



Manna Messenger

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

Letter # 2
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Our purpose – Making disciples who make disciples who make...

My training conference in Denver helped remind me why we are going to Ukraine – that our whole purpose is to “make disciples of all nations.” I had the privilege of visiting with Youth Ministry Trainers from Northern Ireland, South Africa, India, and the Czech Republic. God is raising up trainers from all over the world to accomplish His purposes, and I feel lucky to be part of His plan. This April I have been invited to lead a conference in Kiev, Ukraine with Randy Hunt, a veteran youth pastor (also YMI board member) from New Jersey. We will be teaching a seminar together, equipping young men and women to lead youth

groups in their churches. This will also be a very valuable trip for Judy to see her new home and make preparations for what she needs to set up house-keeping in a different culture. Our trip expenses will be around \$— which is part of our outgoing expense need. Please pray with us that God will use this trip to solidify our steps to Ukraine.



Our Church Schedule

Jan. 21 – 8 am, 10:30 am

Christian Life Center,
Belle Fourche, SD

Jan. 28 – 10:45 am

Prairie Bible Church of God,
Enning, SD

Feb. 11 – 9:30 am

St. Lawrence Community,
St. Lawrence, SD

Feb. 20 – 6:30 pm

STEER Banquet at Union Cen-
ter Community Center, SD

Feb. 28 – To be scheduled

(If your church would like us to
come and make a presentation,
please call us.)

What is it like to “raise support?”

Written by Judy

At the beginning of our marriage, we raised support for the first ministry position we were involved in at Liebenzell Mission in New Jersey. We were there for 2 ½ years, and there were many times that I struggled with the issue. I’m going to be very honest with what I am learning yet speak from my own perspective here, because Mike has a very relaxed trust and sees all of our money as coming from the Lord, whether He provides it in the form of a paycheck or as a gift. I had an easy time facing the support issue at first, too, because we were simply in the prayer process. “Lord, if You want us to go to Ukraine, You will have to provide the way.”

It became very different for me the moment we sent out our first missionary newsletter. I spent the entire night before those letters hit the mailbox, awake and praying. I had been so poor at communication! More honestly, I had not written even a Christmas letter for 5 years. I was

very afraid that many of you would think we were only writing you now to get your money. I spent much of the night praying about how our letter would be received. I also realized that this was *it*—the beginning of the process of going to Ukraine. We were sending out these letters, and it was like pushing off the shore and into an unknown sea. We would now begin to float and would have to *totally* rely on our “Captain” to direct our course. I loved the idea of being forced to trust the Lord like this, but it was difficult to accept the fact that we would have to rely on other people’s gifts to get to, and stay in, Ukraine.

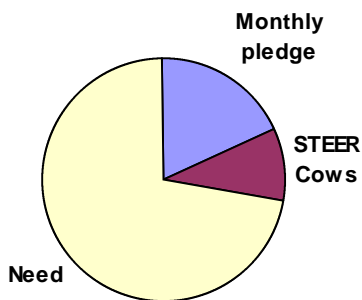
I prayed fervently that the Lord would direct us through the response to that letter, and His answer was simply fantastic! I have never paid attention to the mail. Obviously, if you don’t write letters, you don’t expect to receive them, either. Now there were a few letters in our mailbox nearly every day. We savored the renewed contact with dear family and old



Kyiv – The tall buildings are an example of the kind of apartment we will be living in.

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“Raising Support” - continued



Our Monthly Needs as of 1/21/01

“God really *must* want us to go to Ukraine!”

- Luke, age 9, after receiving a generous gift toward our outgoing expenses.

friends. We enjoyed all the pictures of children, some of whom had appeared out of nowhere or suddenly grown 5 years older! We received such loving encouragement and promises of prayer. We also received many generous gifts for outgoing expenses and pledges of monthly support. The absolute joy of raising support is seeing whom God is going to lead to be on your “team.” That is how it feels.

Each of us has gone through deep emotions as we have seen the Lord providing. There have been several times that I have simply sat down and cried tears of gratitude, joy, and immense relief that God *is* directing and taking care of everything. There have also been times that I have sat down and cried tears of guilt and pain over accepting people’s gifts, because I don’t feel worthy of such an investment of love and sacrifice. I am well acquainted with my own sin and failure. Mike has patiently listened and has brought my attention to the fact that this is the same struggle I have had at times with doubts of my salvation. Salvation is a *gift* that I am not worthy of receiving and can do absolutely nothing to earn. My struggles have all come down to one word—pride. Forgiveness, like support gifts, must simply be accepted with joy. Praise God, I *am* learning!

Mike has assured me that he is not “worthy” of your gifts, either. He never will be. He is just striving to be obedient to the Lord’s direction in our lives. I’m sure almost any missionary could relate to what I have experienced...the

fact that there will *never* be a way to thank you enough for your gifts to us. We will never be *worthy* of your investment in our lives. We can only strive to be faithful and available for the Lord to use—complete with our strengths *and* our weaknesses.

We feel very honored to go to Ukraine to help train leaders to work with Ukrainian youth. We get so excited that sometimes we’d like to go *now*, but we must wait for the Lord to prepare us and to provide the way. We don’t want to miss any of the preparation process—even if we had a choice in the matter! **J** That is the beauty of raising support! The Lord holds the reins, and we can’t take even one step until He provides the means to take it.

This is our experience of what it is like to raise support. We can *always* do what God directs us to do...we just might have to give a little, grow a little, or drop a little pride! We are deeply grateful to so many of you for the gifts of prayer and financial support. These gifts are the means to our ministry in Ukraine. They have brought us great joy and also confidence that we are walking on the path that God has for us (see Luke’s quote). We have become partners in a ministry to Ukraine. Please pray for us. You can see how easily something like pride could trip us up. Thank you.

God’s Provision:

We have not published our need yet because we are still very unsure of what it will be. Rates for housing, travel, and other items are significantly higher for foreigners living in Ukraine than for nationals, due to socialism. Following our trip to Ukraine in April we will be more certain of our budget. At this point, we think our monthly expenses may near \$—— per month. Our outgoing expenses appear to be around \$ —— Once we know more we will publish our specific budget.

Ranchers may support us through the STEER program. This agency has money available through donors to purchase livestock from the rancher (or a sale barn). The rancher agrees to run the stock and sell the offspring for our annual support. Please contact us if you are interested. God has provided through monthly pledges and STEER ranchers \$—— per month! Monthly support may begin immediately, and it will be placed in our outgoing account. To date we have received \$—— toward those needs. All gifts may now be sent directly to YMI. Please designate the gift towards the Manna account. Thanks again.



Leana & Masha – Two Ukrainian youth we ministered with this past summer