



Prayer letter of George & Sarah de Vuyst  
 Serving with Christian Reformed World Missions in Ukraine

December 2012

 **Christian Reformed  
 World Missions**  
 2850 Kalamazoo Ave. SE  
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**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**

- George's continuing education program is enjoyable and applicable for ministry
- New partnership forming between World Missions and Donetsk Christian University for advancement of Christian education in Ukraine
- Encouraging visits with our partner churches
- Good health care as we get everything checked out before we return to Ukraine

**Points for prayer**

- Process of developing a partner relationship with the Association for Spiritual Renewal in Kyiv
- Safety as we travel this winter to visit churches

**A Year of Transitions**

**Transitions in Ministry**

We had the blessing of transitioning the congregation in Mukachevo into the hands of a capable, local pastor. Pastor Robert is a servant-leader who places God's will above cultural expectations. We are confident that God will continue to bless the Christian Reformed Church in Mukachevo and use the congregation to transform lives and communities.



Robert Shpontak

**Transitions in Location**

In July we transitioned from Ukraine to

the United States for our scheduled home service. In addition, George is participating in a continuing education program. During this extended home service the children are able to attend Christian school. Despite their homesickness for Ukraine, the children quickly made new friends and the school has been a perfect fit for our family.

**Transitions in the Future**

Ahead of us is yet another transition. In May, George will return to Ukraine with Sarah and the children following at the end of June. From our new location, Kyiv, George will extend Timothy

Leadership Training throughout Ukraine. Sarah will teach 4th grade and



the children will attend Kiev Christian Academy.

**God with Us**

Through all the transitions we know God has been with us. He has provided Pastor Robert to lead the church in Mukachevo and blessed us with a great school for the children. God has surrounded us with partnering churches and individuals who encourage and enable us to continue serving in Ukraine. As we face a new year and more transitions, we look forward to witnessing more lives and communities transformed by the good news of Emmanuel – for indeed God is with us!

**DEVUYSTS.COM**  
 Our ministry website is a great place to read more stories, check out past prayer letters, see pictures, and watch videos!

## Home Service Contact

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More stories and pictures at  
[www.devuysts.com](http://www.devuysts.com) and  
[www.devuysts.blogspot.com](http://www.devuysts.blogspot.com)

## Plans for Life and Ministry: Part Two

Continuing our series on specific prayer requests for our future life and ministry, this month we are highlighting **community mapping**. After moving to Kyiv one of the projects George plans to begin is to investigate what ministries/organizations are already in Kyiv

and what they are involved in. We can be most effective in Ukraine when we don't repeat what someone else is doing but come together to offer more holistic ministry in partnership with other churches and organizations already active in Ukraine.

## Family Stories



**Elizabeth**, 5, continues to be our energetic kindergartener who embraces

school, toys, and friendships with everything she can muster.

**Matthew**,

7, has "go to Mukachevo" on his Christmas wish list but is

glad to be in the States because he has friends to play with and everyone has heard of Star Wars. During the day you'll find him diligent at school and in the afternoon playing at a friend's house.



**Abigail**, 9, makes us very thankful for health insurance. She's had

appointments to examine her life-long stomach problems (process of elimination leaves us with reflux), curvature of her spine, a cross-bite in her jaw, and an ER trip for pneumonia. When not in a doctor's office, Abigail loves school and has made some great friends. She has decided that she wants to be a Bible translator when she grows up.

**Sarah** is experiencing the new

phenomenon of time as her own. Instead of home-schooling this year, she is volunteering at school and preparing to teach 4<sup>th</sup> grade in Kyiv by taking an online course and lesson planning.

**George** took advantage of having a golf course 1/2 mile away and was able to play more than



## SARAH'S BLOG

To follow more personal, family updates check out our blog at  
[www.devuysts.blogspot.com](http://www.devuysts.blogspot.com)!

## Home Service Schedule

Dec 30	Silver Spring CRC	Silver Spring, MD
Jan 6	Kinsman UMC	Kinsman, OH
Jan 13	South Bend CRC	South Bend, IN
Jan 27	Cutlerville East CRC	Grand Rapids, MI
Feb 10	Highland CRC	Marion, MI
Feb 17	Baldwin Street CRC	Jenison, MI
Mar 17	Cadillac CRC	Cadillac, MI
April 7	Bradenton CRC	Bradenton, FL
April 14	South Kendall	Miami, FL

his average of 3 games of golf a year. Most days you will find him at a local hospital as an intern chaplain as part of his continuing education program. He is enjoying the change in work environment and learning new skills to apply to ministry in Ukraine.

