



The Roterts in Italy

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

Volume 7 — Issue 1
January 2009



So, it's a new year with new beginnings. Since we've just started the new year, I am reading in Genesis. It's all about beginnings, isn't it? I find myself being stopped over and over, though, muddling through the vast number of genealogies. After finding out who is the father of Cush and realizing that there were, in fact, a lot of "Havilah's" (the Aiden of Bible times, maybe?) I realized that all of these names are important to God.



A name really does say a lot. It separates you from the crowd. It gives you identity. It makes you, you. Names mean a lot to the Lord, too. Why is it that each name in each genealogy is important? As it says in Isaiah 49:16, "Look, I've written your names on the backs of my hands." God knows each one of us. Our names are important to Him. We are important to Him.

This name business makes what

the Lord is doing here in Ancona even more important. He knows by name those who are a part of our congregation. He knows those whom we have met and with whom we are beginning to share the Gospel. He has "written on the backs of His hands" our future leaders, preachers, elders, and even the missionaries that will rise up out of Ancona.

I am so grateful that God is keeping track of all of this. I'm glad that He is concerned by the genealogy of our spiritual family here. Not because I don't want to be, but

because He gives our lives and work so much more meaning and purpose.

As you go about your day, why don't you pray for some of God's kingdom workers by name? It sure adds a special meaning.

Thank you for all that you do and have done for our ministry here in Ancona. It has already been two years since we last left for the States, and now we are thinking of purchasing our furlough tickets. Pray that we can find a good price, and that the Lord

gives us wisdom to make these hard stewardship decisions. It is hard to look at the price of an airline ticket these days and not wonder if the cost is too high to make this home service trip.

We do know, though, that it is important to visit with our churches and as many of you as we can on an individual basis, as well. We've got lots to tell you about the things that are happening here in Ancona, and sometimes a newsletter or an e-mail just doesn't cut it!

Again, thanks!

Until next month...

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

E-mail: brotert@teamexpansion.org
hrotert@teamexpansion.org

Web site: www.theroterts.net

Home Address

Please send us an email if you need to get in touch.

Send donations to

Team Expansion
PO Box 832
Joplin, MO 64802

Phone Number

Please send us an email if you need to get in touch.

New Phone Number!



Some pictures from the final Life Group before Christmas.



Brian's mom came for a visit around Christmas time - always nice to have family around during the holidays.



Please Pray...

Since the Caseys are in the US, Brian has taken on the role of interim team leader. It's been a great experience so far - just some additional administrative tasks. He's also responsible for three interns. Please thank God for such a great team, and pray for things to continue to go so smoothly.

Unbelievably, our next home service in the US is coming up. We're starting to make travel plans, and this time our visit will be around four months. Most of the other missionaries will also be gone for part of the summer, meaning the church will be more independent (a really great thing!). Please pray!

A Word from the President...

Have you ever felt 'alone in a crowd'? I remember once, as a kid attending the Indy 500 qualifications, a cloud-bursting thunderstorm caused a mob reaction that ended up separating me from the family hosting me at the event. I was 'alone in a crowd' of some 400,000 people. Yikes. Nightmarish.

Missions used to be kind of like that. Some folks went to the field with their clothing packed up in their coffins. Thankfully, times have changed. Better communication, better training, and most of all, better camaraderie. Many Team Expansion workers say that their #1 reason for joining up is *community*. In short, they don't have to go it alone. When you support the work of your favorite Team Expansion missionary, the cool part is, you're supporting the work of a team operation. After all, Jesus prayed (in John 17) that we would all be "one" so that the world would be "won." I'm excited to tell you that, these days, I feel we're a lot closer to that prayer's fulfillment than ever before.

Thank you for your support... and may God bless your 2009.

Doug Lucas
President, Team Expansion

Financial Statement as of
December 31, 2008

Balance	\$10,022.61
Income	\$9,092.38
Individuals	\$5,963.00
Central CC (Rockford, IL)	\$1,030.00
First CC (Gravette, AR)	\$50.00
Harmony CC (Lexington, KY)	\$200.00
Iron Gates CC (Joplin, MO)	\$300.00
Newberg CC (Newberg, OR)	\$450.00
Oswego CC (Oswego, KS)	\$330.00
Shively CC (Shively, KY)	\$500.00
Willamina CC (Willamina, OR)	\$401.18
Interest Income	\$3.20
Correction to November statement	-\$135.00
Expenses	\$5,469.33
Benefits - Salary	\$1,529.41
Benefits - Special Medical Expense	\$97.62
Benefits - Retirement	\$100.00
Benefits - Housing Allowance	\$1,142.07
Benefits - Utilities	\$216.07
Benefits - Education for Children	\$186.57
Education - Team Building	\$945.42
Christian Education - Hospitality	\$89.18
Evangelism - Hospitality	\$20.25
Postage - In the States	\$80.23
Office - Facility/Utilities	\$10.72
Office - Supplies in the States	\$39.62
Promo./Rep. - Newsletters	\$35.00
Promo./Rep. - Reporting to Supporters	\$211.77
Promo./Rep. - Representation	\$100.00
Travel - Car	\$141.46
Travel - Fees/Tolls	\$44.35
Misc. - Banking Fees	-\$16.19
Misc. - Mission House	\$500.00
Misc. - Other	-\$4.22
Ending Balance	\$13,645.66