



## *Stories of Faith*

*from Emanuel University and Seminary of Oradea, Romania*

Dear friend,

Johnathan Edwards once said, *"It is the task of every generation to determined which way the Sovereign Lord is moving and move in that direction."* At Emanuel University we encourage both students and faculty to do exactly that.

As we celebrated the season of Christ's birth, we were once again reminded of God's amazing ways of working in our midst. The God of the high places decided to come to the lowly places of the earth, to the humble conditions of humanity, to the destitute people enslaved by sin, and He did it in the most vulnerable way: the king clothed as a baby. This story of God's work continues at Emanuel University of Oradea, among our students, professors and graduates.

In this issue of Stories of Faith we want to inform you of two of our graduates who exemplify what from a human perspective may seem as opposite extremes. **What do villages have to do with European capitals?** Read their stories and find out. We are blessed to have trained such students in our midst, and *thank you* for praying for us and for being alongside us. I personally want to wish you a Blessed New Year!

For His glory,  
Paul Negrut, President

### *In the villages*

Marius Lucan graduated with a pastoral theology degree from Emanuel University in 2001. Although he came from a large church, God called him to work in what is considered an unappealing ministry opportunity for many ministers today, and especially for the young generation: the village churches. Even in Romania, the lures of the city life and of large congregations are temptations felt just as strongly as in the west. Many village churches are struggling and have stopped growing because of a lack of trained ministers. Marius Lucan felt God's calling to take on this challenge, and accept the call to serve in a village church. Disappointments and discouragements were strong, especially in his first years of ministry. Yet, he shares, *"I had learned during this time that wherever I serve Christ, I am His servant, and this is the most important thing."* God blessed

pastor Lucan's faithfulness and since 2002 he conducted 7 baptism services. During this time pastor Lucan was also asked to serve as interim pastor for several other village churches in his area, and two years ago he planted another church in a nearby village. What seemed at first an unappealing ministry opportunity, God has turned into a fruitful harvest. We praise God for graduates like pastor Lucan who have committed their lives to serve Christ wherever He calls, even if it means unappealing ministry opportunities.

### *In the European capitals*

Mr. Lazurca graduated from Emanuel University in 2006 with a degree in music. Soon after graduation he moved with his wife and daughter to Ireland, working various jobs, but his focus was on singing. In order to sustain his family he had to work hard, and this allowed little time to do any singing. He joined however the Lassus Scholars choir of Westminster Cathedral in Dublin. The choir director was so pleased of Mr. Lazurca, that she asked him to join the choir permanently. Shortly thereafter, the Dublin Choral Foundation asked Mr. Lazurca to perform as a solo tenor a Christmas concert in honor of Giacomo Puccini. The Sunday of December 14, 2008 Mr. Lazurca sang as the solo tenor in the National Concert Hall of Dublin, Ireland, being accompanied by an Irish soprano, a British bass, and the Orland Chamber Orchestra. One of the newspaper headlines read "The amateur tenor of Romania, Catalin Lazurca, astonished the artistic life of Ireland and will have his first concert in Dublin." Mr. Lazurca is the second Romanian who ever accomplished this role in Ireland, and his professional music opportunities are only beginning, but all along he was not ashamed of his testimony for Jesus Christ.

**So what do villages have to do with European capitals?** The story of Catalin Lazurca unfolds a reality which from human perspectives presents itself as opposite to Marius Lucan's, but from God's perspective it is not. Both villages and capitals are places where God is calling people to serve Him, and God has called our graduates to go to both. He called us to work and minister both in high and low places. What should matter for us is not the place to which God is calling us, but the faithfulness with which we heed His calling. After all, this was really the story of the Christmas: the story of the faithful Son who came to us, and called both shepherds and magi to worship Him.

## *Thank You*

Dear friend, thank you for choosing to stay tuned to Emanuel University and Seminary of Oradea. Continue to pray for our students and for the responsibility we have here to train them and model in them the character of Christ. Thank you so much for being a friend of our ministry.

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