

KYIV CONNECTIONS



Christian Reformed
WORLD MISSIONS
For God. With You. Among the Nations.

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

- The many pastors and leaders implementing TLT Action Plans and bringing transformation to lives and communities around Ukraine

Points for Prayer

- Safe travel to Eastern Ukraine from Nov. 1 - 8.
- Safe travel to the US over Thanksgiving for a long-planned family reunion.
- Wisdom as more and more opportunities for ministry appear - when to say "yes" and when to say "no".

One of the key ministries we are involved in is the Timothy Leadership Training Institute. Over the last two years we have been introducing TLT around Ukraine. Several key groups have completed the first training and have been implementing their Action Plans in their ministries around Ukraine.

I would like to share with you this month about the impact this ministry is making in one church in Donetsk. Recently my friend and newly ordained assistant pastor of the House of the Gospel Baptist church in Donetsk sent me some photos of the work they are doing in the heart of the conflict zone in Eastern Ukraine. What follows on the next page are his pictures and my translation of parts of his letter. He gave me permission to share this with you.



Timothy
INSTITUTE



Yuri in yellow at the TLT training near Donetsk in May



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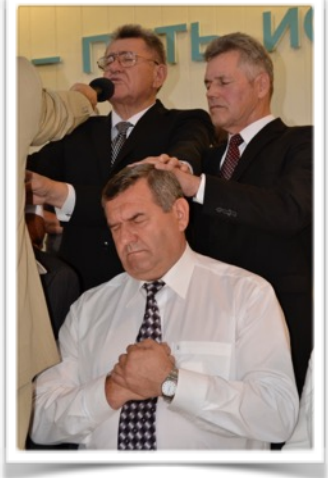
TIMOTHY LEADERSHIP TRAINING - UKRAINE

Thank you for your continued faithful support of our work in Ukraine. The Timothy Leadership Training Institute is our main ministry. Would you like to help make it possible for more pastors to receive this training? Our special Timothy Training fund helps defray the costs of the two and three-day trainings. Donate online at crwm.org/donate. Checks can be mailed to CRWM marked for "Ukraine Timothy Leadership Training, fund code 805832."

Pastor Yuri writes, "I've almost completed two of my plans for Kingdom Change. Many people have returned to church. Now there are about 250 people back and about 200 are still afraid to return. We are doing a great work with those who are living through a very difficult time here. Two times a week we are feeding people – there are many going hungry here in the city. Each time we prepare meals for 200. First we have a Bible study with them and then we feed them.

Before it was a bit easier with foodstuffs. We had the possibility to bring stuff in from Halitsinovka in small vans. There we collected aid from around Ukraine and from Germany. But now the situation has changed and we are forced to purchase all the food here in the city because they no longer allow people to bring foodstuffs across the front lines. Here everything is two to three times more expensive than in Ukrainian controlled areas.

With my church members that are on my list for care I have been able to develop very warm relationships thanks to the plan for Kingdom Change that I made. Some of them the church was able to help financially (its not easy for them in a strange/foreign country). You know George, they literally cried like babies. They were deeply touched to receive this sort of attention from the church. The last person we transferred some money to couldn't even talk to me over the phone – there was a long silence as he choked back tears. I could hear how he was having difficulty breathing. Then he said to me, "You know that just this morning my wife and I prayed about our hopeless situation. We were down to our last 100 hryvnia [about \$5.00] and I was thinking about what



Pastor Yuri's ordination

we needed to buy. I said, 'Lord what do I do? Help!' I myself didn't even imagine that God would so quickly answer my prayer." You know George, I cry myself when I hear these things."

