



Manna Messenger

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Our Schedule

June 2
Ordination & Commissioning Service
1:30 pm at Christian Life Center, Belle Fourche, SD

June 4
Leave for Kiev, Ukraine

June 27-28
Center for Youth Ministry Meetings in Kiev
YMI Leadership meets with seminary staff and pastors about new youth ministry major

June 29 – July 12
YMI College Missions Trip to Ukraine and Slovakia
First cross-cultural trip for Ukrainian students



Samantha, our 8-year old daughter, shows her cousin, Drew McClain, where we will live on a world map.

finances. Some are ranchers raising cows for our support and others have pledged cash. Seven churches are giving to us on a regular basis from their missions fund and other churches are sending periodical gifts. We do not feel alone in this venture.

God has made it very evident that this is the direction He wants us to go in our lives. Doors have opened for us many times. We have kept a list of God's leading during this time, so when we face hard times ahead – we can go back and REMEMBER how God has led us, and that we are in His will.

Thank you for sending us

from Mike

After one year of training and deputation, the day has come to see our dream fulfilled. We realize that this is just the beginning, yet it is also the end of a chapter of our lives. On June 4th, we fly out of Rapid City's airport with the support of over 100 families. Some are sending us with their prayers, and others with their

“Remember this! He led his people out singing for joy; his chosen people marched, singing their hearts out! He made them a gift of the country they entered, ... So they could do everything he told them—could follow his instructions to the letter.” (Psalm 105:43, The Message)

This is our last newsletter which will be printed in color!



BUT, you can still see our future newsletters in color by going to our website at www.youthdiscipler.com. Click on the Newsletters Section to see and print any *Manna Messenger*. This allows us to save money on our mailings.

Saying Good-bye

from Judy

This picture truly emanates how we are feeling at this moment in our lives. The time we have waited so long for is at hand. We are moving across that ocean! The past is behind, the future is dawning. It is a little intimidating, but the Lord has led so clearly that all we have to do is follow. We state our feelings this way, “We are excited to go. We just don't want to leave.” It is hard to say goodbye. Thankfully there will be many happy “hello's” to follow all these hard good-byes. How blessed we are



Our family looking across the Atlantic Ocean toward our new home in Ukraine (taken at sunrise in Charleston,

in our friendships! We can be thankful that it's hard to say goodbye.

Continued on next page

What Happens When We Arrive? from Mike

As we arrive in Kiev, we have many tasks ahead of us. The first priority for me is to get my family settled and comfortable – at least as much as possible. Kiev is a city of 3+ million people with many housing options. Our colleagues are looking for temporary housing so we can be involved in choosing our own apartment. We want to locate ourselves near the kids' missionary school so that they do not have to travel far each day. We would also like to find a place near a Metro station (subway) so that people can easily get to us. Please pray with us that we can find just the right place within the first month.



Apartments in Kiev

The next priority will be purchasing furniture and appliances, and trying to make our apartment our "home." We are bringing over 1 suitcase full of our own decorations to help in this process. Obviously, we will have to rely heavily on our Ukrainian friends to help us through the language barrier in making these purchases.

During this time, I will be trying to make appointments with seminary leaders for our YMI leadership coming to Ukraine at the end of June. We will be presenting our plan to assist the Ukrainian church for the first long term



Mike and a staff member in front of the missionary kids' school our children will attend

Saying Good-bye - continued

There was a particular time on deputation that I broke down over the grief of having to leave our family and friends here to go to Ukraine. We were staying with Daniel Paul, and his parents were there. When we were driving away, my heart hurt so badly that I cried for miles. It stuck me that these dear friends were part of my childhood. They were important people in my life and influenced who I would become. But now our times together are rare!

I began to think about so many different people who have been part of our lives. We grow to love them. We share our hearts with each other. We develop strong bonds of friendship...but only for a time. That's hard! I poured my feelings out to the Lord. His soothing "voice" eased my tears, "Judy, think about it. If you were not going to Ukraine, you

training program for youth pastors in the country. This will be similar to what a youth ministry major would receive at a Bible college here in the states with the added dimension of supervised mentorship. This program is one of Youth Ministry International's distinctives.

We will be registering our kids in the missionary kids' school upon arrival, too. The school is administered by Campus Crusade and has over 100 students in grades K-12. The kids will also be able to use the school library during the summer. English books. Yeah! Judy and I will be registering at the language school run by Send International, but we don't anticipate beginning classes until August. We hope to hire language helpers during the summer months.

I will also help set up YMI's office in Kiev this summer. We have a Ukrainian director, Genaddy Lutsenko, and a secretary. I am currently the Eastern Europe Director for YMI.

Please pray for us through all these transitions, and pray that we are sensitive to God's leading as we make plans for the future.

wouldn't be spending this time with old friends. You would be busy with your life in Belle Fourche, probably not making the effort to visit people like Daniel. Think of all the relationships you have enjoyed during deputation!"

The pain of my heart turned to peace and thankfulness. How truly blessed we are to have been called to be missionaries who had to raise their own financial support! We got to spend time with so many and see you form our sending team! And we'll get to see you again! I like how I heard my son, Luke, state it to one of his friends, "We'll be back every other summer."