



Letter # 28 September 2008

Manna Messenger

Mike & Judy Manna, Eurasia Director, Youth Ministry International

Mailing Address: Mike & Judy Manna
17 Dragomanova, kb. 149
Kyiv 02068 UKRAINE

Email: kievmanna@yahoo.com (Mike)
judy.manna@yahoo.com (Judy)

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

Website: www.youthdiscipler.com

Ukraine Youth Ministry Classes—Fall 2008

Aug 25—Sept 4, Kyiv
Youth Missions (Mike)

Sept 8—18, Kyiv
Youth Discipleship (AmP)

Sept 15—19, Rivne
Principles of Youth Ministry (UkrT)

Sept 22—26, Rivne
Camp Programming (UkrT)

Sept 22—Oct 2, Kyiv
Youth Ministry Programming (UkrT/Mike)

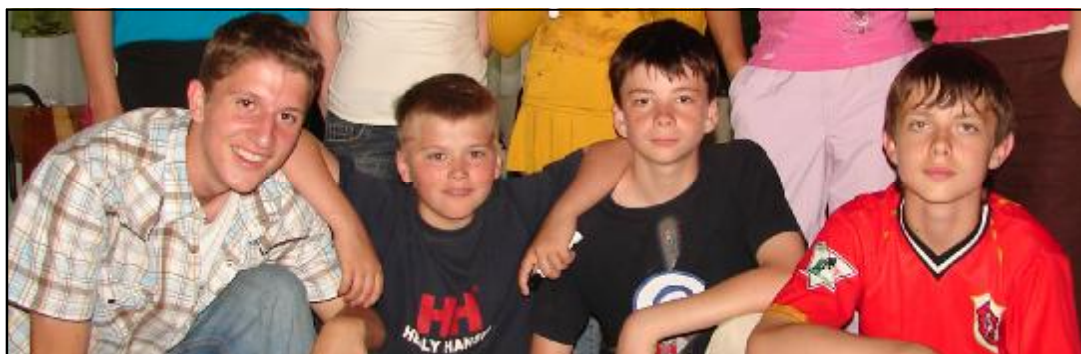
Oct 6—16, Kyiv
Principles of Youth Ministry (Mike)

Nov 17—21, Rivne
Youth Communication (AmP)

(Mike) - Mike teaches
(AmP) - American Professor
(UkrT) - Ukrainian Teacher

South Dakota Teens Minister in Ukraine from Luke Manna, 16 years old

School has started here in Ukraine. The summer with all of its experiences and freedoms already feels long gone, but the memories live on. My favorite summer memory is the English camp missions trip to Lutsk with the group from South Dakota. I had the great pleasure of joining this trip even though I did not have to fly from the States. God did some amazing things at camp that you don't see every day. As I think back on the trip, I see the faces of many 10-16 year old kids changing. I can only imagine what this camp looked like in God's eyes.



Luke with three teenagers from his class at English camp: Kostya, Dima, and Igor.

The South Dakota group flew in on June 10th, and we spent four days in Kiev. My dad did a history tour that gave everyone a good perspective of Ukrainian culture. Then we started learning how to teach the English classes. Even though teaching English wasn't our main purpose, we wanted to do a professional job. Before we left Kiev, we did something fun with the Americans who had no language ability. We wanted them to know what it is like to live in a foreign country when you can't speak or understand the language. Therefore, we dropped them off in a "reenok" or bazaar within walking distance from our apartment. We told them, "Here's fifty hryven (\$10 in Ukrainian currency). Go and buy your lunch for the train." They all had interesting stories to share, but the best was Aaron Mednansky and his group coming back with a BIG sack of nuts that cost 85 hryven (about \$17). They thought the price was 8 hryven per kilogram (1000 grams), but actually it was 8 hryven per 100 grams!

Continued on back page

Ukraine Center for Youth Ministry Brochure Enclosed

We have included our recruitment brochure which is distributed all over Ukraine with this newsletter. We translated into English so that you could read it and pray for our students this school year.

20 Youth Ministry College Courses to be Taught this Year in Ukraine

From Mike

On the left sidebar you will see this semester's courses in Youth Ministry which we are responsible for in Ukraine. It is amazing that God has brought us this far in training youth leaders here. These classes will be taught at Kyiv Theological Seminary, and Rivne Bible College. We also hope to open a new location in Khmelnytsky Region's Center for Biblical Training which is the headquarters for Precept Ministries (Kay Arthur's Inductive Bible Studies) in Ukraine. Vasya Ostriy will actually be the director in both of the Western Ukraine locations. I am still pretty busy teaching, but I have a great team assisting me including our Ukrainian graduates. I am starting to phase into the coaching stage of our ministry. In total, we have 50 students studying in Kyiv as well as 50 additional students in Rivne. Thus, 100 Ukrainian youth leaders will be studying in either an Associates Degree or Bachelors Degree Youth Ministry major this school year. Thank you for your support in making this happen.

South Dakota Teens in Ukraine - continued

After the days of preparation in Kiev, we boarded a “platscar,” which basically is a train car with door-less coupes. It was great talking and playing with friends that I hadn’t seen for a long time. It was also fun introducing Zach Stoddard, my best friend in Kiev, to them. Zach came on the trip with us. We rode the train for about 9 hours to Lutsk, where Dad (who had driven there in the van) and two of his students picked us up. We had a day to get ready for the camp. It didn’t take long for us to become one big team with the Ukrainian leaders and counselors seeking the same goal — building relationships with the campers and praying for their salvation.

The morning the campers arrived was quiet until BOOM! Sixty energetic campers flooded out of a bus ready to learn and have fun. After doing a simple quiz to discover each camper’s level of English, the camp was ready to begin. Each day we had two English lessons and an American sports session where the campers played baseball, volleyball, football, or Frisbee Golf. There were meals, camp games, and free time. Five local churches took turns leading the night programs. These programs accomplished two very important things: 1) sharing the gospel to the campers and, 2) introducing campers to these churches’ youth ministries.

In the night programs, the campers heard about different vices that entangle a person, but they also heard how to find freedom. They heard about Jesus Christ, our Savior, who humbled Himself before all of HIS creation and died so their sins could be forgiven. There were two nights where kids had an opportunity to repent. Around 24 of them made the decision to give their lives to Christ. I have been completely changed by this experience. I realized that it wasn’t just the words that had such a big affect on the kids. Throughout the week, the campers understood that we truly loved them. Many of them saw through the love; they saw that it actually wasn’t our love but Christ’s! It is such an encouragement to see what living a life for Christ can do. A verse popped up at least twice in the time we were there, and I think it spells out *why* these results occurred. Colossians 3:17, “Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” God worked in this camp! All we did was glorify Him with our actions.



South Dakota Summer 2008 Team to Ukraine

Back row: Pam Mendel, Sammie Manna, Jessica Leverington, Mahali Gross, Katya Poleleeva, Sergey and Natasha Bochko (translators), Brittney LaDue

Middle row: Allie Hahn, Bo Slama, Ethan McClain, Luke Manna, Blair Svennes, Emily Pedersen, Peggy Stacey

Front row: Michael Stockert, Judy Manna, Erica Beckwith, Mike Manna, Aaron Mednansky, LuAnne Beckwith



Our New Church in Kiev—We love our new church in Kiev even though we don’t have a building. We are currently meeting on a tarp in a park. The church is reaching college students in Kiev. We have several new believers who came from a second English camp we helped with this summer. Our family assists at church by teaching an English lesson each week. We have about 35 in our church now. Pray that we can find a room to rent before it starts to snow. :)

I recently watched a sermon by John Piper that brought into light what Jesus really did for us. God saw His Son hanging on a cross, and each of the kids that repented was looking up at Him too. Jesus then called each of their names, for He knew each of them by name. He looked into their hearts *through* all the flesh and sin and shouted, “**Righteous!**” Each one of those kids is now righteous in God’s eyes. They will never be alone again! I thank Him so much for this camp and for what a great opportunity it was for each of us.

Additional Note from Mike: It was a joy to be involved in the discipleship of our South Dakota teens this summer. It is great to think that even though our focus is now mentoring youth leaders in Ukraine, we can still help to disciple the kids of some of our friends back home. The ministry this summer was so special that we are going to offer another trip next summer for American teens. The churches in Lutsk now have many of the kids from camp in their youth ministries. They have written a letter asking if we could send another team next summer. Therefore, we will be returning to Lutsk to conduct a Youth Ministry International English Camp from June 16-30, 2009. If you are between the ages of 16-20 (or want to be an adult leader), and you are willing to raise the funds needed for the trip, email me at kievmanna@yahoo.com for more information.