



Letter # 19 October 2005

Manna Messenger

Mike & Judy Manna, Eurasia Director, Youth Ministry International

Mailing Address: Mike & Judy Manna
Dragomanova 17, kb. 149
Kiev, 02068
Ukraine

Email: mikemannafamily@yahoo.com

Support Address: Youth Ministry International
1300 Envoy Circle Suite 1306
Louisville, KY 40299

Main Website: www.youthdiscipler.com

New Site: www.ukraineorphans.com



Kiev's Rising Cost of Living

We have
returned to
Kiev to find

that prices on almost everything have increased dramatically. Gas is now \$3.50 a gallon, groceries have increased between 30-45% this year, and rent prices have skyrocketed. How thankful we are that God allowed us to buy our apartment at a time when we could still afford to buy! Therefore, our housing cost is stable.

Katya is a blessing to our family, but she eats and wears clothes and goes to school, and we are feeling the financial difference between having 3 and 4 children.

If you would like to financially support our family, there is an envelope included in this letter. You may send your gift to our mission (whose address is on the envelope), and they will send you a tax deductible receipt ... along with another envelope! :-)

To those who have faithfully provided for our family these 3 years — we thank you! You have invested much in our family and this ministry. May we glorify the Lord together.

Can you run a cow for our support?

Ranchers, if you are interested in taking care of a cow for our support, please contact Bruce Brunner at 605-456-1665 or by email at brucebrunner@hotmail.com.

"I'm so glad to be in our family" from Judy

Winter is on its way. It's a cloudy, cold day in Kiev, but our spirits are happy. We are so blessed. How precious it is to be children of God ... and we praise Him for the gift of family.

Mike is back to teaching at the seminary. These days he's teaching to the accompaniment of clanging hammers, screaming drills, and the constant rumbling of a big crane. The seminary is building a 5-story addition to their campus. This will fulfill a great need, as they are currently able to board only 20 students full time. There are 110 in attendance, but the rest are "modular students" that come in 4 times a year for 2 weeks of intensive classes each time. Mike's class of 7 juniors is residential. They live at the seminary and take classes every day. His freshman and sophomores are modular students. He will not get to have another residential class until the juniors graduate because of the lack of dorm space.

We've experienced some changes since coming back. **Mandie** is in a corset-type brace for scoliosis. We discovered this summer that her curvature had worsened from 30 to 40 degrees. She has to wear the brace for 18 hours each day, but its purpose is not to straighten her spine. It will hopefully keep her from getting worse. This has been difficult for Mandie, but her friends have been wonderful. The boys in her class offer to carry her books, and if she drops a pencil someone usually dives to retrieve it, as she cannot bend to pick it up. Mandie is playing soccer. She is allowed to take her brace off for practices and games. She loves sports and guitar lessons.

Luke is enjoying his soccer season, too. He's a good player, and we enjoy watching his games. He will start saxophone lessons next week.

Sammie is home schooling this year. This has been good for her with the adjustment of having Katya in the family. She gets extra time with me, and we are enjoying that time immensely. Sammie has taken a big interest in

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Slow Growing Love from Luke Manna, 13 years old

It has been a process to learn to love a little girl that came into our family this summer. Katya has taught me one of the most important lessons I could learn in my life, true love. I always thought I loved people well, but I discovered that I usually only loved those who wouldn't affect the little "box" that I would go in to hide from the world. Suddenly, there was a person in my "box" with me, and it felt like she was taking some of my parents' love from me.

I could not seem to make myself love this little girl, whom God had placed in our family. I couldn't believe how *hard* it was to truly love! I started to read 1 Corinthians 13 every day, applying it to my situation. This helped, but it still didn't click inside of me. I have needed to keep praying for love every day. Also I dwell on the idea that we do not deserve love from God, yet He keeps giving it to us anyway.







Katya and Luke

Over the summer my love for Katya has slowly and steadily grown. I have learned that love is a choice, and I will keep choosing to love.

New Youth Ministry Students from Mike

This fall we have been accepting more students to begin their studies. The following four students are a sample of the quality young men and women that we get to train and mentor as youth pastors and leaders. These students join the 18 others that have already started their Bachelors of Theology in Youth Ministry. They were asked the question, “Why did you decide to study at Kiev Theological Seminary in youth ministry?”

	<p>Tatyana Gordun, Freshman Youth Ministry Student Youth are a part of my life. I can not imagine a church without young people because they are involved in every area of ministry in our church. I feel this is my calling from God since it is easy for me to find a common language with them.</p> <p>Age: 22 Ministry: youth leader Region of Ukraine: Volyn</p>
	<p>Alexander Vakulin, Freshman Youth Ministry Student I want to receive knowledge and sound spiritual principles for ministry. I want to learn how to do my work more effectively. After graduating from seminary, I desire to teach others to be youth pastors.</p> <p>Age: 26 Ministry: Sunday School teacher, Bible study leader, editor of church newspaper Region of Ukraine: Rivne</p>
	<p>Andrei Savich, Freshman Youth Ministry Student I chose Youth Ministry to learn how I can minister to young people more effectively. For 2 years I have been a youth leader at Resurrection Church in Lutsk. I see the need to study so I can understand youth culture better, their way of life, how to reach young people, and to teach them to be followers of our Lord.</p> <p>Age: 22 Ministry: youth leader, Sunday School teacher, preacher, Bible study leader, choir member, director of AWANA Region of Ukraine: Volyn</p>
	<p>Olena Lapina, Freshman Youth Ministry Student I chose this major because I want to serve the Lord. Homelessness is a critical problem in my city and throughout Russia. I desire to invite such young people to our youth group – those who live in attics and cellars and are from unhappy families. I want to talk with them about God, eternity and other spiritual matters.</p> <p>Age: 22 Ministry: choir member, starting new youth ministry Region: Bryansk, Russia</p>

“I’m so glad to be in our family” – continued

cooking and is good at it. She is happy to announce at meal times what parts of the meal she has cooked. Next week, Sammie will begin taking English horseback riding lessons. This is a dream come true for her!

Upon our return to Kiev, **Katya**’s mother gave permission for us to become Katya’s legal foster parents. It has been 4 1/2 months since we took her from the orphanage, and she is blossoming. Discipline has made such a difference in her life. She hardly pushes the boundaries anymore. She is learning English in school, reading amazingly well, spelling, and quoting poems and Bible verses. Katya is a very bright child with a contagiously joyful spirit. I’ve shared how taking her in was a very difficult adjustment for our family. I’m thankful to be able to say that though we still have the ups and downs of adjustment, we praise the Lord for bringing this sunny, bouncy, really talkative 8-yr. old into our lives. And Katya says, “I’m so glad to be in our family. God is so good to me.”