

KYIV CONNECTIONS



Prayer Letter of George & Sarah de Vuyst

Serving in Ukraine with Christian Reformed World Missions

Mission & Vision

We envision healthy congregations emerging to bring healing and transformation to lives and communities throughout Ukraine and Eastern Europe's post-communist countries.

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

- Safety in all the traveling
- Abundant ministry opportunities
- Successful end to the school year

Points for Prayer

- God's blessing on the plans pastors wrote as part of their training in pastoral care
- Needed teachers for Kyiv Christian Academy
- Peace in Ukraine, wisdom for the leaders, and continued fight against corruption



The month of April was filled with travels. In mid April we traveled to **Paris, France** for our annual spiritual retreat. It was wonderful catching up with colleagues and being refreshed with Rev. Jack Roeda's insights. Seeing all the kids playing and enjoying themselves together was certainly a highlight of the three days we were there.

After a few days at home in Kyiv George was back on the road. Driving this time to visit churches in **Dunaivsti, Ukraine** (near where the borders of Ukraine, Romania and Moldova meet). He presented the Timothy Leadership Training program (TLT) to church leaders from the Reformed and Baptist churches. From there he was on to **Cluj-Napoca, Romania** for the annual CRWM - Europe planning meetings. CRWM missionaries from Romania, Russia and Ukraine, as well as RCA missionaries from Hungary and the middle east were joined by administrators from North America and local partners from Romania. We discussed the context, ministry needs and opportunities we see to work together to advance God's Kingdom in this part of the world. On the way home George was able to stop in **Mukachevo** to finish editing the next two manuals of the TLT materials as well as to meet with the leaders of the Christian Reformed Church of Mukachevo. They send their greetings to everyone!



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TEACHERS NEEDED

Our school, Kyiv Christian Academy, needs teachers for the coming school year. Perhaps you or someone you know could serve the missionary community in one of these positions:

- 2nd grade
- Secondary science
- Secondary social studies
- Athletic director
- Choir and music teacher
- Finance manager
- Librarian

www.kca.org.ua

More TLT in the War Zone

After 8 hours in the car, our pace slowed to a crawl. There was nothing left of the road to define it as a road. For another two hours we inched closer to the war that has killed over 6,000 people and left 1.2 million displaced. The presence of military was poignant. Faint explosions could be heard from our location 25km from the front line. “Don’t go for a walk,” we were warned, “the fields are mined.”



Pastors serving inside the conflict zone took the risky journey of crossing the frontline to attend Timothy Leadership Training. They were joined by others from outside the conflict for whom the spread of war is a constant threat. It was in this context that our Ukrainian TLT master trainer, Rev. Robert Spontak and George led 23 pastors and church leaders through the pastoral care module, a topic desperately relevant to communities living in crisis.

The Ukrainian Situation

The world continues to be rocked by one disaster after another. We join with the global church community in praying for the people of Nepal and are grateful for the outpouring of support that we have witnessed in the aftermath of this tragedy.



At the same time we continue to live in the reality of the ongoing war in Ukraine. Now, according to official UN statistics more than 1.2 million Ukrainians are internally displaced and another 800,000 have become refugees in surrounding countries. The war continues on a low level. And Ukrainians also desperately need the help of the global community. Please consider a gift to World Renew’s [fund for Ukrainian refugees](http://www.worldrenew.net). (www.worldrenew.net)