



Letter # 13

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Manna Messenger

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Tima will be coming to Trail's End Ranch

No one helped us settle into this country more than Tima Anohin, and now we have a special opportunity to help him. Tima is 24 years old and one of the youth leaders at the Bucha Church. The church recently bought a former Communist propaganda camp and plans to convert it into a Christian camp and orphanage. Tima will be one of the leaders of that camp. Training for camp leaders in Ukraine is very limited, so Trail's End Ranch in Ekalaka, MT, has invited Tima for a 4 month internship at the camp. Last month we helped him apply for and receive a U.S. visa, and we purchased his plane ticket. Tima will be at the camp from mid-April to the end of July. Trail's End is excited to be equipping a future Ukrainian camp director.

Have you looked at our website lately?

We try to update our website at www.youthdiscipler.com regularly with photos of our life and ministry in Ukraine. Our bi-monthly emails may also be found there. If you'd like to receive them personally, please tell us ... manna@youthdiscipler.com.

Coming Out of the Gray

from Judy

It's a foggy, cloudy day here in Kiev, as are most winter days from the beginning of November through March. The sun rarely breaks through the thick cloud cover. It's 32 degrees and the clouds are spitting a mixture of snow and rain. As I look out our 10th floor living room window, the city below appears quite dismal. Gray or tan buildings surround us. The small patches of ground that are not covered by concrete still have no grass and there are no leaves on the trees. Therefore our winter landscape all blends together a bit...the buildings, streets, sidewalks, and the gray morning sky. But our building is red brick. Oh, how thankful we feel for this bit of color amidst the gray! And our apartment has become very lovely in the past few weeks, providing a place of warmth, peace, and a feeling of "home."

Mike and his students are covering "Youth Culture" this semester at the seminary. He is

Surviving our Second Flood from Mike

If you have received our emails, you know that on the final day of the remodeling from our first apartment flood, we experienced one of the most frightening nights of our lives. At 2:00 am on Dec. 18, we were awakened by the sound of our doorbell and found hot water gushing from a burst hose on the bathroom sink. We had over 2 inches of hot water throughout our entire first floor! The water once again damaged the apartment below us. We had just paid for major remodeling from the first flood. It felt like such an attack from our enemy.

Judy fell in the water, landing on her head, and needed stitches at the emergency room after the clean-up. When we returned at 5:30 am, our apartment building's entrance guard, Alla, was there to comfort us. Judy cried while Alla held her in her arms. Alla is like a



View from one of our apartment windows. Our church is circled and seen in the middle of the buildings. Hope Church is one of our youth ministry training churches, where our students get "hands-on" practice.

teaching them how to evaluate their own youth culture. He is also learning a lot about Ukrainian youth from their discussions in class. It's interesting how much American culture has effected Ukraine's youth through movies, music, media, and internet. Mike is still in language school 4 mornings a week, and supervises his 3 YMI Ukrainian staff members, so he is plenty busy. Lately, he has

continued on back

babooshka (grandma) to us.

We have now finished the second remodeling and our hearts have healed. It was a very discouraging time, but God led us through it. Many of you were instrumental in encouraging us—thank you ever so much!



Judy with our apartment building's entrance guard, Alla.

Coming Out of the Gray - continued

been meeting with the seminary faculty as they plan to start a non-residential youth ministry program next year.



Mike with his Russian language class. Mike continues to study 4 days a week and teaches the youth ministry courses at the seminary 2 days a week.

Sammie is learning to read and write in Russian this year. At New Hope the children practice only Russian *speaking* until 3rd grade because some children's English reading and writing skills have been harmed when Russian reading and writing skills have been introduced too soon. Many of the letters look like ours but say different sounds, for example their small cursive "g" makes a "d" sound, small "m" says "t", etc.

Luke and Mandie are both playing basketball now, so we attend a lot of games. These are fun "breaks"

for us to be American, fellowshiping with American missionary friends and speaking (or cheering) in English. Luke, in his first year of middle school basketball, has progressed from playing only a minute or two in games to playing much more. He has grown to love it.

Mandie is a starter on the high school girls' team, playing wing or point guard. She recently had quite an adventure, as New Hope played in a Christian school tournament in Budapest, Hungary! New Hope rented a bus and took both the boys' and girls' high school BB teams. They left on a Wednesday night and came

home on a Sunday-a 20 hour overnight bus trip both ways. They stayed at the Word of Life castle outside the city. They had a wonderful trip and both boys' and girls' teams placed 2nd in the tournament against missionary academies from Budapest, Vienna (Austria), Bucharest (Romania), and Moscow (Russia). Missionary kids from all the teams enjoyed meeting each other.

I, Judy, am back in language school, but in a new class that only meets 2 days a week. This schedule allows me time to process and practice what I've learned between classes. I feel like I'm progressing faster and better than when I attended 4 days a week! Our family is making progress in understanding and speaking Russian. Tonight Mandie and I chatted with a stranger for 20 minutes. It is such an encouragement to finally be at this level; still ever so basic and with many grammar mistakes, yet communicating! Thank you for your prayers in this regard.

We have such a wonderful support team! Thank you for your faithful gifts, prayers, and notes of love and encouragement. We hope to see many of you while we are home this summer. For now, we send our love along with a great big hug! Your encouragement has helped us to keep trusting the Lord when circumstances have been tough. You are very, very special to us! Thanks, everybody!

We will be in the states from June 1-August 22 to share at churches and visit family and friends.

The Manna Kids



Mandie (16 years old on April 20th)

Mandie is attending her first high school banquet with a date this week. Her Aunt Mary from Washington made her dress and shipped it to her. She is growing up to be a beautiful young lady both outside and in. She alternates between attending an American youth group and a Ukrainian youth group every week.



Luke (12 years old)

Luke is in 6th grade and does very well in school. He also loves sports and friends. Recently he was invited to stay the night at Caleb's house, a classmate from Taiwan. He came back saying, "You're a good cook mom, but last night's Chinese dinner was the best food I have ever eaten." Luke continues to grow taller and has passed both his sister and mother.



Samantha (10 years old on April 3rd)

Samantha had the fun of having 2 puppies stay at our home for the past two weeks. Mandie and her friend found them outside a metro station on a very cold night and brought them home. Samantha loves animals and had a great time playing with them. We were lucky enough to find homes for both of the puppies. We are quite content to have only one dog in the house again.