

**Ciao!**

It is very good to finally be able to stop for some time and write to update you on what has been happening in the past weeks. It has just been almost two months and yet it feels like way more time has passed. As usual, I will try to keep this as short as possible, but please do reach out if you would like to know more and if there is something specific happening in your life we can pray for.

Some updates about our family:

- **On February 6th I had eye surgery (crosslinking + PRK) and it wasn't nearly as easy as I had expected it to be.** I knew that since it was more complicated than I had anticipated, recovery might take longer, but not like this. The surgery itself was very painful and especially the two days after were horrible. I am very thankful for Kristin, Clara and my extended family for being there with me. The first two days I wasn't able to even open my eyes and I experienced a lot of anxiety. After the first two days, I thankfully was able to open them and I wasn't as sensitive to light as some people are. I am now doing way better. Long story short, after various medical appointments and setbacks, I can now see pretty well from my left eye but still not from my right eye. A week after the surgery I already started working but working at my laptop has been a challenge (although now it's way better). Please pray for speedy and full recovery since doctors say it could take up to six months.

- **During my trip to the Balkans (3 weeks after surgery)** I experienced very bad vertigo and dizziness so much that I had to be taken to the hospital. Again, long story short, they think it had to do with my ears and medication helped me to carry on the trip and do what I had to do. I am now doing better but it hasn't completely gone away. I will have a medical appointment on April 1st.

- Kristin and Clara are doing well overall. **Clara is growing so quickly.** She says so many new words and we can see how she would like to communicate... we can't wait for her to be able to speak even more! She still isn't sleeping through the night which makes it quite difficult, especially for Kristin. **Kristin has been experiencing** back pain and is now doing physiotherapy.

- **My dad** was supposed to have his scan in June but it will happen in the first weeks of April since he's been experiencing some more symptoms. Please pray they will do everything correctly and quickly.

- No major updates for **my mum and Kristin's parents**, yet please do pray for them.

Now some more updates about ministry:



- In the last couple of weeks, **we went back to schools** to finish the series of lessons on “what is real freedom?” and “the right to live: euthanasia”. These are two series we’ve been able to carry on in one of the high schools we’ve been going to. I must say it has been the most insightful time we’ve had in schools so far. We interacted with almost 80 students aged 16 to 17 on two topics that are so easily connected to Christianity and faith and they talked so much. A good number of students opened up and we talked about God very openly. I had the chance to talk about the Christian point of view as well and they listened carefully.

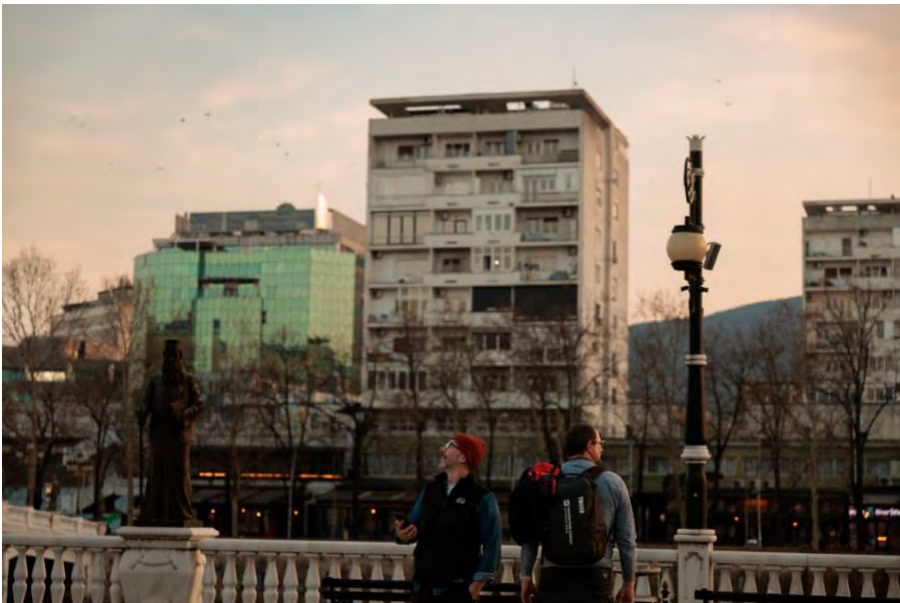


- **Runners, the youth group I** (we for the past couple of years) have now had the opportunity to lead for the past ten years is in a new season as I have told you throughout 2025. We have a new generation of teenagers (Gen Alpha) who are mostly coming from unchurched families or who are not christians and then the group of young adults (18 to 25) who are in a different stage of life and we are trying to love and care for at the

same time. **Tony is 15 years old.** He comes from a Catholic family and his mum doesn’t like the fact that he comes to church for Runners every week. She initially stopped him from doing it but is now tired to even trying to stop him. The other day we played a game where we asked questions to everybody to help them get to know each other better (one of the issues with the younger ones is that they are not friends). The question was: “Who has been the most influential person in your life?”. He answered: “Jesus changed my life”... and he truly meant it. Every week he asks me questions about

faith and he's reading the Bible almost daily. He's 15 and he comes from a non-christian family. Yet, we have the honour to invest in him and see what God is doing in his life! **Giovanni is now 24.** He started coming to Runners when he was 14 years old. I've known him for most of his life, seen him as a very shy young person, corrected him, disagreed with him, I've seen him get baptised, find his first job, cry over breaking up with his girlfriend and now he's getting married. Giovanni and his fiancée asked me to marry them and preach at their wedding in June. God is good.









- In May **I flew to Albania** to participate in the European Youth Network Gathering where I had the chance to present a research we carried out as YFC on Gen Z and then I travelled to **Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia** to visit the YFC ministries. It was very good (other than the health issue) to see what's happening, to encourage them and to film some videos which will help them and I will also be able to use to reach others.

- **There's a new kind of hunger for God's word** in this new generation and I believe we are called not only to preach it faithfully and relevantly but also to teach how to read it and meditate it. That is why I have been investing more time in writing **Bible devotionals on the YouVersion app** and creating reels on Instagram on this topic. I also had a meeting with the YouVersion global representative for Italy to discuss how I

could promote the use of the app to other nations in the Europe, Middle East and North Africa area which I am responsible for communication and partnerships with Youth for Christ, as you know. In May I have been invited to attend an event in Rome organised by YouVersion. Please pray for the upcoming conversations and for wisdom and new opportunities for God's Word to be proclaimed!

- One of the projects I am working on is how to **help nations reach young people online and through media**. We have created a community of people who are involved in online ministries in various nations. There are many things we can do but time is limited and because of that we want to be effective and wise.

- **Exchange Milazzo** is happening again this year! We are very thankful. I am working on the promotion part as we speak so that I can start promoting it in the next couple of days. Please pray for good participation but also for the few tweaks we'll apply to this year's programme following last year's feedback (which was very good!). As you know, 80% of last year's participants were unchurched and we are aiming not only slightly increase the number of participants but to reach even more non-Christians. Please pray for this and all the different things Kristin and I (but also for our brothers and sisters coming from the US) will have to do in the next couple of months.

#### Other things to pray for:

- In May I will go to **London to participate in the Alpha Leadership Conference** and other meetings to represent Youth for Christ EMENA since we are one of the key partners. Please pray for the time there.

- Since I will be in Rome for the YouVersion event, **I have also been asked to speak at a youth event**.

- We will **help lead another Exchange Camp** in July because they have faced some challenges. Please pray for the organisation part and all that will be needed.

- At the end of June **I will turn 30 years old!** Please already start praying for a healthy birthday :) in-between different camps.

- I am considering a **doctoral programme** which will help me in ministry. Please pray for wisdom.

I am probably forgetting something important as usual but I just wanted to add that we are very thankful for you. I honestly sometimes feel overwhelmed by the various things to think about: what's already happening and trying to do it better, thinking of new ways to reach young people, taking care of finances while also thinking about taking care of our family... yet we know you're walking alongside us and you're in this with us. God is the One who is calling us and it is a blessing to be part of His mission!

If you are not already please consider partnering with us financially and/or also to invite somebody along.

Bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to young people is not *our* mission, it is God's mission which He has invited us to join. Without Him it would not be possible but at the same time it won't be possible if people like you do not stand alongside us and with us. We might be on the field, but we need a lot of people who partner with us even from far away.

## **Would you consider giving monthly or making a one-off gift?**

If you were to decide to give monthly, we would really appreciate it. This makes us feel that you're walking with us day by day even more and gives us the opportunity to create a more sustainable ministry. Nevertheless, one-off gifts are still a great way to provide for our needs and to support us.

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### **If you are from UK, there are two ways:**

Please use this [LINK](#) to make regular or one-off donations.

If you make a regular donation, indicate "ROBERTO MACALUSO" in the drop-down menu. If you make a one-off donation, please indicate "ROBERTO MACALUSO" under 'details'.

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**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

**We are beyond grateful for you.**

A big hug,

God bless you

Roberto, Kristin & Clara Grace