



# Manna Messenger

**Mike & Judy Manna, Missionary Appointees to Ukraine as Youth Ministry Trainers with Youth Ministry International**

Letter # 4  
June 2001

**Correspondence until June 28- 1206 Todd Street, Belle Fourche, SD 57717 (605) 723-2323**  
**Correspondence beginning July 26 – c/o CIT, PO Box 250, Union Mills, NC 28167**  
**Voice Mail and Fax Number (begins June 29) - (501) 325-3238**  
**Support address: YMI, Box 80-885, 2825 Lexington Rd., Louisville, KY 40280-0004**  
**New Email: manna@youthdiscipler.com New Website: www.youthdiscipler.com**

## Our Schedule

### June 3

Carter Gospel Fellowship  
Carter, SD

### June 4-5

Carter Vacation Bible School

### June 10

Opal Community Church  
Opal, SD

### June 30

6:30 pm STEER, Inc. BBQ  
Bison, SD

### July 1

Grace Baptist Church  
Bison, SD

### July 8

6 pm – Farewell Dessert  
Christian Life Center  
Belle Fourche, SD

### July 13-15

Weiss Family Reunion  
Cedar Canyon Bible Camp  
Rapid City, SD

### July 26 – Nov. 16

Our family attends  
Center For Intercultural Training  
Union Mills, NC

## The Road to Kyiv from Judy

Hello everyone!! You are probably wondering why it has taken us so long to write and are wondering about our trip to Ukraine. It was incredible and I will tell you about it, but we haven't written because we put our house on the market 5 days after returning home. We had a great deal of work to do to get our house ready to sell (after listing it). We worked very hard on it for a month. We painted many rooms inside, the basement floor, and our house is now taupe instead of blue. It has a new roof and railings on the deck. We have had two garage sales so far, and will have two more in June. We have been greatly blessed with the help of many friends. When we were gone recently to share our ministry in Highmore, 3 of my girlfriends came in and painted our downstairs family room and stairway. My neighbors installed new carpet on my steps and linoleum on the landing. What an incredible surprise to come home to!! Mike said with awe in his voice, "Judy, we have *such* good friends!!" AMEN! This is only one instance of the blessing of help we have received. A very special thank you to each of you who have helped us get our home ready to sell--Cathy, Eric B.,

Kelly,  
Darreld,  
Susie,  
Steve, Scott,  
Robin, Lisa,  
Art, Gwyn,  
Mike,  
Doug,  
Wayne,



Seth, Eric M., Morgan, Brandon, Kalemb, Chris, Mary, Mom and Dad. May God richly bless you for the love and the gifts of help you have shared with us! We just received some tough news. We were rejoicing that our house had sold, but the buyers withdrew their offer. Please pray with us that we can sell the house by the end of June, before we leave for training July 16. God is in control and we must trust Him to pave the way. (Proverbs 3:5,6)

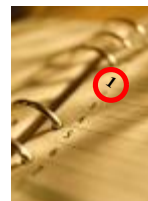
OK, now for a report on our trip. What an experience to land in our new country! It looked very much like SD--prairie, farmland, and blue sky. The airport is in the country, and we drove farther into the

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## We step out on faith July 1st from Mike

I always try to tell myself that all my finances and resources come from God, but "when push comes to shove" it feels more secure in the form of a paycheck. Since we are becoming overseas missionaries, we knew we would come to the day when we gave up our secure salary. Well, now is the time. We leave our ministry at Christian Life Center June 30th, so on July 1st we depend on people's gifts given to the Lord for our ministry. God has obviously directed us to this point, and we are con-

fident that He will continue to meet our family's needs. At this point we have \$— cash per month pledged to our support. If our house sells, our need will be \$— per month through training and until we leave for Ukraine. If you would like to help meet our regular needs – *please designate the gift as monthly* and send it to the support address above. Thank you!



## EMAIL CHANGE

We have changed our email to addresses we can take with us anywhere. These are in effect as of today:

**General Email and Mike –**  
manna@youthdiscipler.com

**Judy –**  
judym@youthdiscipler.com

**Mandie –**  
mandie@youthdiscipler.com



Leah and Judy at Youth Ministry Training Seminar in Ukraine



Typical Scene in Kyiv Apartments in background



Mike & Judy with Gregory Commandant, President of European Baptist Union

## “The Road to Kyiv” - continued

country where the youth pastor’s conference was held. We spent 3 days with 70 amazing young men and women. God even had a special surprise for me--a girl named Leah from Lincoln, NE!! 20 years old and home schooled all her life, Leah had been married for 9 months to Sasha, a young Ukrainian that her church had sponsored to go to Grace University in Omaha for a year...the same small Bible college that Mike and I attended!! They met, courted, and married within that year and have been living in Lugansk, Ukraine, (18 hrs. by train from Kyiv) for 7 months. Leah and I bonded instantly and were a great source of encouragement to each other!

Mike thoroughly enjoyed teaching these young people...even with a translator. It was a little difficult at first but after the second of 9 sessions, he and Violetta were working smoothly together. He taught all of his prepared material on youth ministry in 7 sessions, so he improvised and taught them as they say, “how to make a camp” for the last 2 sessions. They were excited to have any information or encouragement Mike could give them. It was a wonderful conference.

By the end of those three days, I was filled with anticipation to see my new home. We said our good-byes and boarded the van for our drive into Kyiv. As we entered the outskirts of the city, my heart began to sink. Violetta was sitting between Mike and I, bubbling with excitement for us to see Kyiv. I was doing my best to hold back tears. All I could see was gray. It was the beginning of April, so the trees were gray, the ground was gray, the road was gray, the buildings were gray. Leah had told me that compared to Lugansk, Kyiv was fancy! FANCY?!

“Well,” I consoled myself, “maybe we will

drive out of the slums soon.” But it got worse, and suddenly I realized that what we had driven through was the nice part of town! “Mike,” I thought. “How can we give up our beautiful Belle Fourche for this? It looks so crowded and dirty!”

We ended our drive somewhere in the middle of Kyiv at Central Baptist Church, where we were to stay. I couldn’t begin to tell you where we were, because to me all the buildings looked exactly alike...tall, gray, and blocky. We were exhausted and went to bed early. I woke up in the middle of the night, went out into our little sitting room, and began to pray. I was awake for the next 5 hours, praying, crying, and writing in my journal. I had already seen poverty. I did not know if I had what it would take to face other people’s pain. Throughout that night I never doubted God’s leading in our lives. I only sensed His urging to be willing to live there. I knew that if I “caved” and told Mike I couldn’t do it, we would not go. But I knew Mike’s heart for Ukraine. I sensed God urging me to leap in faith. He would take care of the rest. There would be great blessings for all of us if we would trust Him and leap. I went to bed and asked Mike to pray. As he did, I submitted my will to the Lord and the burden lifted. From that moment, each day got better. The friends from last summer spent much time with us and Jamie Jockwig, YMI’s executive director. They took us around, translating and pricing things. We honestly grew to *love* historical Kyiv! As we said our good-byes in the airport, it was *very* hard to leave. We both wished we could go home, get the kids, and return right away. We found that “home” is more about people than places. Kyiv will be a *good* home!

## Our next home: The Center For Intercultural Training

We are selling almost everything we own and decreasing our belongings to 10 suitcases. July 16th we head off to visit Mike’s family on the way to our 4 months of classes in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Our classes will include: Strategic Ministry Planning, Effective Teams and Team Leaders, Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills, Conflict

Management, Equipping for Cross-Cultural Life, Second Language Acquisition, and more. This training is a requirement of our mission. We are looking forward to the preparation for the mission field. Please pray for our family and all the adjustments ahead. For more information about our training program, visit their website at [www.cit-online.org](http://www.cit-online.org).

