



# Manna Messenger

Mike & Judy Manna, Youth Ministry Trainers

Appointed to Ukraine with Youth Ministry International

Letter # 5  
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## Our Schedule

### July 25 – Nov. 17

Classes (including language acquisition) at the Center for Intercultural Training in Union Mills, NC

### Nov. 18 – Nov. 27

Travel home and visits with family and friends

### Dec. 1 and following

Deputation: We are available to share our NEW missions presentation in any church, Bible study, youth group, Sunday school, etc.

Please call or email us if you would like us to come to your group. We are trying to put our schedule together now.

### Depart for Ukraine

We can purchase tickets as soon as 100% of our outgoing needs are met and our monthly needs have been pledged. We hope this is early in 2002.

## Forming a plan

from Mike

After a month of research and 1000 pages of reading, I have a class assignment done that should be a big help in ministry. It is a 30 page research paper concerning Ukrainian youth culture as well as a personal strategic ministry plan. To be honest, the research showed me how little I know about our future ministry. We will have to depend on the Lord.

Here are some of the frightening statistics which shows the great need: 83% of 18 year old guys have had sexual relations; 10% of 18 year old girls have had an abortion; AIDS deaths may be between 1 and 2 million by the year 2016; the highest rates of suicide in the world are in Eastern Europe, mostly by 45-54 year old men (youth's fathers); only 11% of Ukrainians attend church once a week; 20,000 teenagers beg on the streets; 15,000 teens are in orphanages. In my paper we studied the Ukrainian worldview, the family structure, and the current religious climate. We also studied Ukrainian history, their educational system,



Judy and Mike (second row on right) in class at the Center for Intercultural Training with other missionaries. We are loving school, learning more than we could have imagined and enjoying our classmates who already seem

current youth social problems, as well as trust issues. We compiled a bibliography of over 30 sources. You may ask, "Why did we go to all the trouble?" The purpose was to formulate the beginnings of a plan to help develop youth ministry in the country. Public youth ministry has only begun in the past 10 years, since it was illegal during the years of Soviet control. *Continued on next page*

## When can we go? from Judy

Hi everybody! We usually leave our financial report till the end of our newsletter. Why? I came up with two reasons and I decided to share my thoughts with you. First, we do not want finances to be our focus or the reason we write these letters. Our family has already discovered and we're not even in Ukraine yet, that the more honest and open we are with you, the more you think about us and therefore pray for us. We have experienced the results of those prayers. Sometimes the knowledge of our prayer base has helped us to simply relax into our Father's arms at a time when it's diffi-

cult to trust. Your prayers are a strong shield between us and our enemy, yet also feel like being wrapped in a blanket that has just come out of the dryer! Ahhh...! J

The second reason is obvious—it is hard to ask people for money. As much as we would like to disguise that statement in other pretty terms, that is what it comes down to. Several of you have encouraged us to be open and honest in this area, so we will. We want to begin our ministry in Ukraine as soon as possible, but it is impossible without a team of financial sup-

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## Wanted: Churches for Missions Presentations

Call or email  
us to schedule  
a service



### Kid stuff from Mandie



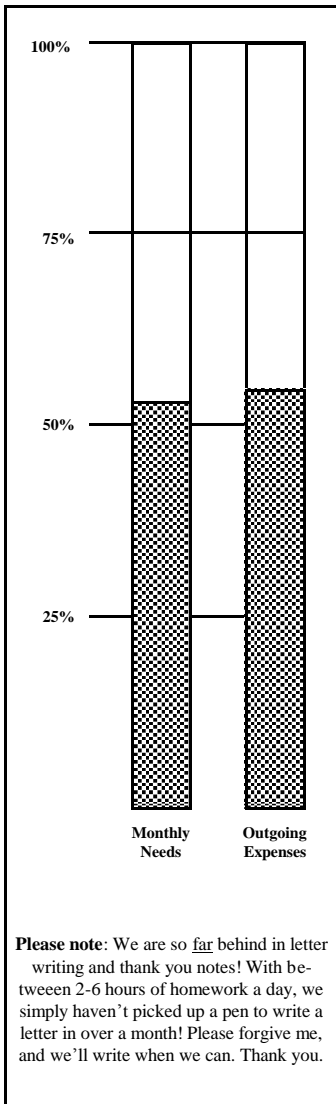
Luke, Samantha, Mike, Mandie & Judy

Luke, Sammie, and I took to NC quickly. The people are very sweet and friendly. They reached out to us immediately and treated us like family. We needed that! We love school and have made many friends. Some of you heard through our email letter that I was having a hard time adjusting to the work load and was in a tough class. Some of you wrote to tell us that you were praying for me. I really thank everyone for your prayers. Things have improved immensely! I even have some days now where I get all my homework done in school. I have also realized that my class is only a real problem in Language Arts. My friends are Heather, Morgan, and Leslie. PE is my favorite class.

Luke has a really good friend named KJ. He has a black belt in Karate. I guess nobody will be picking on Luke, huh? He loves his class-

mates and his teacher, Mrs. Shook. She has been teaching 4th grade for 27 years, and she is a Christian. Luke loves “Book Buddies” on Fridays when his class pairs up with a 1st grade class to read. Guess who he got for a book buddy?? Samantha! They read together for 30 min. Sammie adores her teacher, Mrs. Piercy. Sammie’s closest friends are Zach, Ray, Allie, and another Samantha. Sammie has had a “card turned” only once (the school’s system of discipline). She was blowing soap bubbles in the bathroom with Allie and Samantha. Otherwise, she has gotten a little prize each week for never getting a card turned. Sammie loves everything about school.

We also enjoy the missionaries and their kids here at CIT. There is an outdoor pool, so we have had a lot of fun with our new friends. It’s going to be a little hard to leave!



### Forming a plan - continued

We believe the following areas need to be addressed for growth in youth ministry in Ukraine: relevant Biblical teaching; long-term commitment on the part of youth ministry trainers; servant-leadership development training; mentorship and discipleship of youth pastors; and retreats to help build trust. The fruit we are praying for is Ukrainian youth pastors equipped to disciple the youth of this generation. I remember the words of Christ as He

spoke to the disciples, “You didn’t choose Me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to Me, He gives you. But remember the root command: Love one another” (John 15:14-17, The Message). To read our research paper on this subject go to our website at [www.youthdiscipler.com](http://www.youthdiscipler.com).

### When can we go? - continued

porters. We have cash pledges for \$—— a month plus an estimated \$—— per month pledged by people raising cows and sheep for us (STEER, Inc.). This equals 53% of our monthly needs. Individual gifts have also been given towards our outgoing expenses which equals 54% of the need. PRAISE GOD! We are currently living off our monthly support without any additional salary. We know that the Lord will take care of our needs. He always has.

budget. If gifts beyond that are received, the money goes directly to our outgoing account. We would love to see our monthly pledges grow and bring us that much closer to Ukraine. Training has only increased our desire to go. The kids are now in school, and I would love to see them transition from public school this semester to Christian school in Ukraine second semester. Mike thinks I’m a dreamer, but what’s wrong with dreaming? J I’m talking to God about it. I know that He knows the exact day we are to arrive in Ukraine. We will trust Him to choose that day.

Some may be waiting to pledge monthly support until we are closer to actually going to Ukraine, thinking that we are not in need of it now. We are currently living on a fixed