



PEACE



YOUTH FOR CHRIST INTERNATIONAL

Michael and Judy Manna
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MIKE & JUDY MANNA
SERVING GLOBALLY

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DECEMBER 2020

Dear Mike and Judy,

Merry Christmas from the Manna family. Enclosed is our *mission magnet* — our first without children! If you have an old magnet on your refrigerator, please replace it with this one, since any former magnet has the wrong contact information. When you see our faces smiling at you from your fridge this year, please remember to pray for us. In our yearly tradition, we've asked our kids to write you an update on each of their families. So here they are...

Mandie & Aron Fleming (Nolan, Clay, and Jade), Columbus, IN

"Each year marks growth in our family. COVID-19 brought some interesting changes. For six months, Aron worked four-day weeks at home for Cummins. How we enjoyed those three-day weekends! He is full time again but is still working from home. Nolan (6) and Clay (5) are attending a small, one room school in someone's home two days a week, and Nolan goes to ABA therapy for three days a week to work on social goals. These places have been a gift to us and a wonderful fit for Nolan, who has Selective Mutism and struggles speaking outside the home. We are praising God for the victory we have seen in his life, as he is becoming more verbal with his friends. The boys love to make noise and play in the dirt with bugs. 'Jadie Bug' (3) is never far behind them with her bouncing blonde curls. I have enjoyed homeschooling them part time and just being their mom. Merry Christmas, friend! We hope that your family is growing in your love for the Lord and each other!"




Luke & Yami Manna (Aubrie), Omaha, NE

"This is a difficult year to summarize in a short paragraph. It has been a constant dance with 2020's partner — COVID 19. The virus brought our normal methods of work with Embrace the Nations to a pause. Yet while 2020 did slow our life down for a few months, it also provided opportunities for awesome memories as a family during Aubrie's first year! Now that things are opening back up, we are focusing on reconnecting with refugee youth and their families and adjusting to a new normal. We also moved from our 1-bedroom apartment to a small townhouse. We love our HOME! We look forward to using



 **YOUTH FOR CHRIST INTERNATIONAL**
REACHING YOUNG PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

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FOR THE YOUTH FOR CHRIST MINISTRY OF
MIKE & JUDY MANNA

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it as a place of blessing and safety for our refugee teen groups to meet. Though a difficult year, 2020 has made two things very clear: Jesus is faithful, and He is good...SO good."

Samantha & Titus Clark (Aiden and Emilia), Ceta Canyon, TX

"Hi friend! To update you about our family, Ti is still working at Ceta Canyon Camp and Retreat Center as the program director. We are so happy here and feel that we could not be more blessed in this job. It fits Titus' gifts and abilities so well, and I am able to take care of our children at home, which has always been a dream of mine. Aiden Eugene is already 3, and Emilia Joy is 6 months! Aiden is growing up to be such a sweet child. His special loves are catching grasshoppers and fishing. One time he caught a grasshopper and used it successfully as bait to catch a fish! Emilia had a colicky start, so the first five months of her life were pretty exhausting. She is turning a corner and is much more content as she is able to do more. She has just started sitting and is showing more of her personality every day! We love and miss you! Merry Christmas!"



Katya & Cam Cooper, Ft Wayne, IN

"This is Cameron's and my second Christmas together as a married couple. Cam has been a mason at a local business for six years. He is very busy, and we are blessed when we can spend one day together over the weekend. I'm really proud of my husband, watching him work diligently to provide for us without complaint. In May, I got hired as a Case Coordinator at Forte Residential. We help families, children, and the aging population with disabilities. I oversee 52 families and help to coordinate services for them. My favorite part of the job is building relationships with them. This year has been a tough year with COVID. Cam's dad was gravely ill with it a couple months ago. I recently got tested, for I was quite certain that I had it. We must trust God as our Healer. We can either choose to be fearful during this time or we can choose to be faithful. May we put aside our fears and choose to put our faith in God, remaining faithful to the people and things he has called us to. Merry Christmas! Love, the Coopers."



Mike & Judy Manna, Columbus, IN

Life and ministry certainly changed for us this year. Summer ministry was cancelled, training went from in-person to online, and our Youth for Christ International world conference was postponed indefinitely. I (Mike) kept busy over Zoom. I conducted an online training with Youth for Christ National Directors in Central Asia and their board chairmen, another online training for new missionaries, coaching appointments, Zoom meetings almost every day, and editing training materials with the Global Training Team which I lead. When Ukraine opened up, we made plans to return and had nearly six weeks fully scheduled, but then they closed their borders again only five days before our departure. We did end up going to Turkey for the month of September. During our time there, we took a weekend to retrace Paul's first missionary journey by rental car. We created six teaching videos from Perga to Attalia that we have put on YouTube. Visit our website at youthdiscipler.com to access these videos for your personal use or your small group. Judy has taken advantage of some of our COVID cancellations to get projects done at home as well as traveling to spend time with her mom in South Dakota and our kids. Judy and I are both certified coaches, so she does some online coaching as well. She encourages lots of people through emails and phone calls. You know Judy...she simply has a wonderful way of bringing joy to the lives she touches. We will keep in touch with our upcoming ministry plans, but we hope to return to Ukraine from April through June next year. We value your support and prayers as we continue to serve those who minister to youth around the world.



In the midst of the uncertain times we will face in 2021, let's remember the gift Jesus gave us. Jesus said, "I am leaving you with a gift — *peace of mind and heart*. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So, don't be troubled or afraid." (John 14:27)

Merry Christmas with love,

Mike & Judy