



Renewing Our Minds

Investing in a new generation of leaders

ROM Vision

Transformed leadership that will build a transformed society that sustains peace, justice and benevolence for all, inspired by the character and principles of Jesus of Nazareth.

ROM Mission

Developing leaders of integrity, committed to reconciliation, friendship and peace building in Southeast Europe and beyond, who having become renewed in their minds, characters, attitudes and actions in the likeness of Jesus, are steadily transforming their constituencies, communities and countries.

ROM Strategy

ROM students engage in relational and multidisciplinary education that leads to resourceful friendship, mentoring and networking, as well as to practical initiatives and new learning communities across ethnic, religious and other societal divides.

ROM Core Values

The ROM core values are found in the principles of Jesus of Nazareth; namely in the pursuit of love for God and others before oneself; personal and societal integrity; unity in diversity; forgiveness, reconciliation and peace making; and sacrificial leadership.

Renewing Our Minds 2008 Annual Appeal

Dear Friends,

The year 2008 is an important year in the ROM history. Our ROM family celebrates the first ten years of ROM, and planning is in the process of setting the course of action for the next ten years.

With a deep sense of gratitude to the Lord for the community of 500 young people whose lives have been profoundly touched over the past 10 years through ROM and EDS alone, we remember that changes in the lives of those young leaders from Southeast Europe and many other countries were brought about by the Holy Spirit and not through the human wisdom. In the words of Anthony Cordle, one of the longest serving mentors of the ROM community, who often reminds us that ROM works because "it is not about ROM, but about Jesus of Nazareth".

Over those years ROM has grown into a formidable regional and international leadership movement that is present in most Southeast European countries and beyond. It also provided a leadership platform or inspired the birth of several new leadership development and reconciliation projects. Regional ROM Reunion, Economic Diplomacy Seminar, ROM Junior (or Identity and Embrace Seminar), Fuzine Youth Festival, Fuzine and Tuzla Community School of English, and the Institute for Sustainable Peace in USA are some of them.

Preparations are now in progress for a special anniversary ROM Gathering, 10-Year ROM Celebration Gathering in July. We have invited the international ROM family to come back to Fuzine again, this time to celebrate what the Lord has done in our lives over the past ten years, to encourage and learn from each other by sharing our experiences from many fields of leadership, and to build up the regional and international ROM community so that it may serve the region even more strategically and deliberately. We are also proud to see the Economic Diplomacy Seminar (EDS) growing in strength and quality. The third EDS will take place in Fuzine in August.

This year we also dare dream big, believing that the Lord might have even more amazing plans for ROM in the days ahead of us. With the assistance of the ROM Executive Team and international Advisory Council we are developing a five year plan that would bring the ROM ministry closer to the major cities of Southeast Europe and make it more available to the emerging leaders in the region. From a single program in 1999, several outgrowth projects by 2008, ROM should in 2009 grow into an institute-like leadership development and reconciliation organization with an ongoing educational and mentoring service to young leaders across Southeast Europe.

One of the past ROM participants said: "ROM is the best kept secret in Southeast Europe". More of them stated that "ROM needs to be replicated elsewhere too". Many of them said: "ROM has changed my life." Often we hear: "I saw a miracle unfold over the past three weeks". It is a vision and desire of the ROM Leadership Team to see ROM continue grow, by the grace of the Lord and support of our friends, into a steady movement of leaders whose lives and actions are completely informed by the character of Jesus of Nazareth. Indeed, our vision remains that from "the best secret in the region" ROM will mature into a visible lighthouse of leadership in Southeast Europe.

God has provided generously through friends, churches, organizations and foundations that have seen a purpose and value in our work over the past ten years. But the work of reconciliation and leadership development ROM is doing in Southeast Europe, as it grows from one year into another, is a challenging one. We believe that just as much as the Lord has provided in the past, he will provide this year too. A popular spiritual song says: "He didn't bring us so far to let us die". We are confident that in the big circle of international friends of ROM, and no further than one degree of separation from anyone of us, there are people of God with adequate resources whom the spirit of the Lord will direct to invest into ROM not only prayers but finances too.

The two leading ROM projects this summer, 10-Year ROM Celebration Gathering (July 13-27, 2008) and Economic Diplomacy Seminar (August 10-24, 2008), are major projects that cost substantially. A minimum of \$ 200,000 is required for us to be able to meet the key ROM expenses in 2008. Most of the participants attending both events are coming from the economically challenged countries, and will require that their expenses be taken care of through scholarships and donations. Many would need also the travelling assistance. Our past experiences are telling us that many who have benefited from attending ROM gatherings the most, and whose lives and activities today are profoundly impacting their countries and communities, were the young people who could not afford to attend. We would not want to see anyone who should attend, either ROM Celebration Gathering or EDS, denied because of the financial limitations.

At this moment we are short of \$ 80,000 to meet our minimum needs for the current year. One of our major donors is not able to act upon our request for funds until August, which may limit our summer programs if other funds are not found. We would like you to help if you can. Do not hesitate to let us know soon, should you decide to set aside your support for the ROM programs this summer in Fuzine, Croatia (namely Fuzine Youth Festival, 10-Year ROM Celebration Gathering and Economic Diplomacy Seminar), or if you know a friend, church or organization that you believe would like to do the same. In order for us to pursue the plans for this year we would need your donation soon, and the attached pledge cards completed and e-mailed back to us by Friday June 9, 2008 the latest.

We are grateful for any monetary gift or donation you may commit for ROM related needs this year. However, let us give you a few tips on what different amounts could do for ROM, EDS and Fuzine Youth Festival at this moment:

A donation of \$ 8,000 will bring us faster to the goal of \$ 80,000, especially in the light of the soon approaching ROM Celebration Gathering. A donation of \$ 6,000 will almost completely take care of the salaries for 4 summer staff members who will join the

permanent staff for two summer months. A donation of \$ 3,000 will take care of a big conference tent we will need to rent due to a larger number of participants at the 10-Year ROM Celebration Gathering. A \$ 2,000 donation may take care of a complete scholarship and travelling expenses of a participant from countries such as Zimbabwe or Burundi. A 1,500 donation may provide a complete scholarship and travelling expenses to participants from Armenia, Cyprus, Israel or Albania. A \$ 1,000 donation will provide a complete scholarship for any needy participant. A \$ 500 donation will meet the needs of a person requiring 50% scholarship.

We are willing to move on to see the purposes of God revealed for Southeast Europe through ROM this and coming years. The past ten years of ROM are proving that the Lord is already on the move there. Will you do your part in making this possible by stepping in there where He is already at work? One of the ways to do so at this moment is to respond with urgency to our annual appeal with whatever is in your hands to do.

If you are able to respond affirmatively to our ROM annual appeal, please complete and send us back the attached ROM 2008 Pledge Form soon, no later than Friday, June 9, 2008. Your donation should be available to ROM, through our US partnering organization Institute for Sustainable Peace or Life Center International in Croatia, no later than June 30, 2008. Your help at this hour of need will make a difference in the way we carry through our programs this summer.

Finally, as you are considering our request we would like you to read the accompanying letter - ROM, the First Ten Years - Director's Perspective.

Thank you for your support. Much love and may the Lord bless you.

Very truly yours,

Tihomir Kukulja
Renewing Our Minds Director
<http://www.rom2008.blogspot.com/>, <http://www.renewing-our-minds.com/>
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