



# Manna Messenger

*Missionary Appointees to Ukraine as  
Youth Ministry Trainers with Youth Ministry International*

Letter # 3  
March/April 2001

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## Our Schedule

### March 11 – 11 am

Prairie Home Church,  
Maurine, SD

### March 25 – 10:30 am

Nisland Community Church,  
Nisland, SD

### April 2-3

Mike & Judy travel to Ukraine

### April 4-7

Mike & YMI Board Member  
conduct Youth Pastors Training  
in Kyiv

### April 8-17

Mike, Judy & YMI Director plan  
future move in Kyiv

### April 29 – 10:45 am

Nemo Community Church  
Nemo, SD

### May 13 – 11:00 am

CMA Church  
Highmore, SD

### July 26 – Nov. 15

Our family attends Center For  
Intercultural Training in Union  
Mills, NC

## Mandie Muses

We have some big changes coming up in our lives. We have all been home schooled, beginning when I was in the first grade. In July we will be going to Union Mills, NC. It is a town of about 500 people. Mom and Dad will be in a missionary training school there. Since they will be in classes, we will go to a small public school. I am excited! We will come back to Belle Fourche around Nov. 20.

We would like to be in Ukraine by January or February, when our new Christian School for missionary kids will begin its second term. It is called New Hope Christian School, and they will also teach us Russian. Mom and Dad will again be in school—language school!

Some people have asked me if I am excited to go to Ukraine. I tell them that I am, but I don't want to leave my family and friends. I am excited about living in a new country, doing new things, and meeting new people. But I feel like packing my friends and family in my suitcase so they can come with me! I know this is God's plan for my life. I am living for the Lord, and I want to do what He wants me to. (Mandie turns 13 on April 20th.)



## Luke Looks Ahead

We will learn Russian when we go to Ukraine. I am happy and sad to leave. I am going to miss everybody. It is going to be hard to leave our home, our church, our friends, our grandparents, our uncles, our aunts, our cousins, our pets... I'm glad that I don't have to give up soccer because that is the most popular sport in Ukraine. The girls will have to give it up because they don't have girls' soccer. We kids and Mom are looking forward to spending time with babies and children in the orphanages of Kyiv. (Luke is 9. His birthday is November 10th.)



## Samantha Says

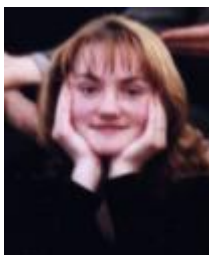
(Dictated to Judy) "I am moving to Ukraine. I will miss Katie and Chance (our dogs) so much. Mommy might not let me have a puppy in Ukraine because we will live in a little apartment. I think I could have a kitty. Litter boxes don't stink, really. Right, Mom? I am looking so forward to going Ukraine. But I will miss my friends – especially Akela and Austin. I think that's all, Mom. Yeah, I'm done." (Sammie turns 7 on April 3rd. Sadly, we will miss her birthday this year. That is the day Mike and I will arrive in Kyiv for our visit.)



### EMAIL ALERT

We write an email letter between each newsletter. The last one was entitled "What About the Dogs?" Please send your email address. Email us at [manna@youthdiscipler.com](mailto:manna@youthdiscipler.com).

## Youth Culture in Ukraine: A Chat with Oksana



Oksana Tin-Shan

Mike's translator  
for the April conference of  
new youth leaders in Kyiv

In preparation for my upcoming Youth Ministry Seminar in Kyiv, Ukraine, and our future life there – I asked Oksana Tin-Shan, my translator, some questions about youth culture in Ukraine. Her answers were interesting.

*Mike: Who are Ukrainian youth's heroes?*

Oksana: As I communicate with my group-mates at the University I can say that most of them appreciate the lifestyle and activity of famous singers or actors (models-for girls)—mostly foreign ones, not Ukrainian or Russian. Young people like their songs or films, and look for new information about their lives. I cannot tell if youth try to follow their examples, but it seems they consider even celebrities' immoral deeds to be normal. They think everything their favorites do is OK. There are young people who are really addicted to music. Those are usually fans of hard music. These ones really try to imitate their idols' behavior, clothes and manner of speaking. They think this music is the best one.

*Mike: What do Ukrainian youth do with their*

*free time?*

Oksana: Nowadays a lot of young people have plenty of spare time. And as it seems to me, they spend it for nothing. Many of them just wander the streets with their companions—smoking, sometimes drinking. Some (who have more money) go to the clubs, discos. I think one of the reasons is that it's very difficult to find a job in our country, and if you want to study in higher school (institute, academy or university) you must pay money (though education is considered to be free in our country). So, if your parents don't have enough money to pay for your studying in the institute, you just sit at home watching TV days and nights or walking with friends. And as a result of that, there are many young thieves and burglars now. They like entertaining themselves in clubs, discos, theatres, concerts of famous singers.

*Please pray for the youth of Ukraine and the new youth leaders in the churches.*

## Spokes in a Wheel from Judy

We received loving encouragement from our last letter about my struggles over raising support. We are so blessed with dear, understanding friends!

The Lord also dealt with my heart early one morning while I was praying with a mental picture of a wheel. I suddenly realized that much of my personal struggle over raising support was because I was thinking of ourselves as “the big wheel” that the Lord would use to bring His Word to certain Ukrainians. Instead, we are simply a spoke in this “wheel.” Each of our supporters is an individual “spoke” in the wheel. YMI is a spoke. STEER Inc. is a spoke. Our prayer warriors are each a spoke. I realized that our family's responsibility is simply to obey God's leading and go. Many of you are being led to send us there. We will each be faithful to our own part, and we will share together in the eternal rewards some day of Ukrainian souls that have been won for Christ.

Look at the charts to the left and see what the Lord has done! The financial aspects of

this move seemed daunting, but it is happening! The finances for our trip to Ukraine in April are covered. The tuition costs (not the living expenses) for our training in NC this fall are covered. We pray that our monthly cash pledges will cover our living expenses (appx. \$—/month) by July when we have to leave our church. We thank God that He delights in showing us His ability to provide the seemingly impossible! We'll keep going.

If you are interested in supporting our ministry, checks can be sent directly to : Youth Ministry International, Box 80-885, 2825 Lexington Rd, Louisville, KY, 40280-0004. **Please designate gifts as a monthly pledge or as an outgoing expense for the Manna Family.** If possible, please write the designation on a separate piece of paper and not on the check itself for IRS tax purposes. All monthly pledges until July 1st will go into our outgoing expense account. All gifts are tax-deductible and extremely appreciated!