



# Manna Messenger

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## You Know You Live In A Foreign Country When ...

1. You look lovingly at the scenery and cowboys in the Marlboro billboards and miss home.
2. You can buy bread for 10 cents a loaf, but peanut butter costs \$3.00 for 6 ounces.
3. Your apartment's electric meter was stolen, so the electric company charges you a flat fee of \$5 per month for whatever amount you use.
4. You watch taped TV shows from the United States and no one wants to fast forward the commercials.

**Note:** All of the above is true!

## Seasons Change

from Judy

We are entering our third season here in Kiev. We arrived toward the end of spring on June 5, and we are now entering fall. As we look back over the past four months (Is that possible?) we realize that the season changes have corresponded closely with our personal adjustments to life here in our new home.

We arrived to cool, rainy weather—much like the season of our hearts at that time. Our passion to come here had waned as we went through the pain of saying goodbye. It felt like a heavy price to pay to be here, and we felt rather “cool” toward our new surroundings. There was some rain from our eyes.

We spent the first 3 1/2 weeks in a temporary apartment provided to us by the Southern Baptists—one they own for their incoming missionaries or visiting friends. The first month was a blur of activity as we searched for an apartment and began to learn our way around Kiev, finding out where to shop for appliances, all of our kitchen necessities and



Our family (including our adorable puppy, Chloe) on our balcony in Kiev.

other household needs, and a vehicle. We basically came with 2 seasons of clothing—very little else. The grocery stores provide an ongoing adventure as we discover what is inside packages we can now read, but don't know what most of the words mean. It's always fun when we slowly sound out the Russian letters and come up with something familiar like, “Spah-gyet-ti Sah-oose.” Hey! That's spaghetti sauce! We found a 3-bedroom apartment to rent, moved in, and two days later Mike led a combined American/Ukrainian team to Slovakia to share the gospel with mime and music. Mandie was part of the team. They were gone

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[www.youthdiscipler.com](http://www.youthdiscipler.com). Click on the Newsletters Section to see or print any Manna Messenger. You can click on the Photos Section to see pictures of the past few months of our lives!

## Beginning Ministry

from Mike

We are beginning to see what God had in mind in bringing us here. It's like pieces of a puzzle being put together. We are still in the learning process: the Russian language, the Ukrainian culture, and finding current ministries in Kiev to partner with.

God used our summer missions trip in mighty ways this year. We saw American students helping Ukrainian youth to minister cross-culturally in Slovakia. We are now in communication with the Slovakian churches to help them in further youth ministry training.

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Mandie and Anastasia led Vika (middle girl) to Christ in Uzhgorod. Anastasia is Gennadiy Lutsenko's daughter. Gennadiy is my Ukrainian partner.

## Seasons Change – continued

for 2 weeks and had an incredible time. It was a special treat that 3 of our former students came for the trip: Renee Motter (SBA), Seth Miller and Morgan Moore (BF).

Meanwhile, back at the ranch (don't I wish?) Luke, Sammie, and I were up to our ears in the mess of having our entire apartment re-wallpapered, and new carpet and linoleum laid. The apartment was in great need of it. The work took a whole month.

The summer turned hot and dry – much like that season of our hearts. We did not have a car, so grocery shopping was by bus and foot – always a hot and heavy experience. We didn't have a stove for 2 months, so it was a challenge to cook lunch (the main meal of the day) for us and our workers from a microwave. The language “barrier” began to feel as thick as the concrete walls in our apartment, isolating us from all but our close friends. The kids were lonely and cooped up in our apartment as we didn't know if they could play outside alone. The ache for home was nearly choking.

Now we are entering fall. The weather is cool and the leaves are beginning to change. We thank the Lord that with time, the heat of our homesickness is also beginning to cool. The kids all went to Ukrainian Bible camp at the end of August. Mandie enjoyed the full 2 weeks of camp, Luke and Sammie each lasted a week – pretty good when you consider the kids there spoke little or no English. They made friends at camp and also here at our apartment. Now they can play freely outside. We found a car – a Ford Windstar minivan, made in Germany. What a blessing to have the

independence and HELP a vehicle provides! School started for all of us on Sept. 2, providing friendship and purpose. The kids feel very privileged to attend New Hope, a wonderful Christian school run by Campus Crusade. Mike and I are in SEND International's language school, trying to wrap our minds and tongues around new words and a grammatical system with a ton of rules. We are only barely beginning to communicate and understand, still using plenty of hand gestures and charades. We've even been known to *flap* or *moo* in a restaurant or two!

Through all the adjustments we are making, the Lord is with us – comforting, encouraging, and completely directing our steps. I wish I could tell you more of the *stories* from our time so far – the “God things,” the laughs, the tears. Those are in the emails we write every 2 or 3 weeks. We enjoy the ability to share the “real” stuff with our family and friends through email. Our previous email letters can be found at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MannaMission>. This is not our web site. If you would like us to add you to our email list (or someone you know who would copy our letters and give them to you), please write us at [manna@youthdiscipler.com](mailto:manna@youthdiscipler.com) or at our Kiev mailing address located on the heading of this letter. Email helps us to stay current and close.

We want tell you, our dear and faithful support team, that we continually thank God for you and ask Him to richly bless you. We think that we must have the best support team any missionary family could ask for. Many have written, encouraged, given, prayed. You are truly a *support* team, and we thank you.

## Beginning Ministry – continued

We are Youth Ministry International's only Americans here. So we have spent the past two months meeting with several other organizations that are doing ministry here in Ukraine. I have met with the International Missions Board (Southern Baptists) as we discuss sharing office space; the Ukrainian Baptist Union (YMI is their official youth ministry training organization); and Kiev Theological Seminary. We are discussing the final details with the seminary of bringing Youth Pastoral training to Ukraine. There are currently only “youth leaders” in Ukraine, and only one Ukrainian youth pastor with a Bible college degree that we know of. The new students in our program

will receive the same Biblical training a pastor does in addition to youth ministry courses that I will coordinate; some of which I will teach. I am excited about my future here! Now I am meeting weekly with YMI's Ukrainian Director, Gennadiy Lutsenko, and a couple local youth leaders whom I hope to mentor.

**Prayer Requests:** Please pray for us as we concentrate on learning Russian this year - while we have fewer ministry responsibilities. Pray that we can work out the details for the seminary program. Also pray for the kids' adjustment to school – Mandie, especially, has lots of homework. And pray that we grow spiritually and depend on the Lord daily.



Men's Russian Language Class: Kyle, Greg, Ken, Mike and their teacher, Nadieshda.



Women's Russian Language Class: Teacher Yulya, Laura, Judy, Kari, and Patti. (Kari and Patti are wives of Kyle and Greg in Mike's class.)



Kiev Theological Seminary – Probable partner in developing youth pastoral training in Ukraine. (Seminary website – [www.ktsonline.org](http://www.ktsonline.org))