

Go Ancona

Matt & Angie Crosser

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Relationship Building...

Great Outreaches

We have talked about our Encounter Coffee House events before, but I wanted to note a couple of recent highlights. In February we held our largest ever Encounter turnout. We gave it the theme of "Valentine Blues" and had some local friends come and play blues music, meanwhile our facility was decorated with blue hearts, candles, etc... We had 30 visitors come, it was great. It was the third largest outreach event ever. The first and second were both of the Thanksgiving outreach dinners that we held in 2004 and 2006.

Then in the middle of March, we hosted a student team from Ozark Christian College, led by Cliff Murphy and Jason Robinson. Cliff has been here three times before, twice as a trip leader for OCC and the first time as a student on a CIY summer missions team. The OCC team did a great job of diving in and spending time with Italians and getting to know the culture.

While they were here, they were involved in many different functions. They were involved in our weekly English class outreach, prayed all throughout the city, spent time with our Italian friends and helped host a couple of our larger outreach events. The first event was our March Encounter Coffee House, where the theme was "Route 66". I put together a book of over 100 photos that Angie and I took when we traveled to our supporting churches in 2006 via Route 66. I printed them through Lulu.com a self-publishing website and ordered four copies for the event. After several problems and much prayer the books arrived on the day of the Coffee House outreach. The OCC team made many great decorations and put everything up in order to give it a Route 66 feel. We ended up having 22 people show up, which was a great response, if not as huge as the last month. It was still one of the biggest Encounters we have hosted. The next night, they helped our team put together our second Video Game night. The first one we held was back

Italians came and videogamed the night away. It was a great opportunity to meet new people and build on existing relationships. In fact, more than half were first time visitors to anything at our facility. Coincidentally, it was the fourth largest outreach we have ever hosted.

While the OCC team was still here, a friend of ours, Marco, really got to spend some time with them as well as us. One night, I shared with him something that I had been thinking for a few months now, which was that God wanted to use his abilities to tell stories, his humor and charisma for life for God's kingdom. I thought that the conversation would stop there, but I wanted to at least make that verbal witness to him. Then he surprised me. He asked me if it was better to believe in God with all your heart and not keep the commandments or to keep all God's commandments but not really believe. I said it didn't really matter to God. We then went on an hour long journey through scripture, looking at verses in James (about faith and deeds, and the demons believing, yet shuddering). Then to Hebrews to talk about faith, not seeing and believing, etc... It was amazing, then I pulled out the paper that was inserted into the only Bible I had found and was using (after looking all over our shelves at the office). What was inside I shared with Marco. A couple of years ago, I co-taught some youth sessions at a Christian convention in southern Italy. This "bookmark" was left there since then. It was from one of the sessions and was titled "Your responsibility for your faith". Written on the sheet were several of the scriptures that Marco and I had just looked at together and some were under a sub-heading of Belief or Deeds? He said that was the

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Here is a picture from our March Video Game night. Everyone in this picture is an Italian who came to the event. The story is on page two.

in September, while there was not a big response, it brought four new people that have continued coming to other events since then. At the September Video Game Night, there were a total of seven visitors. This time, we had some local support behind it. A video game store owner brought some of his stuff and a friend, who owns a pizzeria, donated several pizzas to our event. He is a nominal muslim. We ended having a totally unexpected response. Twenty-eight



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question I asked you about tonight. I agreed and asked him what he thought about the fact that it was in the only Bible I found on the night he asked those questions. He was speechless. The conversation came to a close and he left with many thoughts, but not after I told him that if he ever had any questions he could call me, day or night. The next night he attended our Coffee House and he told Angie that he only got about 30 minutes of sleep the night before. Maybe God was convicting his heart and penetrating his soul. Would you pray that God would continue to do just that?

After the OCC team left, things didn't stop. Angie's sister, Mary Ann, her husband, David and their two precious little girls, our nieces - Shelby and Macy came over to visit. While they were here we hosted a children's movie outreach. It ended up that only a few came, but we did get to spend some quality time with existing relationships. Then while Mary Ann and David were here, we did something that the angels celebrated in heaven. We looked at some scriptures together, then went out to the icy cold Adriatic sea and David was baptized! Rejoice with us.

I want to make sure and emphasize why we host the big outreach events that we have. People come and bring their friends. Sometimes their friends come back and the person who first brought them never come back themselves. There are Italians who are seeking something more to this life. It is through these "big net" outreach events that we find people who are receptive. Then we get to know them and build on those relationships. Marco came as a friend of Mara, who has not come around near as often. Novella came as a friend of Emmanuela, who came as a friend of Valeria. Novella has come to more of our "church" events than Emmanuela, and Emmanuela has come to more general events than Valeria. Christ was involved in communities of friends and they saw people saved in large groups. How does this happen? I believe it happens in just the way we are proceeding. You see most of the people who are coming are connecting to others who are coming. Once the first couple of those people in the "communities" come to Christ, we imagine it will be like the first domino to fall, which hits the next one and the next one, until multitudes of dominoes fall. Please pray that as we reach out to these communities, God would penetrate their hearts and convict their spirits and that they would come to Him.

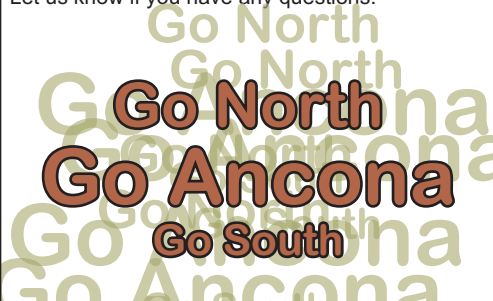
In Christ,
Matt & Angie



Taking Christ To Italy Plans One



The overall vision of the 'Taking Christ to Italy' project is to plant three churches in the country of Italy, one in the North, South and in the Center where we are in Ancona. We shared in our last newsletter that we would give you some guidance in praying for the new ministry to take place in northern Italy. At the end of this month we have several visitors coming who will be taking part in a prayer/survey trip through the four cities that we have been researching and praying about; Treviso, Venezia-Mestre, Verona and Parma. Included with this month's newsletter you'll find a great resource for praying with us during the days we travel through the four cities. We would ask that each one of you join us by praying on the days we survey the cities. We would also ask that you copy the prayer guide and pass it out to your members to be praying with us too! If you want, you'll be able to follow along the journey at our new North team blog, highlighting the new ministry. You can find it at www.gonorthnews.blogspot.com. Let us know if you have any questions.



As President of Team Expansion, I'd like to thank you personally for your financial support and prayers in the carrying out of our global ministry. We take very seriously our responsibility to report to you not only the good things that God is doing around the world, but also the details of how we're doing, financially. Our Leadership Task Force (board of directors) just met for their annual retreat. They carefully evaluated the 70 projects or teams that currently labor in 40 different lands, involving the regular labors of some 300 full-timers. They prayed, deliberated, and pondered our past, present and future. At the conclusion of their retreat, as they were rejoicing in the way God is answering prayers around our planet, their thoughts turned to you -- the people and churches that make it possible for Team Expansion's workers to carry out their respective roles in the Lord's work. They and all of us are grateful to you and your unselfishness with unreached peoples the world over. Thank you for your support.

- Doug Lucas
President and Founder of Team Expansion



Matt & Angie Crosser
Missionaries to Ancona, 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
Jason & Heather Casey
Matt & Angie Crosser
Marcus Van Dorn
Brian & Heidi Rotert
Josh Furnal

Our Roles
Creative Arts & Promotions
Children's Ministry
Youth Ministry
Evangelism
Hospitality

Our Mission
To plant a church that is passionate about introducing people to Christ, growing them into disciples, equipping them to ministry in an attitude of worship

Our Forwarding Address
Team Expansion
2605 W Vandalia St
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Please send all support to this address and checks made out to: Team Expansion

Our Physical Address
Matt & Angie Crosser
Piazza Malatesta, 25
60121 Ancona AN
Italia

Home/Office 918-398-9351
(remember we are 7 hours ahead)
Matt's Cell 011-39-392-320-9987
Angie's Cell 011-39-349-139-3523



Financial Data

Monthly Expense Recap For February 2007

Categories	Total
Benefits	
100 · Salary	1,569.52
110 · Medical Insurance	1,290.00
111 · Special Medical Exp	100.00
150 · Housing Allowance	2,053.52
180 · Contributions	40.00
Total Benefits	5,053.04
Education	
200 · Books/Periodicals	197.78
230 · Team Building	200.84
Total Education	398.62
Christian Education	
300 · Printed Material	62.45
Total Christian Education	62.45
Evangelism	
420 · Hospitality	266.21
430 · New Field Research	415.83
435 · Evang/Short Term Proj.	16.79
Total Evangelism	698.83
Postage	
500 · In the Field	11.66
550 · In the States	10.79
Total Postage	22.45
Office	
600 · Supplies In the Field	762.65
640 · Facility/Utilities	177.55
660 · Mission Phone	135.63
661 · E-Mail	32.25
Total Office	1,108.08
Promotion/Representation	
700 · For More Support	41.92
710 · For More Recruits	41.92
730 · Reporting to Supporters	41.92
750 · Miscellaneous	278.58
Total Promotion/Representation	404.34
Travel	
800 · Car/Transportation	80.32
806 · Vehicle Maintenance	311.42
870 · Misc. Expenses	1,208.99
Total Travel	1,600.73
Miscellaneous	
900 · Unspecified Equipment	50.00
910 · Legal In Residence	113.97
920 · Banking Fees	128.31
930 · Mission House	102.18
Total Miscellaneous	394.46
TOTAL	9,743.00

Monthly Receipts for February 2007

Donor	Amount
Individuals (9)	\$915.00
Churches (9)	\$3,875
Edmond CC	550.00
First CC - Sapulpa	200.00
Highland Park CC	1,545.22
Life Park CC	250.00
Metro Faith CC	100.00
Osage Hills CC	295.00
Real Life CC	50.00
Sandusky Ave CC	135.00
Shively CC	750.00
TOTAL	\$4,790.00

Monthly Expenses/Receipts Ledger

	Balance
January Ending Balance	\$16,880.85
February Receipts	<u>+\$4,790.00</u>
February Sub-Total	\$21,670.85
February Expenses	<u>-\$9,743.00</u>
February Ending Balance	\$11,927.85

With the extra funds that came in last month, we were already able to catch up on quite a bit. We were able to pay two months rent this month, so we are now paying our rent at the beginning of the month, three years garage condo fees, different office supplies as well as being able to catch up and pay four months of health insurance. Next month we will pay our back SS taxes, so that we don't have to pay a monthly fee anymore.

Our 2007 budget is available. If you would like a copy contact us and we can mail or email you a copy. We are so grateful that you are part of this ministry. You have been a blessing to us and through your support to the people of Italy.

Thanks for your love,
Matt & Angie Crosser

