



Looking back, then ahead

A few days after our arrival in the states we took off on our first major trip. We first went to Louisville, Kentucky where we went to our first Team Leader Summit led by Team Expansion. After that we spent some time with the Taking Christ to Italy - PACE church, Shively Christian Church.

At the Team Leader Summit we met several of the other team leaders from around the world. We were challenged, encouraged and strengthened by them. Hopefully, we were able to challenge, encourage and strengthen them as well. There were sessions geared at highlighting International Services' (our Home Office) vision and new services. There was a special speaker there who helped us consider the impact of children on cross cultural teams and how to function ourselves living in more than one culture. It was a great time of fellowship and training. We are already looking forward to the next one in 2009.

After the Team Leader Summit, we spent some time in Louisville in meetings with our Home Office and visiting our PACE church. Two days of meetings were to be trained as language coaches. This training will help us as we lead a new team through the murky waters of language and culture study. Another meeting was to share our thoughts as about developing new fields. Since we have been going through it during the past year, our insights were all fresh and raw. We could provide our experience to help shape the overall procedure for future teams.

While visiting Shively, we ate meals with members, visited Sunday School and worship, met with key leaders and discussed the future plans of Go Verona in alignment with the Taking Christ to Italy vision. We intend to return to Shively before our departure to Italy later this year. When we return we'll share our full presentation with the members of Shively Christian Church.

After that, we made our way to Cincinnati, Ohio for the National Missionary Convention. Our purpose was to recruit for our team and build relationships with churches in order to create a partnership for this ministry. Joining us, in Ohio, was our teammates, John & Ann Blackburn, our team pastors, John & Judy Webb, and former Ancona teammates, Josh Furnal and Marcus Van Dorn. Several former interns were also there so we had a large group of Italy spokesmen. Our time was very fruitful. We interviewed a half dozen people regarding the positions of youth, children and music/worship. We also talked with many other interested individuals. We were encouraged to see other friends in ministries around the world and made some relationship progress with several churches.

As we made it back to Tulsa, we were able to spend the holidays with family, as well as take time off for vacation. This refreshing time has been great and we have continued to follow up on recruiting and seek out others interesting in joining the Verona team. We have spoken with many great potential recruits, and we have prayerfully narrowed it down as we make progress. By this time next month, we should be able to report more specifically who will be joining us in this church planting process.

We have started visiting our supporting churches and sharing our work by presentations and small group visits. If you would like to schedule us for a visit, please phone or email (contact information on back). We have also started getting together with individual supporters, prayer partners and those interested in the ministry in Italy. If you would like to schedule a get together, please contact us.

In Christ, Matt & Angie

Taking Christ To Italy: Go Verona

Taking Christ To Italy is a PACE project launched by Team Expansion & Shively Christian Church

Facts About Verona...

Did You Know That....

...besides the arena, many other venues in Verona celebrate the arts, like music and theater?

...there are two professional soccer teams in Verona, but they share the same stadium and colors?

...while prostitution is legal, stopping in your car to talk with a prostitute is illegal?

...Verona is just South of the Italian Alps, but can mainly see them from the outer edges of the city?



Matt & Angie Crosser

From Int'l Services

A Note from Team Expansion's President:



Doug Lucas

My wife, son and I recently watched 'Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End' together for a family night. Confession: I was lost for much of the movie (it was a sequel to a movie or two that I hadn't caught). But as the plot continued, the movie climaxed with a major showdown between pirates and their enemies. (I don't want to give away too much of the plot. :-) I enjoyed hearing Elizabeth Swan passionately give a 'call to arms' near the end of the movie, asking her colleagues to "Hoist the colours!" In her case, it was the "skull & crossbones" flag. As I was stirred by her emotional call, I reflected on how much greater is our own call... to spread the word worldwide about a humble man who contained the Words and the Spirit of God in his fleshly body, ... a man who turned redeemer and hero, ... a man who was so much more, in fact, than a man. No *wonder* we travel to the four winds of the earth! No *wonder* we risk life and limb. And to you, who make possible this work, we say, thank you for providing the wind for our sails! May God bless you as we hoist the colours of our savior... the red of his shed blood and the white of his saving grace. God bless your new year!!!

Thankfully,
Doug Lucas
President, Team Expansion

Websites

Where in the world-wide web are we?

Our website:
www.thecrossers.com

Our blog:
www.thecrossersblog.com

Go Verona team website:
www.goverona.org

Go Verona news blog:
www.goveronanews.com

Go Verona Radio podcast:
www.goveronapodcast.blogspot.com

Our Pictures:
www.fotki.com/mcrosser

Team Expansion:
www.teamexpansion.org

Our Timeline



In the United States
(present - Jun. 25, 2008)



In Verona
(Jun. 26, 2008*)

* depends upon preparations factors of new team.

Taking Christ To Italy: Go Verona

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Current Budget 2008

"From the Kitchen" will be back next issue, but we wanted to get you information about our latest budget. It is for the year 2008. In preparing the new team, we completely overhauled the previous budget. This will help us be more accurate and realistic as we follow God in ministering in Italy. We also have one time needs to raise before we return to Italy.

Our monthly need is \$6976 and our one time needs are \$38,521. We currently have \$4538 in monthly commitments which is 65%. We also raised \$3000 towards the one time needs, so we still need another \$35,521. For our monthly needs if we had only 30 individuals commit \$80 per month, we would reach our monthly commitments. However, I think God is the best one to determine what one can give. Maybe God wants to challenge you to give \$5 per month, maybe it's \$160 per month. We ask that you pray about what God wants you to give. We appreciate your consideration.

As for our one time needs, we only need 12 churches to give \$2900 and we would meet our one time need. As we make trips to our supporting churches we hope to challenge others to see how God wants them to partner with us.

Prayer Highlights

Current Prayer Highlights:

Answered Prayer -

- ~ Great exposure at National Missionary Convention.
- ~ Time spent with churches has been beneficial.
- ~ Team Leader Summit went well and encouraged us.
- ~ Have had several solutions for transportation in states.

Verona Team Prayer -

- ~ Team members, John & Ann Blackburn (and their kids) as they prepare and support raise for the Verona work.
- ~ Team member, April Houk as she goes through a transition from her current ministry to the Verona team.
- ~ Our team's vacant positions (youth/worship)
- ~ Spiritual walls to be broken down in Italy.

Prayers for Italians -

- ~ People we've met in Verona: Lucia, Pasquale, Giovanni, Ellie and Felice.
- ~ Pray for the rental agents in Verona. Pray that they would not only find our team housing, but would find a relationship with Christ.

Prayers for Us -

- ~ Matt teaching at Int' Focus Week at OCC Feb. 6.
- ~ Pray as we take a class called "Perspectives" ea. Wed.
- ~ Our monthly financial commitments to be at 100%.
- ~ Our living permits to be done.

Ancona Team Prayer -

- ~ Ministry to flourish & spiritual guidance.
- ~ Ancona Team planning retreat.
- ~ Friends to come to follow Christ.
- ~ Jason & Heather Casey, as Jason leads the team.
- ~ Marcus Van Dorn, has recently returned to Italy.
- ~ Brian & Heidi Rotert, as they function in ministry.
- ~ Josh Furnal has recently returned.

To be more informed, join our bi-monthly prayer update list. If you would like to receive this via email



Matt & Angie Crosser

Missionaries to Verona, Italy
mcrosser@teamexpansion.org

Our Support Team

Milton & Elizabeth Hendricks
Forwarding Agents
moremail@valornet.com

John & Judy Webb
Team Pastors

Jimmy Foreman
Representative Elder

Jayson & Janice French
Representative Elder

Our Team

Matt & Angie Crosser
John & Ann Blackburn
April Houk

Our Mission

Our team exists to plant a church in Verona, Italy that glorifies God

Our Roles

Matt's main roles...
Team Leader
Graphics & Design
Video & Web Editing
Curriculum Design
Computer Tech
Short Term Groups
Building Relationships
Administration

Angie's main roles...
Homemaker
Team Member
Preschool Ministry
Children's English
Adult English
Building Relationships
Administration
Hospitality

Forwarding Address

Team Expansion
2605 W Vandalia St
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Please send all support to the address above with checks made out to: Team Expansion

Physical Address

Matt & Angie Crosser
9407 E 65th St Apt #3213
Tulsa OK 74133

Matt's cell 918-850-9828
Angie's cell 918-851-7944
Home/Office 918-398-9351

Finances

Monthly Exp. Recap/Oct.2007

Benefits	TOTAL
100 · Salary	2,355.21
110 · Medical Ins.	297.50
111 · Special Med.	191.09
150 · Housing Allow.	273.87
160 · Utilities	511.49
180 · Contributions	20.00
Total Benefits	3,649.16

Education	
200 · Books/Per.	103.52
230 · Team Building	61.49
Total Education	165.01

Christian Education	
300 · Printed Material	125.10
320 · Hospitality	293.01
Total Christian Educ.	418.11

Evangelism	
420 · Hospitality	382.61
Total Evangelism	382.61

Postage	
500 · In the Field	20.52
Total Postage	20.52

Office	
600 · Supplies In Field	412.31
640 · Facility/Utilities	40.00
650 · Supplies in States	15.18
660 · Mission Phone	80.49
661 · E-Mail	54.07
Total Office	602.05

Promotion/Representation	
700 · For More Support	166.05
710 · For More Recruits	117.62
720 · Newsletters	38.27
730 · Rep. to Supporters	463.26
Total Promotion/Rep.	785.20

Travel	
800 · Car/Transp.	736.30
810 · Meals w/Traveling	89.12
850 · Shipping	1,244.33
870 · Misc. Expenses	67.76
Total Travel	2,137.51

Miscellaneous	
920 · Banking Fees	29.00
930 · Mission House	213.36
Total Miscellaneous	242.36

TOTAL 8,402.53

Monthly Exp. Recap/Nov.2007

Benefits	TOTAL
100 · Salary	1,065.66
111 · Special Med Exp	63.96
150 · Housing Allow.	32.56
180 · Contributions	20.00
Total Benefits	1,182.18

Education	
200 · Books/Per.	251.66
230 · Team Building	14.81
Total Education	266.47

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Christian Education	
320 · Hospitality	46.10
Total Christian Education	46.10

Evangelism	
400 · Printed Material	9.07
Total Evangelism	9.07

Postage	
550 · In the States	11.00
Total Postage	11.00

Office	
600 · Supplies In Field	256.29
650 · Supplies in States	449.72
660 · Mission Phone	527.62
661 · E-Mail	62.91
Total Office	1,296.54

Promotion/Representation	
700 · For More Support	6.95
710 · For More Recruits	9.95
730 · Rep. to Supporters	94.10
Total Promo/Representation	111.00

Travel	
800 · Car/Transportation	541.02
806 · Vehicle Maintenance	35.41
810 · Meals w/Traveling	641.43
820 · Fees/Tolls	0.65
830 · Housing w/Traveling	365.41
870 · Misc. Expenses	155.94
Total Travel	1,739.86

Miscellaneous	
900 · Unspecified Equip.	521.46
920 · Banking Fees	29.00
930 · Mission House	64.54
Total Miscellaneous	615.00

TOTAL 5,277.22

Monthly Exp. Recap/Dec. 2007

Benefits	
100 · Salary	1,882.26
111 · Special Med. Exp.	70.28
150 · Housing Allow.	494.37
180 · Contributions	20.00
Total Benefits	2,466.91

Education	
200 · Books/Periodicals	170.51
230 · Team Building	37.68
Total Education	208.19

Christian Education	
320 · Hospitality	12.56
Total Christian Education	12.56

Evangelism	
400 · Printed Material	29.99
Total Evangelism	29.99

Office	
600 · Supplies In Field	57.92
640 · Facility/Utilities	20.00
650 · Supplies in States	285.65
660 · Mission Phone	295.45
661 · E-Mail	15.53
Total Office	674.55

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Promotion/Representation	
710 · For More Recruits	10.00
730 · Rep. to Supporters	87.94
Total Promo/Representation	97.94

Travel	
800 · Car/Transportation	183.76
810 · Meals w/Traveling	130.61
Total Travel	314.37

Miscellaneous	
900 · Unspecified Equip.	75.05
920 · Banking Fees	29.00
930 · Mission House	693.96
Total Miscellaneous	798.01

TOTAL 4,602.52

Monthly Receipts Recap/Oct. 2007

Donors	Amount
Individuals (11)	\$1,122.00
Churches (9)	\$5,130.00
~ Edmond CC	\$2050.00
~ FCC Kenosha	\$300.00
~ FCC Sapulpa	\$280.00
~ Highland Park CC	\$1,110.00
~ Metro Faith CC	\$200.00
~ Osage Hills CC	\$240.00
~ Real Life Church	\$100.00
~ Sandusky Ave CC	\$100.00
~ Shively CC	\$750.00
Oct. Grand Total	\$6,252.00

Sep Balance	\$ 3,157.04
Oct Receipts	+\$ 6,252.00
Oct Sub-Total	\$ 9,409.04
Oct Expenses	-\$ 8,402.53
Oct Balance	\$ 1,006.51

Monthly Receipts Recap/Nov. 2007

Donors	Amount
Individuals (11)	\$1,263.30
Churches (8)	\$3,730.00
~ Edmond CC	\$800.00
~ FCC Sapulpa	\$400.00
~ Highland Park CC	\$1,110.00
~ Metro Faith CC	\$200.00
~ Osage Hills CC	\$320.00
~ Real Life Church	\$50.00
~ Sandusky Ave CC	\$100.00
~ Shively CC	\$750.00
Nov. Grand Total	\$4,993.30

Oct Balance	\$ 1,006.51
Nov Receipts	+\$ 4,993.30
Nov Sub-Total	\$ 5,999.81
Nov Expenses	-\$ 5,277.22
Nov Balance	\$ 722.59

Monthly Receipts Recap/Dec. 2007

Donors	Amount
Individuals (8)	\$962.00
Churches (8)	\$3,550.00
~ Edmond CC	\$800.00
~ FCC Kenosha	\$300.00
~ Highland Park CC	\$1,110.00
~ Metro Faith CC	\$200.00
~ Osage Hills CC	\$240.00
~ Real Life Church	\$50.00
~ Sandusky Ave CC	\$100.00
~ Shively CC	\$750.00
Dec. Grand Total	\$4,512.00

Nov Balance	\$ 722.59
Dec Receipts	+\$ 4,512.00
Dec Sub-Total	\$ 5,234.59
Dec Expenses	-\$ 4,602.52
Dec Balance	\$ 632.07

Thanks for all you've contributed in finances and prayers!



Matt & Angie Crosser
Missionaries to Verona, Italy
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Current Financial Need

We currently have monthly commitments of \$4,538 raised out of a total need of \$6,976. All we ask is that you prayerfully consider what God might want you to give, and that is between him and you.

This 2008 budget is based on an dollar/euro exchange rate of 1.47%. So far the exchange rate already got to 1.48% in January 2008.

Ways You Can Help

There are a few ways that you can partner with our ministry.

- 1) We need monthly supporters. You could commit an amount to send each month towards our ministry.
- 2) We need prayer partners to commit to pray for ourselves, our team and the people of Verona on a regular basis. If you would like to commit to being a prayer partner, let us know.
- 3) We are thankful for special offerings. Whether your gift is from your VBS, camp, Sunday School or yourself, it is always appreciated. We have unexpected things happen from time to time and your special gifts help weather the storms the enemy throws at us.
- 4) We need teams to come over and assist in our work. It may take us a few months to get settled in Verona next year. Then, once we are settled we look forward to having mission team come over and help. Ask for information.