



# MATT & ANGIE CROSSER ARTIST MISSIONARY

November 2011 ~ Vol. 13, No. 11

Send tax deductible donations to:

**Team Expansion**  
12129 E 25th ST  
TULSA OK 74129

*For IRS tax purposes, our names  
cannot appear anywhere on the check!*

[mcrosser@teamexpansion.org](mailto:mcrosser@teamexpansion.org)

918.398.9351  
918.850.9828

**Team Expansion's Mission Statement**  
*Transforming communities among the  
unreached by planting Biblical churches.*

**Team Expansion's Purpose**  
*Throughout the history of Team  
Expansion, our purpose has remained  
the same – to work together in teams in  
order to establish viable, multiplying  
communities of believers in some of the  
least reached places on the earth.  
Simply, we are church planters.*

**Team Expansion Statistics**  
*Team Expansion currently includes  
more than 300 workers serving in more  
than 40 countries. To date, we've  
planted more than 180 churches and  
baptized more than 10,000 believers  
around the world.*

## The Creative Artistic Process

Some have asked me over the years how I do what I do. Others have told me that there is no way they could come up with drawings or creative pieces. While I know that each of us have different gifts and talents, there might be a misunderstanding of the artistic process in which one goes through as they create. One misconception is that the drawings just appear on the page as I sketch them out. There might be times occasionally when an image \*pops\* in my head and I draw it out. But for every time that happens there are dozens of others that I have spent hours drawing, erasing, scrapping and starting over again to get the design just right.

For example, I have been working on a children's curriculum for a closed field throughout 2011 and will be into 2012. For each illustration I provide there is a great deal of behind the scenes work. Allow me to take you through my process.

Normally, I am working through a Bible story or book, therefore I have scripture references. So, I start there, reading the story and usually the surrounding chapters so I have a good contextual understanding. Then I crack open my commentaries. It's often that I will have about five books propped open on my desk so I can jump back and forth between references. It's important to have the background details down before I am in the middle of drawing them. I resolve questions such as the age of the biblical character, what is the setting (interior, wilderness, etc.) and look for things animals or buildings common to that area and time period.

After I have a good solid understanding of the story that I am

illustrating, I move on to reference art and photographs. I look at archeological work to see what has been discovered about a particular place. I examine how other artists interpret the details and search online for reference photos of the plants, animals, buildings, facial features, etc.

Armed with all that background, I begin to sketch. The first sketches may just look like chicken scratch. I may come up with an idea that I need to get out of my head quick, before I lose it, so I just quickly sketch it out with stick figures and little to no details. At this stage I am also working on the character design for major characters. The design process is usually difficult enough, but add in the biblical norm of seeing people at different stages of their life. For example, what does Moses look like as a baby compared to his young adult years and elderly life? How can I keep common traits that appear in his face as he ages in the illustrations? What about the fact that he started out young life raised as an Egyptian then called by God into his original Jewish family. How did his dress change as he made the transition from one people to another?

Can you tell I spent a good deal of November working on these curriculum illustrations? Check out the back side for an image showcasing the character design I did of Moses through his life.

This curriculum will be used first in a closed Muslim country then hopefully throughout the world as a tool to teach people about God and lead them to him through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Thanks for partnering with us!

In Christ, Matt & Angie

## FIND US ON ONLINE



**Find Matt** on Twitter and Facebook:  
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/mcrosser>  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/mattcrosser>



**The Crossers Life** - about our life and ministry  
Blog: <http://www.thecrossersblog.com>  
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/thecrossers>  
Facebook: <http://bit.ly/thecrosserslifeonfb>



**Matt's Sketch Pad** - personal and ministry art projects  
Blog: <http://www.mattsketchpad.com>  
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/mattsketchpad>  
Facebook: <http://bit.ly/mattsketchesonfb>



# Notes from the President



Dear partner in the Task,

I just returned from a field visit to Ukraine where, in 1991, our workers began from scratch learning language, sharing Christ, and baptizing those who believed in Him. Soon there were 15 believers, then 30, then 60, then 120 and, before we knew it, there were 1000 believers joining together in white-hot worship, sharing their faith both at home and abroad. Within 6 years, each Team Expansion USA-sent worker was able to withdraw, leaving behind a stable church with its own staff and even a Bible college that trains preachers and missionaries. So, if there are no Team Expansion workers remaining there, why did I go? Because last weekend, the church celebrated its 20th birthday. They gave thanks for people like you, who sponsored the work of servants like your favorite Team Expansion missionary. Scripture came alive right before our very eyes! "Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else." (2Co 9:13)

Thankful for your partnership,  
Doug Lucas - President, Team Expansion

## Our Team Creative Arts

Please pray for the other members of Team Expansion International Service's staff. Lift up in the prayer the projects that the other members of the Creative Arts team are working on.

**Sauna Peterson**  
**Carla Cassel**  
**Nathan Holt**  
**Betty Byrd - director**

Please pray for them as you pray for us!

## Representative Elders

**Jimmy Foreman**  
Sandusky Avenue Christian Church

**Jayson & Janice French**  
Christ In Youth

## Pastors of Encouragement

**John & Judy Webb**  
Hope International University

# Monthly Finances

## Monthly Expense Recap For October 2011

<b>Benefits</b>	
100 · Salary	1,825.98
111 · Special Medical Expense	207.86
180 · Contributions	178.00
<b>Education</b>	
200 · Books/Periodicals	68.06
<b>Christian Education</b>	
320 · Hospitality	59.25
330 · Other	15.93
<b>Postage</b>	
550 · In the States	79.99
<b>Office</b>	
650 · Supplies in the States	554.54
660 · Mission Phone	99.15
661 · E-Mail	89.00
<b>Promotion/Representation</b>	
700 · For More Support	9.95
730 · Reporting to Supporters	49.99
740 · Home Office	200.00
<b>Travel</b>	
800 · Car/Transportation	252.00

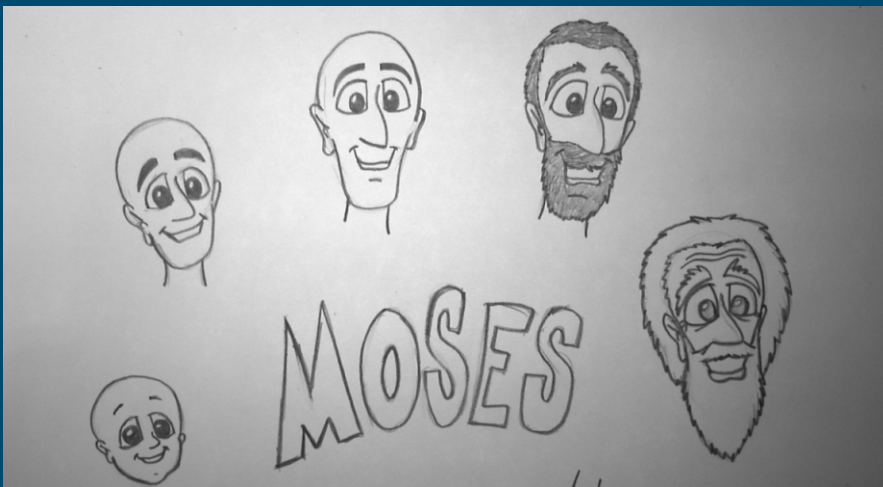
806 · Vehicle Maintenance	110.34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,800.04</b>

## Monthly Receipts Recap For October 2011

<b>Individuals (9)</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$705.00</b>
<b>Churches (5)</b>	<b>\$2900.00</b>
Edmond CC	650.00
First CC Sapulpa	100.00
Highland Park CC	1050.00
Osage Hills CC	200.00
Sunnybrook CC	900.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3605.00</b>
<b>Running Ledger</b>	
Oct Beginning Balance	\$ 2646.53
Oct 2011 Receipts	+ 3605.00
	<b>\$ 6251.53</b>
Oct 2011 Expenses	- 3800.04
Oct 2011 Ending Balance	<b>\$ 2451.49</b>

# Project Showcase

Here's a drawing of the final character design of Moses for the children's curriculum I am currently working on. I had to keep in mind how Moses changed AND stayed the same as he aged from a baby in a basket floating in a river to a man full of years and beard!



for more art projects go to [www.mattsketchpad.com](http://www.mattsketchpad.com)

## Prayer (Requests & Praises)

- \* Pray for Kevin at home with night vent and nursing.
- \* Pray for Matt's continued health improvement.
- \* Pray for all the art projects that Matt does for missions.
- \* Pray for help to offset our 2010 Italy moving loan.
- \* Pray for Matt & Angie as caretakers for Matt's brother, Kevin.
- \* Pray for Matt & Angie as they "parent" a niece and nephews.
- \* Pray Kevin to stay out of the hospital for now. He's had six admissions this year. In 2010, he had none!
- \* Pray for Kevin to recover from traumatic brain injuries.
- \* Pray for Angie as a homemaker and preschool teacher.
- \* Pray for us to be leaders in our family, church and community.

Email us if you want to be a Prayer Partner!

## Mobile Edition

Would you rather read our newsletter on your phone or tablet? Just scan the QR code below to download a pdf.



November 2011