

KYIV CONNECTIONS



Prayer Letter of George & Sarah de Vuyst

Engaging People. Embracing Christ.

Our Mission

By God's grace and the Spirit's working we are facilitating the transformation of lives, families, churches and communities in Ukraine and around the world.

Three key ministries are our tools to fulfill this mission.

Healing Hearts, Transforming Nations is a practical event that takes people through a process of healing and reconciliation. We are actively leading these events with partner churches in eastern Ukraine. The International School of Reconciliation and the Eurasian School of Reconciliation are international venues in which we, together with our partners, train others to develop and lead healing and reconciliation ministries in their own contexts.

Timothy Leadership Training Institute equips church leaders to develop healthy congregations and effectively train their own leaders.

In addition to these ministries we are helping facilitate the introduction of **Educational Care** and **Global Coffee Break** to Ukraine and the Russian speaking world.

Upheaval of War

On February 24, Ukraine was turned upside down by the full-scale invasion of Russian forces. The daily news provides pictures of the devastation and mass refugee crisis. Our hearts and minds are constantly in Ukraine. It's hard to be far away from the country we've called home for 25 years.

Most of our colleagues and friends are in Ukraine. Many have sought shelter in safer parts of the country. The church in Mukachevo provides food and housing for those who have fled their homes. Other co-workers are staying put, even though they are in imminent danger. A large poster in our home lists by name the many people we are praying for.



Refugees flee outskirts of Kyiv, 5 miles from where we lived.

The past few weeks have created the opportunity to speak in schools, churches, and more. George has spoken in 2 high schools and a middle school. Sarah has led 3 chapels in middle and elementary school, and Abigail spoke for Calvin University's

chapel service. George shared with the Grand Rapids Rotary, and we have participated in marches and prayer services for Ukraine. We are grateful for the schools, churches and individuals that care for and support Ukraine.



Apartment building shelled in Kyiv

Contact Us

Mailing Address:

5670 S Meadowgrove SE
Kentwood, MI 49512

Cell: 616-290-5478

Email: gdevuyst@crcna.org

Website: www.devuysts.com

Prayer and Praise

Thanksgiving for:

- Our colleagues and friends in Ukraine who are safe
- The response of the church community to the needs of Ukraine
- Your prayers and support

Pray for:

- The end of the war in Ukraine
- Our friends and colleagues who decided to stay in Ukraine - pray for safety and wisdom for them
- The 3.5 million Ukrainian refugees who fled the country
- The 10 million internally displaced people in Ukraine
- The church in Ukraine - that it would be light in the darkness
- The upcoming Healing Hearts, Transforming Nations events - that God would use them to bring healing and reconciliation to our communities
- Our family as we adjust to an uncertain future

Resources on our website: www.devuysts.com

- ❖ Prayer for Ukraine - George provides a prayer for churches.
- ❖ Abigail's Poem - To process her emotions, Abigail wrote a poem on the first day of the war.
- ❖ Support for refugees - World Renew, the humanitarian aid organization of the Christian Reformed Church, is providing assistance to refugees.

More articles and resources are available at resonateglobalmission.org/ukraine-conflict

Future Plans

What does this mean for us? We arrived in the U.S. in June 2021 with the plan to spend one school year in the States to visit churches and introduce the reconciliation ministry in North America. Looking at the uncertain future of Ukraine and our children's educational needs, Resonate has decided to keep us based in the U.S. for another year.



This means that George will continue serving in the global reconciliation ministry - in Europe, Africa, and Lord willing, North America too. He will continue training Ukrainian church leaders in Timothy Leadership Training virtually or in-person when that becomes possible again.

Reconciliation Events in the U.S.

Omicron put a hold on the Healing Hearts, Transforming Nations events planned for January. They have all been re-scheduled. We invite you to experience Healing Hearts, Transforming Nations yourself. The new schedule is:

- ❖ April 24-28 outside Los Angeles, California
- ❖ May 1-5 at Sandy Cove, Maryland
- ❖ May 15-19 in Muskegon, Michigan
- ❖ Sept 7-11 in Sumas, Washington
- ❖ Sept 11-17 (Training of Facilitators) in Sumas, Washington

An updated flyer and registration information can be found on our website, www.devuysts.com.

Updated Mailing Address

Since we'll be in the U.S. for a while yet, you can contact us at our physical address, 5670 S. Meadowgrove Ln SE, Kentwood, MI 49512, or continue to use Resonate's address.