

Go Ancona

Matt & Angie Crosser

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April/May/June 2007

Riding the Waves...

Surfing Spiritual Waves

In his book, *Purpose Drive Church*, author Rick Warren talks about surfing and following God...

"If you take a class on surfing, you'll be taught everything you need to know about surfing: how to choose the right equipment; how to use it properly; how to recognize a "surfable" wave; how to catch a wave and ride it as long as possible; and, most important of all, how to get off a wave without wiping out. But you'll never find a course that teaches, "How to Build a Wave."

"Surfing is the art of riding waves that God builds. God makes the waves; surfers just ride them. No surfer tries to create waves. If the waves aren't there, you just don't surf that day! On the other hand, when surfers see a good wave, they make the most of it, even if that means surfing in the middle of a storm."

"As Paul pointed out about the church at Corinth, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow" (1 Cor. 3:6, italics added). Notice the partnership: Paul and Apollos did their part, but God caused the growth."

"Our job as church leaders, like experienced surfers, is to recognize a wave of God's Spirit and ride it. It is not our responsibility to *make* waves but to recognize how God is working in the world and join him in the endeavor."

We have, since we arrived in Ancona, tried to find the waves God was making. After looking and looking we started seeing ripples which were the evidence of waves. So we continued on and over the past year or two we have seen growth in relationships multiply. On the last page, there is a couple of images to help understand this concept better.

Since, our last newsletter, things have continued to move forward. Our June Coffee House set another visitor record. There were forty-four people there, many of whom had never come to anything before. Our friends, Daniel and Simona, have been going through a study with us about making a decision for Christ. They have many distractions including family, their orthodox upbringing, and work that pulls them away, but they are closer than ever to making a decision and being baptized. Daniel has said he is ready, but he wants to wait for Simona, so they can make the decision together. So we continue to



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study with them. And Marco, who we shared last time had brought some great questions about faith and practice, and I have talked about doing a study together that might help him work through those questions. The first time we were supposed to meet, he ended up having to work an 1 1/2 later than was supposed to, so we didn't have to do the study that night. Pray that God would use us to guide these relationships to him and that they would see Christ in us.

Drawing to a Close

As I look at the calendar, I am constantly reminded that our time is drawing to a close. We have a little over a month left on the Ancona team. We have spent the last several months phasing out of our ministry responsibilities in Ancona and adding to our responsibilities for the Go North team. Things have gone incredible smooth and I am thankful for God's hand in orchestrating everything the way he has. So, that leaves us with several weeks left. Pray that we would finish strong and launch into the new work with great fervor. The first steps? Recruiting a team. Building them up and strengthening our unity. Promoting the new city (see page 2) and the work that will take place there. And researching the city and different aspects for ministry there. Thanks for your continued support.

In Christ,
Matt & Angie



Timeline:

Until July 31st - in Ancona on the Ancona team
From August 1st to November 1st - in Ancona on the Verona team
From November 1st to May/June 2008 - in USA on Verona team
May/June 2008 - return to Italy with ready Verona team members

And the Results are in....

In our last newsletter we shared with you about the prayer/survey trip we would be taking in April. There were seven participants who in a whirlwind zipped through four cities in four days. It went quick but there seemed to be enough time in each city to find out the answers to many of our questions. There was only one city where there seemed to be a strong direction, to which all on the survey trip agreed unanimously. In Verona, we found other Christians already involved in the Lord's work within another denomination who had been praying and fasting for a year for more workers to come. It was in Verona, that myself and Eric met Eli (pronounced Ellie) working at a coffee shop. After asking her about the spiritual state of Verona and sharing that we wanted to move to one of the four cities to study the Bible with people, she replied that we should find her if we chose Verona. We felt in those two specific events, and there were others too, that God showed us a) non-believers who wanted us to come and b) other believers who wanted to help us and network with us in reaching the city for Christ. In our prayer and survey there was most definitely a need in each of the cities, but for various reasons Verona stood out. Thank you for praying for our survey team and the clarity necessary to discern God's will for the new work. So, now join with us in prayer for the people of Verona, that they might come to know Christ and that we can help them with that in any way we can. If you want, you'll be able to read about the new team and ministry at our Verona team blog. You can find it at www.goveronanews.com. Let us know if you have any questions, we are excited for the new direction and thankful that you are on board with us.



Pasta Fagoli (Pasta and Beans)

Ingredients needed:

- 1 can pinto beans
- 2 cloves garlic chopped
- 3 tabs. Olive oil
- ½ onion chopped
- 1 stalk of celery chopped, leaves and all
- 6 cherry tomatoes halved
- ½ cup pancetta or cubbed ham
- 2 tabl. Fresh parsley chopped
- Mix together four kinds of pasta ¼ package each. For example ¼ spaghetti, ¼ penne, ¼ fusilli, ¼ bow tie



Directions:

Mix pastas together in a ziplock. Crush pasta into smaller pieces with rolling pin. Boil and salt water. Cook pasta for about 5 minutes. Then drain. In a separate pot. Heat olive oil and cook garlic, onions and ham. Once cooked add beans, celery, parsley and tomatoes. Simmer for about 5 minutes. Serve the bean mixture over the pasta
- from our friend, Marco



Tomorrow, here at the Team Expansion home office in Louisville, KY, a very veteran missionary with a Ph.D. and dozens of years of experience is visiting us, just to ask how he can chip in to help the Team Expansion family worldwide. His visit is totally unsolicited. He's stopping in because the great things God is doing around the world are getting his attention... more specifically, the great things God is doing through the men and women of Team Expansion. To me, his visit represents a kind of 'stake in the ground' moment. He's been a very faithful, but fairly independent missionary in times past. I don't know what he has thought about Team Expansion in the past. But I know what he thinks now -- that God is doing great things, and this particular veteran missionary has decided to join in! We're all very grateful for the fact that you and partners like you are undergirding this global family in a way that is changing lives on virtually every continent. We're all very grateful for you and your selfless spirit. And guess what! Word is getting around! May God receive praise for what He's doing because of your great love for His worldwide work!

- Doug Lucas
President and Founder of Team Expansion



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Our Support Team
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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
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Team Expansion

Financial Data

Monthly Expense Recap March 2007

Categories Total

Benefits

100 · Salary	1,605.50
110 · Medical Insurance	297.50
111 · Special Medical Exp.	26.39
130 · Social Security	2,373.57
150 · Housing Allowance	674.87
160 · Utilities	15.00
180 · Contributions	20.00
Total Benefits	5,012.83

Education

200 · Books/Periodicals	271.79
230 · Team Building	377.91
Total Education	649.70

Christian Education

320 · Hospitality	1.86
Total Christian Education	1.86

Evangelism

400 · Printed Material	20.00
420 · Hospitality	283.22
435 · Short Term Project	777.40
Total Evangelism	1,080.62

Postage

550 · In the States	135.42
Total Postage	135.42

Office

600 · Supplies In the Field	1,059.39
650 · Supplies in the States	88.00
660 · Mission Phone	88.29
Total Office	1,235.68

Promotion/Representation

740 · Home Office	300.00
Total Promotion/Repres.	300.00

Travel

800 · Car/Transportation	109.91
810 · Meals While Traveling	157.50
820 · Fees/Tolls	23.31
Total Travel	290.72

Miscellaneous

920 · Banking Fees	124.32
930 · Mission House	402.11
Total Miscellaneous	526.43

March Grand Total 9,233.26

Monthly Expense Recap April 2007

Categories Total

Benefits

100 · Salary	1,046.01
110 · Medical Insurance	297.50
111 · Special Medical Exp.	62.35
150 · Housing Allowance	2,157.71
Total Benefits	3,563.57

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Education

200 · Books/Periodicals	173.94
230 · Team Building	337.38
Total Education	511.32

Christian Education

320 · Hospitality	49.77
Total Christian Education	49.77

Evangelism

400 · Printed Material	15.77
420 · Hospitality	60.08
430 · New Field Research	3,845.04
460 · Facility/Utilities	101.25
Total Evangelism	4,022.14

Postage

500 · In the Field	47.74
550 · In the States	78.00
Total Postage	125.74

Office

600 · Supplies In the Field	82.91
650 · Supplies in the States	76.95
660 · Mission Phone	82.18
661 · E-Mail	9.17
Total Office	251.21

Travel

800 · Car/Transportation	114.31
810 · Meals While Traveling	11.16
870 · Misc. Expenses	53.49
Total Travel	178.96

Miscellaneous

920 · Banking Fees	118.79
Total Miscellaneous	118.79

April Grand Total 8,821.50

Monthly Expense Recap May 2007

Categories Total

Benefits

100 · Salary	1,116.26
110 · Medical Insurance	297.50
111 · Special Medical Exp.	50.00
130 · Social Security	44.30
150 · Housing Allowance	269.13
180 · Contributions	40.00
Total Benefits	1,817.19

Education

200 · Books/Periodicals	51.08
230 · Team Building	171.82
Total Education	222.90

Evangelism

420 · Hospitality	189.34
430 · New Field Research	694.95
Total Evangelism	884.29

Office

600 · Supplies In the Field	292.69
640 · Facility/Utilities	103.48
660 · Mission Phone	129.90
661 · E-Mail	80.19
Total Office	606.26

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Promotion/Representation

700 · For More Support	37.28
710 · For More Recruits	17.28
720 · Newsletters	17.28
730 · Reporting to Supporters	17.28
Total Promotion/Repres.	89.12

Travel

800 · Car/Transportation	169.99
820 · Fees/Tolls	45.39
Total Travel	215.38

Miscellaneous

900 · Unspecified Equipment	1,053.62
920 · Banking Fees	101.65
Total Miscellaneous	1,155.27

May Grand Total 4,990.41

Monthly Receipts March 2007

Donor Amount

Individuals (14) \$1,633.00

Churches (10) \$3,885.00

Edmond CC	550.00
First CC - Kenosha WI	300.00
First CC - Sapulpa	400.00
Highland Park CC	1,110.00
Life Park CC	250.00
Metro Faith CC	100.00
Osage Hills CC	240.00
Real Life CC	50.00
Sandusky Ave CC	135.00
Shively CC	750.00

March Grand Total \$5,518.00

Monthly Receipts April 2007

Donor Amount

Individuals (12) \$623.00

Churches (9) \$4,135.00

Cedar Ridge CC	1,000.00
Edmond CC	550.00
Highland Park CC	1,100.00
Life Park CC	250.00
Metro Faith CC	100.00
Osage Hills CC	300.00
Real Life CC	50.00
Sandusky Ave CC	35.00
Shively CC	750.00

March Grand Total \$4,758.75

Monthly Receipts May 2007

Donor Amount

Individuals (13) \$1,480.00

Churches (9) \$4,303.00

Edmond CC	550.00
First CC - Sapulpa	250.00
Highland Park CC	1,118.00
Life Park CC	250.00
Metro Faith CC	500.00
Osage Hills CC	100.00
Real Life CC	50.00
Sandusky Ave CC	235.00
Shively CC	750.00

March Grand Total \$5,283.00

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Expenses/Receipts Ledger

Feb Balance	\$11,927.85
Mar Receipts	+\$5,518.00
Mar Sub-Total	\$17,445.85
Mar Expenses	-\$9,233.26
Mar Balance	\$8,212.59
Apr Receipts	+\$4,758.75
Apr Sub-Total	\$12,971.34
Apr Expenses	-\$8,821.50
Apr Balance	\$4,149.84
May Receipts	+\$5,283.00
May Sub-Total	\$9,432.84
May Expenses	-\$4,990.41
May Balance	\$4,442.43

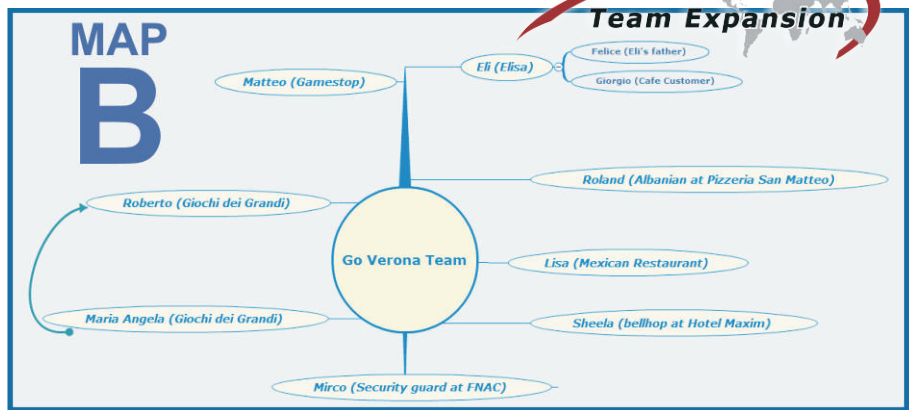
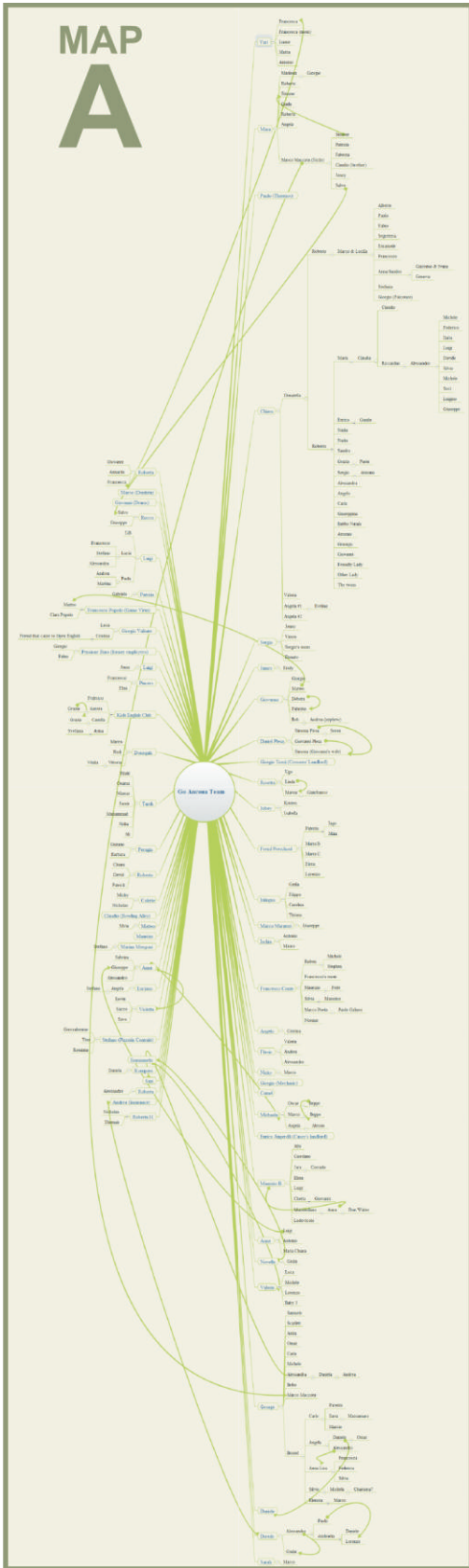
Six months ago, we asked for some of our churches to help us with many bills that had begun to accumulate due to the exchange rate getting worse, unexpected situations and the fact that our monthly budget is not totally covered by monthly commitments. God's people answered with a great blessing and we were able to catch up on many items, more than we were even expecting. It has helped us as we researched the new field, helping us selecting Verona and researching the logistics of ministry there. We were even able to pay off our back taxes that we had been paying monthly payments towards for the last several years.

We currently have a budget of \$5,579 per month. Towards this, we have \$4,105 in monthly commitments from individuals and churches. This is a difference of \$1,474. Therefore the extra blessing we received at the beginning of the year was able to help us in keeping up our monthly needs and ministry without financial hindrance when less than enough funds came in. You can see that we need more monthly commitments. We appreciate everything that you have been able to do in the past through prayer and support. If at this time, you or your church would be able to start giving or add to what you currently give, it would provide much help as we continue to make the transition from the Ancona team to the Verona team.

Our 2007 budget is available. If you would like a copy contact us and we can mail or email you a copy. Thank you for being part of this ministry. You are helping us reach the people of Italy for Christ.

Taking Christ To Italy Plans One





Here's One Perspective

While we have been on the Ancona team since May 1999, our team has only been in Ancona since 2001, due to support raising and language acquisition. When we first got to Ancona we only knew a couple of people. On the map to the left (MAP A) you can see many many lines. I know it is really small, but that is the only way I could fit it on the page. What you are looking at is many of the names of the people that we now know in Ancona. It lists around three hundred names! This isn't an exclusive list either. We didn't include the many people that have only attended one of our events once, but these names represent people that we have had more contact with or have come to know through other friends. That's some list accumulated over six years. Now turn your attention to the map above (MAP B). That is the state of relationships in Verona. This is a handful of names of people we have met on the few trips we have already made to Verona. It is interesting because it already contains more names than we would have had when we first moved to Ancona. However, it still shows the climb we have ahead of us. One of our first goals will be to meet people, then build those relationships and take them deeper, then as we go forward in friendship we will share our faith with them and hopefully see them come to know Him as their Lord and Savior.

As you can imagine the task seems daunting, but we know who to ask for strength. And we want to ask you to ask the Lord on our behalf to give us the strength, perseverance and willingness to listen as we march forward in God's next phase of our ministry in Italy.

