



Letter # 24

April 2007

Manna Messenger

Mike & Judy Manna, Eurasia Director, Youth Ministry International

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June 5 - Oct. 9 2909 Vanocker Rd.
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Important Dates

May 26

First Youth Ministry Students Graduate at Kiev Theological Seminary

June 1

Mandie's H.S. Graduation

June 4 - 15

Mike's final Master courses on campus at BIOLA in CA

June 5

Manna family returns to SD

June 25 - 6:30 pm

Mandie's Graduation Open House at Christian Life Center, Belle Fourche, SD

Sunday Morning

Church Presentations

June 24

Nemo Community, Nemo, SD

July 1

Grace Baptist, Bison, SD

July 8

Prairie Home, Maurine, SD

July 15

First Wesleyan, Sturgis, SD

July 22

Lebam Comm., Lebam, WA

For more church services, go to our website at www.youthdiscipler.com

Coming Home this Summer from Judy

Spring is coming to Kiev. Blades of grass and flower blossoms are breaking through the concrete gray of our surroundings. Yea! Spring is the most beautiful time of year here in Kiev. I often pause to stand under a flowering tree during this season and close my eyes. The smell is similar to the fragrant plum or apple trees whose scents drift upon the prairie breezes of my memory. But then I open my eyes and the similarity stops there. This is NOT South Dakota. There are throngs of people walking everywhere. Cars, busses and trolleys carry people to and fro. I watch and meditate on the fact that every single one of them is a unique creation of God, deeply loved by Him. Yet such a tiny percentage of them know Him! This is the knowledge gives our family purpose and resolve to be here. Especially Mike, who works week by week to mentor young men who will do their best to reach the young people of Ukraine through their youth ministries.

I wish that you, our support team, could feel the depth of our thanks for the way you have stood behind our ministry these past five years. We are continually aware of you. We never feel alone. When we go through hard times, you have been there. You have prayed for us and for our students. You have rescued us from financial disasters that our enemy undoubtedly intended for our harm, but God protected us. Instead of being torn down, we *grew* in our faith! We feel so blessed. Other missionaries have commented about how well cared for we are by our supporter team. We are quick to agree and are so very thankful. This year we've even had a couple of our supporters join us here to teach classes for Mike — Nick Rombough, pastor at Nemo Church, and Bob and Pat Anderson, directors at Trail's End Ranch in Ekalaka, MT.

We are coming home this summer to visit many of our supporting churches. We are looking

continued on back



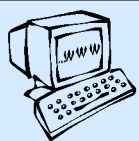
A few of our third year students in our apartment for pizza. Vasya, the Program Director for the new Center is seen in the middle.

Second Center for Youth Ministry In Ukraine from Mike

On the eve of our first youth ministry graduation in Kiev, I never thought that we would be announcing that we are helping the **second** Center for Youth Ministry start in Ukraine. A few weeks ago, one of our top students came to me with a proposal from the Bible Institute in his city of Rivne. Vasya will be a senior next year in our program and is leading a youth ministry with over 150 youth in his church. He will be the program director for this new one-year certificate program in youth ministry starting in September. But the most exciting news about this new

Center is that all of the teachers will be from our program in Kiev (my students), therefore they will all be Ukrainian teachers. This has been the goal all along.

The Western Ukraine Center for Youth Ministry will be located in an area where many new churches are being planted that are reaching the current generation. Thus, there is a great need for youth ministry training. Our Kiev students and new graduates will be teaching five youth ministry courses in Rivne, and none of the teachers will need a translator! Ephesians 4: 12 gives us our purpose, "... to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." It is neat to see the principles from God's working in the lives of our students.



Have you seen the latest pictures on our website?

Coming Home this Summer - continued

forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Sammie is already in SD. She flew alone the day after Easter. She'll be spending the next two months on the ranch with Uncle Roger and Aunt Kendra Weiss (Judy's brother and sister-in-law). She is home to have her legs checked (a significant leg length discrepancy) as well as to simply have this chance to spend time with family. Living, helping, and exploring on the ranch is a dream come true for Sammie. Aunt Kendra will home school her for the rest of the semester. We talked to her on the evening of her first day, and she reported that she'd gotten up very early and had her schoolwork done by 6:37 AM— in time to do the morning chores with Uncle Roger. We miss Samantha, but we are SO happy for her! My mom is back and forth between Sturgis and the ranch right now too. She will come to visit us in here in Kiev from May 15 till we all come home on June 5. We are SO excited to have her come for a visit! She will be here for Mandie's graduation on June 1. Speaking of Mandie, she will write the remainder of this letter.

Goodbye for now. We love you and thank God for you continuously. You are in our prayers. We have especially been praying for rain for the extremely dry SD ranchers. We are thrilled to hear that God has been sending some moisture — even if it is in the form of spring snow!

Facing Graduation

from Mandie Manna, High School Senior

I, too, would like to say a special thank you to our supporters. We would not be here without you, and I have loved the five years that I have spent here in Ukraine. We have already purchased my one way ticket to the States, and it's hard to realize that I won't be returning to Kiev with my family after the summer.

As I face graduation, I have spent much time in reflection. My school, Kiev Christian Academy, has made a huge difference in my life. It has given me a great education, friends that speak English, a ministry, and simply a place to enjoy fellowship and have fun. My high school years have brought much joy to my life. They have also brought trials which have helped me to trust God — to trust His plan for my future.

I am thoroughly enjoying my senior year. I have been blessed with opportunities in leadership. I was elected by my teachers to be student body president this year. I've also led a Bible study for the 8th grade girls every Monday at lunch. My experiences in Ukraine have given me a desire for full time ministry. For two years, I've been praying about attending Moody Bible Institute. Ultimately, I have known that it was the Lord's decision. I need only to keep my hand in His and walk through the doors He opens. Moody is the only college that I applied to, and I am thrilled to be accepted. I have mixed feelings as I come closer to graduation. I am excited to finish high school because I am definitely ready to begin this new stage of my life. At the same time, I am going to miss my home here in Kiev, my family, my school, my wonderful teacher and friends.

I ache to think of leaving my family. We are very close and seem to have more fun together the older we get. I treasure Luke and my little sisters. I will miss my heart to heart talks with Luke and attempting to write songs together — he on the saxophone and I on the guitar. I'll even miss being creamed by him in basketball or soccer! Sammie just turned 13 and Katya is 10. Though I'll miss watching them grow up, I will treasure the memories of them hanging out in my room, telling me stories of their day. I'll even miss cleaning the kitchen nearly every night after dinner with my siblings — all four of us together — our talks and fun and laughter as we wash the dishes. I love my parents, and they have deeply impacted my life. My dad, whom I have nicknamed *Omeu* (Ot-yets, the word for "Father" in Russian), has become especially close to me this year. We enjoy going to coffee shops to talk and have lately shared in excitement towards college. My mom is my best friend. She is the person I feel most comfortable with. We have spent many a late night lying upon my bed, talking about life, and of course, boys. She has given me countless words of advice, sharing out of her own relationship with the Lord. I am truly blessed.

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My graduation is on June 1st. I realize that Kiev is a little far for most of you to come, so my parents are having a graduation open house for me at Christian Life Center in Belle Fourche. Please feel free to join us for dessert on Monday, June 25, at 6:30 PM. We'd love to see you!



Mandie and Luke on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007 in downtown Kiev.

Mandie Manna's High School Graduation

June 1, 2007

Kiev Christian Academy, Ukraine

Please do not send any cards or gifts to Mandie in Ukraine because they may get lost in the mail. But you may use our U.S. mailing address: Mandie Manna, c/o Joyce Weiss, 2909 Vanocker Rd., Sturgis, SD 57785. Thank you.