



The Roterts in Italy

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

Volume 6 — Issue 11
November 2008



with us. We started by reading them the history of Thanksgiving and saying a prayer of thanks to our God who brought us all together. We had nearly seventy visitors come through our doors!!

I must tell you, it was a lot of fun. I had a great time sharing my culture and tradition. We talked, we laughed, we even had some moments of real reflection. Afterward, as we were cleaning up I realized how important this outreach really was. My friend Francesca, who comes to English lessons but

not church, said something that still sticks with me. As we were cleaning up Saturday afternoon, she was helping with the dishes. I said, "You seem like you are already used to working around this kitchen." And she told me that even though she is really shy, it seems like she has known us forever. She said that it feels like "home." We feel like "family."

To be real honest, we've known each other since Lance started school here in Ancona (almost three years). But, we haven't really spent time together until she started coming to our free English lessons a couple of months

ago. So, I guess that's what God does for us. On a windy, simulated Thanksgiving day He gave us a reason to say, "Thank You" and our friends a place to call HOME.

Speaking of giving thanks, you know we couldn't even begin to do this ministry without you. Your financial support, prayers, and more sustain us and keep us going. As the one often at home managing the lives of our family, I really see and understand how important you behind-the-scenes people are to this ministry. Not only to the ministry, but to our personal lives, as well. Thank you for the part that you play!!

Until next month. . .

Thanksgiving. Pilgrims. Indians. Freedom to worship freely. We all know the story, but what it all boils down to for us is a day of giving thanks. Thanks to our Father for all of His blessings, thanks to our families for their love and sacrifice. We have an entire day set aside for being thankful.



So, with all of this so ingrained into our lives and culture, it is hard to imagine a place where there is no such holiday. Italy has over forty holidays on the national calendar, yet a day for giving thanks is not one of them. Thanksgiving here is something seen in the movies. It's a time when our friends ask questions like, "Do you really roast a whole turkey? Whole? Really?"

So, as we have a couple of other times in the past, we set out this year to have a "Thanksgiving Outreach" with dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday. We invited our friends to come and eat a traditional Thanksgiving meal

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

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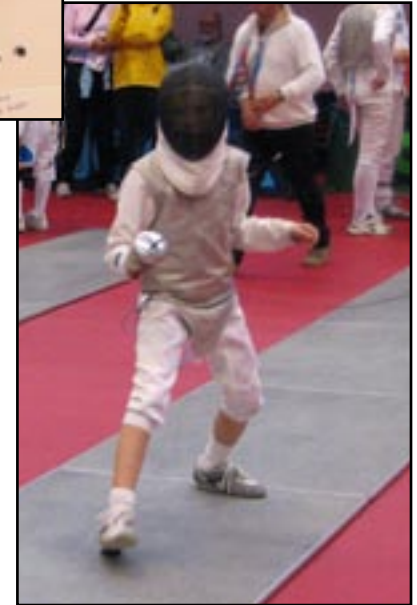
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Not even a plumbing problem could stop us from having a great coffee house last month. For a number of reasons we've decided to stop our coffee houses and allow them to become something more Italian led. Above, some of the graffiti written on the wall of our prayer room. It says "Love is crazy / patient." Very true!

Lance at his last fencing tournament. He took third place!



Please Pray...

Could you spend some time praying for the members of our Life Group? Please pray for Jen, Matteo & Silvia, Simone & Mariana & Alex, Maurizio, and Rosa.

We'll be here in Ancona for the holidays, but our team is scattering all over. The Caseys are headed back for a six month home service. The rest of the team will be headed to Germany for the annual Mid Winter Rally.

A note from Heidi:

In years past, the kids and I have made homemade treats for our friends and neighbors each Christmas. As our list of friends grows, and our availability of baking supplies doesn't ☺, I wanted to ask if you may be able to help the kids and I with this "project." If you have time or resources to send us a few treasured items from America, we would be overjoyed. We are looking for molasses, corn syrup, marshmallows, marshmallow crème, and peppermint candy canes or peppermints. Also, we could use white chocolate, butterscotch, peanut butter, or mint baking chips for cookies. Or, we welcome any great ideas you may have!! You might send us a quick email and we can give you some tips to get your stuff sent through customs faster. Thanks!!

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Financial Statement as of
October 31, 2008

Balance	\$6,355.94
Income	\$8,512.10
Individuals	\$3,976.00
Adventure CC (McMinnville, OR)	\$845.00
Central CC (Rockford, IL)	\$1,000.00
First CC (Gravette, AR)	\$50.00
Harmony CC (Lexington, KY)	\$200.00
Iron Gates CC (Joplin, MO)	\$450.00
Oswego CC (Oswego, KS)	\$330.00
Shively CC (Shively, KY)	\$1,000.00
Third Presbyterian (Sioux City, IA)	\$500.00
Willamina CC (Willamina, OR)	\$161.10
Expenses	\$6,092.59
Benefits - Salary	\$1,187.26
Benefits - Medical Insurance	\$750.00
Benefits - Special Medical Expense	\$98.78
Benefits - Retirement	\$100.00
Benefits - Housing Allowance	\$1,271.09
Benefits - Utilities	\$455.22
Benefits - Education for Children	\$576.36
Education - Language Acquisition	\$9.34
Education - Team Building	\$110.60
Christian Education - Hospitality	\$113.59
Evangelism - Hospitality	\$167.56
Postage - In the States	\$90.55
Office - Supplies in the Field	\$65.98
Promo./Rep. - Newsletters	\$35.00
Promo./Rep. - Reporting to Supporters	\$53.41
Promo./Rep. - Representation	\$100.00
Travel - Car	\$160.59
Travel - Vehicle Maintenance	\$160.59
Travel - Fees/Tolls	\$122.61
Misc. - Banking Fees	\$9.00
Misc. - Other	\$586.83
Ending Balance	\$8,775.45