



# The Roterts in Italy

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

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we didn't have to have a sermon or anything.

My second thought was, "I'm going to have to lead songs. And I'm *terrible* at leading songs. Marcus is still in Germany! Ahh!"

And then my last thought was, "Of course we can get together!" I asked David to get the word out, told him I wasn't even sure that *La Via* was clean, and that I would see him that evening for an informal service with dinner following.

And informal it was. We sang songs as best

we could without a piano or any kind of music (and didn't do too bad!). We broke bread with a leftover loaf we had at the house. We divided into small groups to talk about how God was working in our lives and to pray with each other. And then we had dinner together with some chicken soup and lasagna and abruzeese desserts and lots of great conversations. Daniel kept telling me how happy he was that we decided to get together, and mentioned how this is one of the only places he feels peace.

A couple of times during the service, I felt eyes gazing at me as if

to say, "What's next, pastor?" But I purposely kept my mouth shut. This was their idea after all, and I wanted them to see that there's nothing that I do that they can't do!

As I've been thinking it over I'm very proud of our church. It's slow-growing for sure, but I see a depth that I haven't always seen in churches before. I think they understand that the church isn't a building, but a group of believers. And I see them beginning to use their gifts to serve each other and serve others in the various places God has put them. And I think all of these things add up to a pretty good church.

*Until next month...*

I was really surprised yesterday morning. It was Sunday, and since the church meets in the evenings I was still lounging around the house in my pajamas. My phone rang, and it was David, who has recently started attending our church with his wife and three kids.



He told me that he had dinner with some others in the church the night before, and was wondering if it would be possible to have church that evening. We had originally decided not to get together, since many would be traveling and with family the Sunday after Christmas. But those who were still around wanted to get together to pray and have communion anyway.

I think my first thought was, "I sure hope he doesn't want me to preach!" It still takes me a long time to write a sermon in Italian, and there was no way I could get something together by that evening. I was relieved when he said

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

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*This month our team headed up the road a bit for a few days for our team planning retreat. We prayed and wrote down some things we would like to see happen in the church in 2009. A lot of our goals centered around empowering the church to do the things that we as pastors are doing. The Casey and Rotert kids had a great time playing with each other while we were in meetings. What a bunch of hams! And when did our kids get so old?! (We promise that we don't always make Kyle the Intern sit at the kids' table!)*



**Please Pray...**

We're all alone! At least, we're the only Americans in Ancona right now. Most of the team is in Germany attending the Mid Winter Rally for European missionaries. Kyle is in Rome with family. The Caseys made it safely back to the US for their home service. But things in the church continue to go great despite all the travel - definitely something to thank God for!

We're currently deciding what to do with our mid-week Life Group meetings. It's too large to be one group and we may need to find a new leader. In addition, we have another small group that is meeting for the purpose of deepening relationships. Please pray for good decisions!

**A Word from the President...**

Sing 'Happy Birthday' to us: In October 2008, Team Expansion turned exactly 30 years old. It was October, 1978, when I gathered with 7 other guys in a dorm room at the bible college I was attending. I remember the excitement of praying corporately for Uruguay, the country in South America we hoped to tackle first. But I also recall the sobering reality that, one by one, each of those 7 guys became interested in other goals. Still, the Lord was faithful. As Penny & I prayed, God soon raised up others and the rest, as they say, is history. Established in a prayer meeting, seemingly nothing could snuff out the fire we felt in our calling. Still today, prayer strengthens the calling and daily ministry of over 300 full-time workers in 42 lands. While the financial gift you send toward the work of your favorite Team Expansion missionary is essential, the moments you pause to pray for our work are spiritually empowering. And because of your partnership, new believers — thousands of them — pause to give praise for new life in Christ. Those are the birthdays that matter. Thank you for helping make them possible. God bless you.

Doug Lucas  
President, Team Expansion

Financial Statement as of  
November 30, 2008

<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$8,775.45</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$7,845.12</b>
Individuals	\$4,273.00
Adventure CC (McMinnville, OR)	\$250.00
Central CC (Rockford, IL)	\$1,030.00
First CC (Gravette, AR)	\$50.00
Harmony CC (Lexington, KY)	\$200.00
Newberg CC (Newberg, OR)	\$450.00
Oswego CC (Oswego, KS)	\$355.00
Ozark Christian College (Joplin, MO)	\$541.50
Shively CC (Shively, KY)	\$500.00
Willamina CC (Willamina, OR)	\$195.62
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,597.96</b>
Benefits - Salary	\$1,713.46
Benefits - Special Medical Expense	\$161.31
Benefits - Retirement	\$100.00
Benefits - Housing Allowance	\$1,228.55
Benefits - Utilities	\$787.87
Education - Team Building	\$10.16
Christian Education - Hospitality	\$139.44
Postage - In the Field	\$53.98
Office - Facility/Utilities	\$254.00
Office - Mission Phone	\$109.22
Promo./Rep. - Newsletters	\$35.00
Promo./Rep. - Reporting to Supporters	\$95.95
Promo./Rep. - Representation	\$100.00
Travel - Car	\$322.10
Travel - Vehicle Maintenance	\$241.30
Travel - Fees/Tolls	\$53.69
Misc. - Banking Fees	\$5.95
Misc. - Mission House	\$1,000.00
Misc. - Other	\$185.98
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$10,022.61</b>