



# Manna Messenger

Mike & Judy Manna, Youth Ministry Trainers  
Eastern Europe Director, Youth Ministry International

Letter # 9  
February 2003

**Mailing Address:** Майк МАННА, Київ 73, А/Я 12, Київ, 04073, Ukraine  
**Support address:** YMI, Box 80-885, 2825 Lexington Rd., Louisville, KY 40280  
**Email:** manna@youthdiscipler.com      **Website:** www.youthdiscipler.com

"It does not matter where He places me or how.

That is rather for Him to consider than for me. For the easiest positions He must give grace; and in the most difficult **His grace is sufficient.**

"So, if God places me in great perplexity, must He not give me much guidance?"

In positions of great difficulty, much grace?

In circumstances of great pressure and trial, much strength?

As to work, mine was never so plentiful, so responsible, or so difficult; but the weight and strain are all gone.

His resources are mine, for He is mine."

Hudson Taylor, Missionary to China (1832-1905)

"It does not matter where He places me ..." *from Mike*

It is one thing to say these words, but it is another thing to believe them. I found this quote from Hudson Taylor (on the left), and I was deeply touched by the truth of his words. During these past few months of living in Kiev, I have been stripped of my own self-sufficiency and have had to rely on the Lord's resources.

We have not had great trials or persecution, but we are starting our lives over again. I can't rely on my former gifts or abilities. We are learning a new language, a new culture, developing new friends, and a whole new way of life. During our sixth month of being here, I had to deal with some personal "culture shock." BUT God is faithful! He drew me into His arms and seemed to say, "This is the way I want you. Only when you have given up, can I use you here." I became very teachable when I was weak, and the scriptures are my guide.

## New Housing Need

We are beginning a search for new housing. Our rental contract is up in June, and we are not sure if we can (or want to) renew it. Now that we have gotten to know the city and our futures here a little better, we are hoping to relocate to the other side of the city. We will be farther from the kids' school, but close to the language school and the seminary where Mike will be teaching. We are also hoping to find a larger apartment. The size of our current apartment is sufficient for our family, but we are very limited in having others over. The kitchen and living room are quite small. We believe that the best use of finances would be to purchase an apartment. We will need to put 50% down on the \$45,000 probable purchase price. We should be able to finance the rest of the cost with a loan which our monthly support



Mike and translator, Lyena, introduce newly translated youth ministry training material to youth leaders in Lviv.

When I have had opportunities to share with youth and youth leaders, I have sometimes shared the following story: We live on the eighth floor of our Soviet-style apartment building in Kiev. Our elevator often has an odor in it to remind you who has been there before you. You can tell if someone has been

*Continued on back*



Judy, Laura (missionary), and Bucha youth leaders (Yulya, Sergey and Tima) in our living room.

designated for housing will cover. We currently have \$5,000 from the sale of our home in Belle Fourche. If this is an area you would like to help us in, you can send a gift to Youth Ministry International and designate it Manna Housing.



### See photos of our life in Ukraine online!

Please visit our website at [www.youthdiscipler.com](http://www.youthdiscipler.com) to see pictures of our ministry and family the past 7 months we have been here. You can also see this newsletter in full color!



**High School & College Students – Join us this summer in Crimea!** We will be taking a group of students from Atonement Lutheran Church in Jamestown, ND to teach evangelistic English classes from July 1-19. There is still room on this missions trip. Check out details on our website and contact us immediately if you are interested!

**NEW Youth Ministry Department approved by Kiev Theological Seminary! Mike will teach and develop in Fall of 2003!**

#### **Past Youth Ministry Training Events**

- Oct. 17 Relational Youth Ministry Class
- Nov. 7 Youth Leader's Prayer Meeting (Chernivtsy)
- Nov. 9 Youth Leader's Seminar (Lviv)
- Nov. 30 Kiev Youth Leader's Seminar
- Dec. 5 Introduction to Ukrainian Regional Youth Leaders
- Jan. 11 Speaker at All-Kiev Youth Group Christmas Program
- Jan. 19 Crimea Summer Missions Trip 2003 Planning (Alushta)
- Feb. 8 Ukrainian Regional Youth Leaders Meeting

### **"It doesn't matter ..."** – continued

smoking, drinking or even if they had their dog with them. So, I decided to improve the situation by placing an air freshener in the elevator. People enjoyed it for 2 days until someone decided they needed it in their apartment more than we did in our elevator.

This situation reminded me of 2 Cor. 2:15, "For we a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing." Even though I can't speak to the people that God has called me to yet, I can be "the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place." (v.14) That is, if I allow

### **"I'm OK, Mom"** from Judy

Since my big bout with homesickness and culture shock after we'd been here for about 4 months, I have been able to see Kiev with new eyes and begin to wrap my heart around my new home. I have grown to appreciate Kiev, especially when we have some time to explore. Christmas break was great!

We are very busy. Mike and I travel an hour each way to and from our school. We take public transportation, so are able to have good study time on the Metro (subway). Language school, travel, and homework usually take up 8-9 hours a day. For me, any spare time is spent shopping (which is a very different experience than in America), keeping house, and being a mom. It seems I am always so tired—largely due to the constant mental strain of learning a new language, I'm sure. We do have a dear 52-year old lady come in and cook supper twice a week. She also shops for those meals. This has been such a help to me and a blessing to us all, as Leda is a great cook. She also provides us our best language practice since she does not know any English.

Our job this year is language study, though Mike is setting up the youth major at Kiev Theological Seminary for next year. The Russian language is extremely difficult. We have come so far, but we can still say so little. Each day we learn a little bit more. We all (the kids, too) do very well with basic language needed in the grocery stores or on the street, but we can't have any type of meaningful conversation yet. Even when we think we are communicating one thing, we may actually be saying quite another! For example:

Him to work through me, and not get in the way myself. In my elevator, I could tell who had been there before I had gotten on — just by a smell! My desire is that people can sense Christ in me by my aroma. Paul speaks of real affliction in the previous verses of 2 Corinthians. Can we smell of "Christ" without trials in our lives? My guess is that God knows what he is doing in stripping me of my own self-sufficiency. My prayer is that it is not wasted, that I will learn from these past few months, and that He will be seen in me to the Ukrainian people. Please pray for this along with me.

One dark night soon after Christmas, I was hit by a car on our own sidewalk. (I haven't even told my mom about this!) I was dressed in black with my back to a car who was evidently parked on the sidewalk and quickly backed out. I didn't see or hear anything, but was suddenly flying through the air and landed in a heap (only about 4 or 5 feet...barely even bruised, Mom.) I didn't even know what had happened, but screamed when I realized it was a car and he might be backing right over me. The driver stopped and got out, wondering if I was OK. I was so shocked and frightened that I responded to him *angrily*...in English! I then felt badly and tried to apologize, this time in Russian, saying, "I'm sorry. I was scared." Later I found out from my friend, Sergey, that simply because of using the incorrect form of the word "I," I had said instead, "I'm sorry. I'm ugly." Oh dear. No wonder the man looked a little confused.

Our kids are doing very well. They have days when they think there is no way they can last without seeing family and friends, but overall they have been so very positive. They continue to hold on to the comfort that God brought us here, and His reasons include them. They are doing well with the transition from home schooling to Christian school. It is tough academically, and they work very hard... homework abounds! They just got report cards back, and they were excellent. They are making good friends at school, and we enjoy the tales of the day around the dinner table. I'm thrilled to report that laughter is commonly heard in our home again. We are adjusting and growing. If you've been praying, thank you!