



# Manna Messenger

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## Ukraine 2003 Quest Team Missions Trip

This month Renee Motter (trip leader) and the youth group from Atonement Lutheran Church in Jamestown, ND, will be joining us in ministry. Our goal is to help develop a new youth group in Alushta, Crimea. Please pray for the team and our family as we teach English classes each morning and share in evangelistic programs each evening. Here is our schedule:

- July 3 Team arrives in Kiev
- July 4 Train to Crimea
- July 5-6 Training
- July 7-15 AM: English classes  
PM: Evangelistic programs
- July 16 Travel back to Kiev
- July 17 Cultural Orientation
- July 18 Debriefing
- July 19 Team flies home

## “Get your fields ready ...”

from Mike

“Finish your outdoor work  
and get your fields ready;  
after that, build your house.”  
- Prov. 24:27

I read this verse two months ago during my five-day stay in the October Revolution Hospital in downtown Kiev. I was getting treatment for pancreatitis symptoms which included fasting, IVs, and rest. We had also just been told that the city of Kiev had taken the apartment we were attempting to buy, and I wasn't sure what God wanted us to do next. This verse seemed to outline what we experienced during our first year in Kiev.

“*Finish your outdoor work...*” For us this meant “adjust to your new environment.” We have been focusing on language study (30 hours a week), learning how to shop, trying to understand the culture, and developing rela-



Mike in front of Ukraine map with Dr. Randy Smith (YMI President), Dr. Anatoly Prokopchuk (KTS President), and Rustilov (KTS Academic Dean) at partnership signing.

tionships with Ukrainians and other American missionaries.

“...and get your fields ready...” A lot of my time this year has been spent setting up our mission's new Youth Pastoral Degree at Kiev Theological Seminary (KTS). In June, we spent one week interviewing prospective

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## “... After that, build your house.”

from Judy

We want to thank so many of you who responded with financial gifts after our last letter in which we expressed our desire to buy an apartment. We were seeking the Lord's direction, and from the responses His answer was clearly a yes. The only trouble came in trying to find the right apartment. We pursued the apartment we wrote about, but the Lord firmly closed the door. There was the Ukrainian equivalent to “leans” against that one, and the legalities would have been a nightmare. We looked at 10 or 12 others – most were also unfinished. Only apartments in new buildings had the space which we were hoping for, and we found that usually meant “unfinished.”

In our search, we found that the first apart-



Looking up at our new apartment. We live on the top 2 floors (10th and 11th) just to the left of the center peak.

ment had indeed been an excellent price...and prices were rising steadily as we looked. Kiev's economy seems to be improving by the day. We pursued a second apartment and were only waiting for the money to be wired

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## See photos of our life in Ukraine online!

Please visit our website at [www.youthdiscipler.com](http://www.youthdiscipler.com) to see pictures of our ministry and family from the past year. You can also see this newsletter in full color.



"I had a really great year. School was a blast, and I love my class. We often ride the subway to meet up with each other and do stuff. God has blessed me with many friends." - Mandie



"This year was awesome! I played lots of soccer; both at school and at our apartment with my Ukrainian friends." - Luke



"I love my teacher Mrs. Gulley, and I love our new home. I feel like we live in a real house now." - Sammie

### "Get your fields ready ..." - continued

students from Kiev and around Ukraine. Nine students have been accepted to begin their 4 years of study in the fall. This is the first youth pastoral degree program in Ukraine. I am excited to teach and mentor these young men. At first I will be teaching at the seminary only 3 hours a week, so I'll be able to stay in full-time language school for one more year. This year we have also set up an office we call the "Ukrainian Center for Youth Ministry." Here, my Ukrainian partner, Gennady Lutsenko, and our secretary, Lyena, can schedule conferences and provide resources for the youth leaders of Ukraine. It has been a very busy year, but God has been good in giving us the strength to get the fields ready for harvest.

*"...after that, build your house."* If you have been following our emails these past months, you have received a lot of information

### "... After that, build your house." - continued

from the States. For some reason the transfer was held up for 2 weeks! Two days before the money arrived, we got word that the city of Kiev had demanded the company give them this apartment. Unbelievable! We were SO disappointed!

The next day we went to a clinic to have some tests run on Mike, as he had been having a lot of abdominal pain for over a month. He was diagnosed with chronic pancreatitis and was placed in the hospital. I had a lot of time to talk to the Lord on my daily trips to see him. I was discouraged and said, "Oh, Lord, we just don't know what to do! It appears You have provided for us to buy an apartment, yet You have closed the doors twice. You know how hard it's been to look for a home here. And now Mike is so sick. You're just going to have to show us what You want us to do, Lord. Please just pick an apartment for us. We don't even want to look anymore!"

Andre, our broker, called with another apartment for us to look at. It had just come on the market. He was excited because this one was completely finished and still in our price range. It was a 2-story - 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, eat-in kitchen, and large living room. It was 1500 sq. feet. We looked at it after Mike got out of the hospital. It was so beautiful - beyond what we would have asked or imagined. The owners had chosen such lovely tiles

about our apartment search. Thanks to the help of our parents and so many of our friends, we have just purchased and moved into a 2-story apartment which is only an 8 minute walk from our office, a 10 minute streetcar ride from the seminary, a 20 minute walk to language school, *and* is on the kids' school bus route. I have really struggled with burnout from all the running across the city this year. The convenience will be a tremendous relief to our lives. We are also incredibly thankful to have space again - both for our own sanity and for ministry.

We believe God has us here for the long haul. June 5th marked our first year in Ukraine. I feel very blessed to help this first generation of youth pastors reach out to a country that desperately needs the gospel. Please pray for God's continued direction.

in the kitchen and bathrooms, and the floors were wood - actually quite normal here. The location was even more perfect than the other two. Once again we prayed that God would close the door if it was not right. We knew He would...He'd proven Himself twice!!

God opened wide the door. The sale couldn't have gone more smoothly. We moved in a week ago. We are home. Oh, I cannot tell you how good it feels to have a home of our own again...especially one with space. We were all aching for some personal space. Mike's sickness is controlled by diet and sufficient rest, and God was so good to place us in a finished home. We just didn't expect it to be so beautiful! I've actually struggled with feelings that it is TOO nice, but it is what God chose for us. We will trust Him and use it for His glory.

On top of the gifts we received, our parents each took out loans for us to be able to do this. Our payments will be \$550 a month, which is what we had budgeted for rent in our monthly support. The rent in our other apartment just went up 50%! We are extremely grateful to be able to buy. This week has been one of rejoicing in the deep love of God. When we are weak, He is strong.

We pray that you, our dear friends and supporters, are also walking in the security of His strength. May He bless your lives with His love. He is our rock.