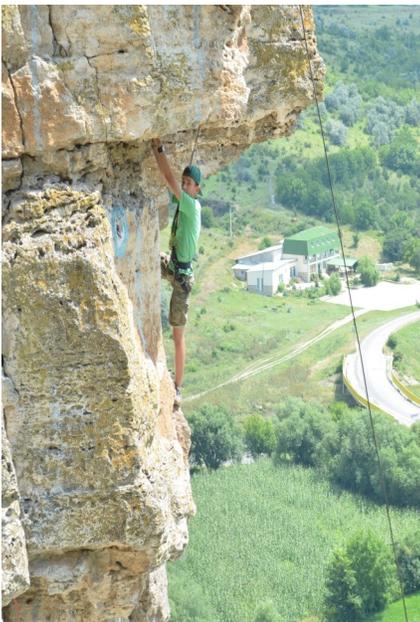
Contact Information

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

Special Projects!

We have five special projects this year for special giving. These are projects that we have proposed for CRWM to support. Some George does directly and others are projects our partners are doing, and still others we are doing together with partners. We hope to highlight one of these projects each month.



How to give

Give online at www.crw.org/donate and choose your country. Then click on “projects Asia and Europe” and then the Ukrainian project you wish to support in the second dropdown list. Send checks to: CRWM, 1700 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1407; or in Canada: 3475 Mainway; PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1; Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8. Please indicate on your check which project you wish to support.

Please pray for the IDP's.

To help financially, World Renew's Ukraine page is found here:

www.worldrenew.net/about-us/news-events/world-renew-reaching-out-displaced-ukraine.

Mark checks “Ukraine conflict 2014” and mail them to either:

World Renew US 1700 28th St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

World Renew Canada 3475 Mainway
P.O. Box 5070 STN LCD
Burlington, Ontario, L7R 3Y8

Ministry Marches On!

In the midst of the war, we still try to continue our ministries. On September 20 there is a round-table about the relationship of the church to the war. The first weekend of October George will be traveling to Chisinau, Moldova to participate in a worldview conference for “Next Generation Christian Professionals”. Around 500 young Christians are expected to participate. The third weekend of October George will be leading a Timothy training in

Kyiv. In November former long-term CRWM missionary, Lee Baas, now with WITS Ministries, is planning to lead a training for pastors and church leaders to help them minister to those suffering from the effects of war. The schedule is filling up fast! We covet and thank you for your prayers for these events, for our lives and relationships in Ukraine, and for our adopted nation and its peace and security.

Extreme Youth Outreach Camps (806030)

Young people in Eastern Europe are, in some ways, very similar to young people everywhere. About 10 years ago ministry leaders in Moldova learned about how to use “extreme” activities to reach out to today's youth. Ever since “extreme camps” during the summer have been using rope courses, rock climbing and other “extreme” sporting events to draw young people out of the city and away from their electronic devices long enough to allow Christian leaders to build relationships with them and share the gospel. Since 2010 extreme camps spread beyond Moldova to Ukraine, Belarus, Tadjikistan, Kazakhstan and Kirgizia.

Through a partnership with the Association for Spiritual Renewal's “School Without Walls” leadership training

program, over 20,000 youth leaders in 14 different countries of the former Soviet Union have the opportunity to be trained in this effective form of outreach.



The cost of providing training to these leaders is budgeted for \$5,000 for this year. We've come alongside this training program and are working to raise up to \$2,400 of the needed funds. These funds are conditional upon our ability to raise them.