



Letter # 20 January 2006

# Manna Messenger

Mike & Judy Manna, Eurasia Director, Youth Ministry International

**Mailing Address:** Mike & Judy Manna  
Dragomanova 17, kb. 149  
Kiev, 02068  
Ukraine

**Email:** [mikemannafamily@yahoo.com](mailto:mikemannafamily@yahoo.com)

**Support Address:** Youth Ministry International  
1300 Envoy Circle Suite 1306  
Louisville, KY 40299

**Websites:** [www.youthdiscipler.com](http://www.youthdiscipler.com)  
[www.ukraineorphans.com](http://www.ukraineorphans.com)

## From Mike and Judy

We send you our love and wish you all a Happy New Year! Once a year, we like to send the kids' school pictures and devote the newsletter to them. On the second page is a picture of each of Mike's youth ministry students, along with an arrow showing where they live in Ukraine.

Are you receiving our emails? In our group emails, we tell the personal stories of our lives here. There isn't room to share in a newsletter the real stories of life and ministry in Ukraine. In our recent emails, we have shared much about Katya and the joys and struggles of bringing a 9 yr. old child into the family. This week, I'll be writing about a conversation I had with her sister, Olya, where I broached the subject of adoption for the first time. Write to us at our email address: [mikemannafamily@yahoo.com](mailto:mikemannafamily@yahoo.com) and we'll add you to our list.

Any of our former emails along with lots of pictures are located at our website: [www.youthdiscipler.com](http://www.youthdiscipler.com). We just posted pictures of our trip to Katya's home—very primitive. Please take a look!

### Can you run a cow for our support?

Ranchers, if you are interested in taking care of a cow for our support, please contact Bruce Brunner at 605-456-1665 or by email at [brucebrunner@hotmail.com](mailto:brucebrunner@hotmail.com).

## Our Greatest Treasures from Judy

The children are another year older. It hurts to realize that they will soon be raised and will leave home ... traveling far, far away from home! We have only a year and a half left with Mandie. She has been a joy to raise.

**Mandie** is a gentle and stable young lady. School has never been easy for her, but she compensates with diligence and patience, sitting many hours at her desk each night to study and do her assignments. She has attained good grades. Sports has always been a favorite outlet for Mandie. Soccer is done for the year, and she is now enjoying basketball. Mandie is also gifted musically. She has a wonderful guitar teacher here in Kiev, and she has learned to play very well. She is currently writing a song entitled, "Undivided Heart." Mandie has consistently demonstrated an undivided heart to the Lord. Her decisions and actions flow from her love for Him.



Mandie, Junior, 17 yrs.



Luke, 8th grade, 14 yrs.

**Luke** is in the 8th grade. At the end of last year, he was chosen by his teachers to receive the "Outstanding Middle School Student of the Year" award. He is a gifted student and athlete. Luke is also a good friend and a loving son and brother. He brings much laughter to our home. When planning an outing, even Mandie's friends occasionally say, "You can bring Luke if you want." He recently started taking saxophone lessons, and he's already playing along with music on his stereo. Luke, too, is committed to the Lord. When I go into his room to say good-night, I usually find him reading his Bible. He strives to live his life for Jesus.

**Sammie**—how do I describe Sammie? She is simply a sweetheart! I have had the privilege of home schooling her this year, and I feel like I am only beginning to discover who my daughter really is. She, too, has a deep love for the Lord, and His love makes her shine from the inside out. She is still a little girl, dreaming mainly about horses. An avid reader, Sammie has many grand adventures through the world of books. Her dream has become reality in that she is taking English horseback riding lessons every other week. They are the highlights of her life. Sammie loves to chat as we go about our day. I'm going to deeply miss her cheerful company, kind heart, and helpful hands when she goes back to school next year.



Sammie, 5th grade, 11 yrs



Katya, 1st grade, 9 yrs.

**Katya**—what a beautiful child! She's so full of life and love and newly acquired English words! She has come SO far in learning to speak, read, and write in English. Katya has spent the last two weeks with her family, and we have truly felt her absence. Our home has been too calm and quiet without her! We are looking forward to bringing her back. Katya is an extremely affectionate child, often pausing along her bouncy way to give Mommy and Daddy a hug and a kiss. She has grown so much obedience and thoughtfulness. Jesus has made a BIG difference in Katya's life. She has a true passion for Him, ever thanking Him for her new life and family.