



The Roterts in Italy

A monthly look at the ministry, life, and culture of Ancona, Italy

Volume 6 — Issue 6
June 2008



Last month I mentioned briefly the news about our friend Massi, who lost his battle with Myelofibrosis. Our church is still very much dealing with the loss of our friend, who in a short time filled such an important role in our church.

The end came very quickly for him. Jason and I were on the way to visit him when we got the call that he had passed. We arrived to the explosion of emotions that happens just after such an event. It's in times like these that every catchy slogan, every apt nugget of Scripture, every pithy saying all dissolve into a single, question: why?

We all deal with this question in different ways. Massi's fiancée finds it difficult to leave the house. His mother faces an empty house and tries to make sense of what the doctors said and wonders if we did everything we could. As his pastor I wonder what God is doing and how He



can use this situation for His glory. My kids see their father grieving and see echoes of what we felt after Grandpa passed away (one year ago this month).

I've found myself reminding people that asking "why?" isn't sinful. It's normal to want to make sense of the things that happen

to us. I do think it's dangerous to assume that God will answer us right away. Or to ask "why" with the condition that we will only accept an answer if it makes sense using our human logic. The asking is what teaches us, not necessarily the answer given us.

Our church has blossomed in a way I haven't seen. We've started sending a monthly "pension" to Massi's mom, a widow who lost her only child. People are constantly asking each other how they are doing. And I've heard on more than one occasion someone mentioning that it's the job of the church (the people) to go to those who are hurting, and not the other way around.

I'm writing this note as I hold my brand new baby girl in my arms. Life moved quickly from tears of grief to tears of joy for us. I'd

forgotten about the sleepless nights and the diapers and the burping. But she's brought new life into our family, and I think even to our church. Life does move on, and we just have to cling to Jesus as he takes us on the ride.

I love being a part of this church in Ancona. I love that we can cry and laugh and have potlucks and watch soccer games. I love that we try new things, but go back to old things if new doesn't work. I love that we pray together and that we play together. I love that we face death and welcome life together.

Thanks for making it possible for us to be here.

Until next month...

Want to get in touch? Here's how...

E-mail: brottert@teamexpansion.org

Web site: www.theroterts.net

Home Address

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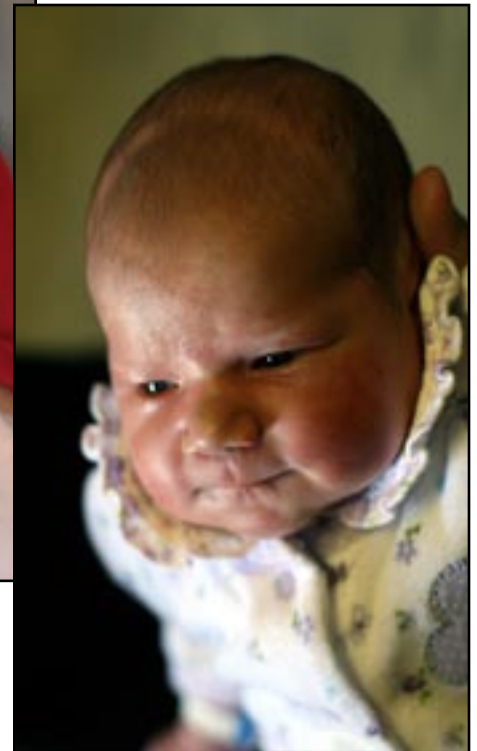
Team Expansion
PO Box 832
Joplin, MO 64802

Phone Number

Please send us an email to get in touch



*Welcome Francesca Grace Rotert!
Born June 9th, 10:10 PM.
4.420 kg. 53 cm.*



Please Pray...

Pray for our family's adjustment to having a new little one in the house.

Next month we will be attending a convention in Terracina, near Rome. We're looking forward to being with other believers in Italy, as well as enjoying some down time as a family.

The big kids finished up the third grade with excellent grades, and our youngest is now a proud graduate of pre-school and will be a first grader next year (there's no kindergarten here). We're thankful that God helped them through another year of school.

A Word from the Pres...

This past Monday evening, after having presented Team Expansion to a local church in Cincinnati, I picked up a soft drink then headed home, only to realize (about 5 miles down the road), I had walked out without paying for it! Sigh. I turned around, doubled back, explained to the cashier what had happened and cashier gladly took my \$1.50. :-)

In a quiet voice, he said, "Thank you for your honesty." I didn't go back just to hear him say thanks, but it still felt good that he said it. My guess is, you probably feel the same way about giving toward the work of your favorite Team Expansion missionary. You don't give just to hear 'thank you,' but the truth is, we really are grateful, as an organization, and we hope you hear us plain and simple, WE APPRECIATE YOU! Thank you for going out of the way to help the work of the Lord go forward!

Doug Lucas
President, Team Expansion

Financial Statement as of
May 31, 2008

Balance	\$5,535.65
Income	\$5,943.27
Individuals	\$2,834.00
Central CC (Rockford, IL)	\$1,040.00
First CC (Gravette, AR)	\$50.00
Harmony CC (Georgetown, KY)	\$200.00
Iron Gates CC (Joplin, MO)	\$200.00
Newberg CC (Newberg, OR)	\$450.00
Oswego CC (Oswego, KS)	\$355.00
Shively CC (Shively, KY)	\$500.00
Willamina CC (Willamina, OR)	\$354.27
Expenses	\$4,805.74
Benefits - Salary	\$1,671.64
Benefits - Special Medical Expense	\$55.30
Benefits - Retirement	\$100.00
Benefits - Housing Allowance	\$1,504.31
Benefits - Utilities	\$744.39
Benefits - Education for Children	\$12.48
Education - Language Acquisition	\$42.93
Education - Team Building	\$19.26
Christian Education - Hospitality	\$36.96
Office - Supplies in the Field	\$152.79
Office - Facility/Utilities	\$100.00
Office - Mission Phone	\$38.86
Promo./Rep. - Representation	\$100.00
Travel - Car	\$122.50
Travel - Fees/Tolls	\$85.72
Misc. - Banking Fees	\$18.60
Ending Balance	\$6,673.18