



Manna Messenger

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Letter # 18

July 2005

Uprooted - Poem by Mandie Manna

Tears stained my troubled face as
Reality found its place to strike again.
I'd been uprooted from my comfortable home.
My new life in a new land had begun.

My daily routine became familiar,
But the many transitions sometimes brought about pain.
I often struggled with a feeling inside—
A feeling very difficult for me to name.

The summer grew long till at last school began
And work, laughter, and fun filled my days.
I was given "New Hope," and my life truly was blessed
In a countless number of ways. (New Hope Christian School has been
renamed Kiev Christian Academy.)

My teachers and schoolmates that I grew to know and love
Became treasures beyond any other.
Over time I have grown extremely close to them—
Even close as to sister or brother!

Living in Ukraine still feels different and strange, and
The language! It is difficult to say the least.
Yet it's exciting and interesting to live in a place, in
A country that contains a cultural feast!

As time has stretched on from days into years
Something has been gained, though it never was sought.
My opinions and views of many things have changed.
I have grown. I have learned such a lot.

I have grown to deeply love and respect—
I now cherish my Ukrainian home.
My heart has been drawn to the people of this land—
They'll stay with me wherever I roam.

Summer with Katya

from Mike and Judy

On May 4th, when we drove away from a visit to the orphanage we have been helping, Judy felt like she was leaving her own little girl behind. Her name is Katya, and she is 8 years old. If you have been receiving our emails over the past month, you have read how God has worked in her life and our lives to bring us together for the summer. Miraculously, over a period of only 10 days, we received permission from her mother and both governments to bring Katya to the States for medical testing. Thankfully, the doctors here have given her a clean bill of health. Katya is not adoptable because she has a mother, but she is still being raised in an

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Kiev Christian Academy Newsletter

Included with our *Manna Messenger* this month is a letter from our missionary kids' school in Kiev. We are extremely thankful for this school. Judy was slightly misquoted in the letter, but this school has been so instrumental to our ministry. We wonder at times whether we could be in Kiev without the school.

Please take time to read about the school, its ministry and its goals for the future.

The school has been renting a section of a Ukrainian deaf school for the past several years, but it is no longer adequate for the growth of the school. The enclosed letter outlines the school's plan to build. If you would like to contribute to this project, use the enclosed envelope. **Please do not send a KCA donation to our mission.** You can send any normal gifts for our family to the YMI address at the top of this letter.

Do you get our email newsletters?

We send email updates regularly about what is going on in our lives. If you would like to receive these emails, please let us know by writing to us at: mikemannafamily@yahoo.com



Our family with Katya at Trails End Ranch in Ekalaka, Montana. Pictured are Mandie, Katya, Judy, Luke, Samantha and Mike. Mandie spent a month at camp this summer while Luke and Sam spent one week. (More info about camp at www.ter.org)

Summer with Katya - [continued](#)

orphanage. Her mother is too poor to care for her children at home, and all of her 5 children (ages 8 - 21) have been raised in this government boarding school/orphanage. Katya usually spends Christmas vacation and summers with her family. We are not sure what our next step is concerning her.

Our greatest joy this summer happened when Katya gave her life to the Lord! Evidently Katya has heard Bible stories in the orphanage from a couple of visiting groups like our own little missionary team in Kiev. Since coming to live with our family where she has been exposed to our relationships with the Lord, Katya understood her need for forgiveness of sin. She believed God's promises to forgive her sins through Christ.

One night after putting her to bed, Judy said, "Katya, Mike and I need to explain to you how to invite Jesus into your heart."

Katya answered, "I already did that yesterday."

"What?" Judy exclaimed. "How did you know? What did you pray?"

Katya closed her eyes and repeated what she had prayed the day before, "Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for our sins. I invite you to come into my heart. Take away all my sins. I want to live with You

forever." Then Katya looked into Judy's eyes and said, "The Holy Spirit came into my heart, and He lives there now." The precious faith of a child! Praise the Lord!

Katya doesn't want to go back to the orphanage. It is obvious that she would love to continue living with us. We've told her, "Katya, we don't know anything about the future, but God is now your Father. You can pray about your future, and we are praying, too. We can trust the Lord to show us what to do." We have not told Katya, but when we return to Ukraine, we will check into the possibility of her living with us in a foster situation.

There have been many joys in bringing Katya into our home. There have also been painful adjustments for each of us. Katya speaks mainly Ukrainian. We speak Russian. Therefore, we have a fairly large language barrier. Katya has grown up being very self sufficient. There are obedience issues. The rest of us were all very comfortable in our family, and we have had to deal with change. God has been working in each of our hearts. Please pray that He will give us wisdom, patience, and most of all His deep love to bind us together. And please pray for Katya's future.

Our Family's Schedule

June 19 - August 23

We are staying home in Belle Fourche, South Dakota to enjoy family, doctor visits, and some quality time with friends and supporters. We will also take a one

week trip to Omaha to visit Mike's family. We fly back to Kiev on August 23rd from Rapid City.

August 24 - 26

Mike and the seminary staff will be interviewing new youth ministry students from around Ukraine who want to begin their studies this fall. These will be modular students who will come to the seminary for two weeks of intensive study four times a year to receive their bachelors degree.

August 29

Our kids will begin school! Mandie (11th grade) and Luke (8th) will study at Kiev Christian Academy. Samantha (5th) will be home schooled for one year.

August 30 - December 22

Mike will continue to teach the youth courses at the seminary (with a translator). He will develop a new course on Youth Discipleship. Mike gets his lecture notes from Boyce College in the States. He contextualizes the material to make it more relevant to this culture and works with his translators to translate everything into Russian. He will begin to have teachers from the States come and teach some of the courses. Here is his specific schedule:

YM 347: Youth Discipleship

August 30 - December 22
(semester course for Juniors)

YM 102: Youth Culture

September 19-30
Guest American lecturer Dan Lambert
(modular course for Sophomores)

YM 101: Introduction to Youth Ministry

December 5 - 16
(modular course for Freshman)



Lena, Mike's assistant, got married on May 21st. Here Lena is pictured with her flower girls: her niece, Natasha and our daughter, Samantha. Lena is continuing to work for Mike at the seminary where her husband is a pastoral student.