



## *Stories of Faith*

*from Emanuel University and Seminary of Oradea, Romania*

Dear friends,

Greetings from Emanuel University of Oradea! We rejoice over the way God has been with us over the past four months. Many positive events have happened in our university that we could tell you about, but let me share with you a most recent report that I received from one of our students. We trust that you will be encouraged in your walk with the Lord by reading about His power to mold a life in order to become a jewel that reflects God's glory even amidst very difficult times.

Thank you so very much for being a part of Emanuel University and Seminary of Oradea.

For His glory,

Paul Negrut,  
President

### *Reflecting His glory in the midst of trials...*

Esther comes from a very large family, but one that has experienced God's love. She has gone through numerous trials, yet the most beautiful thing, she says, has been the way God surprised her. Hear her conclusion after being through some of the most difficult experiences: "I think God's passion is to transform trials and hardships into blessings." Her story is simply touching.

"At the age of 12 the Lord called my father home, leaving behind 16 children, a sick mother, and a grandmother. It was an extremely difficult time, but His mighty hand was never absent, and the purpose of this trial was a real nearing to God. It is hard to imagine the utter difficulties that my family has gone through at that time, but praise be to God who has given us His blessings. My father's death was a shock to the entire region. Since a very large crowd attended the funeral service, it was an unmet opportunity to preach the Gospel. If for many people that day was a time of hearing the Greatest News for the first time, for me, as a child, it was a day of many questions that were simply unanswerable. I was wondering why did God choose to work this way, why did He take my father away? I was at the age in which I needed him most to direct me and guide me in my decisions, to be there for me because I was very unsure of myself.

I did not rebel against God, but I was very confused, many times doubting that my father's death was real. I would often wait for him to come home from work, to have dinner together, but he never came and then reality hit me really hard. Every night I would cry deeply, and the feeling of missing him or at least the wish to see him one more time was always overwhelming. During this time I drew closer to the Lord and found comfort in Him. I would often kneel in my prayer time and cry before Him; I would ask Him to be my father and not to leave me alone, and many nights I would fall asleep with my eyes bathed in tears and thinking about my father. I would pray a lot, I would go to church every time I could, I would read the Bible for hours, and these have given me the necessary strength. I have found my refuge in the Lord, and since then I rejoice in a deeper realization of His presence in my life. I love Him greatly.

Two years later, my grandmother went to be with the Lord as well; yet shortly afterwards, God blessed me with another father, who was a strong help for my mother and the sixteen children. However, last year God decided to call him home also. It was a strong hit for me; to go again through this experience...? But the Lord has given me strength. I was able to pass more easily through this experience, because of the support I had found at Emanuel University, where I am now a student. They have provided spiritual and even financial help. It is simply so beautiful to have people who sustain you in prayers, and to know that in the most difficult times God strengthens you through the prayers of your brothers and sisters, through their encouragements, through their openness to hear your problems. I went through the experience of attending my father's funeral twice, but the second time it was much easier. A group of my colleagues came from Emanuel University to support our family. I had no longer asked the question *why*, but *what*; what does God want to do through this trial? We drew closer as a family and now we pray that God would allow our mother to live, although she is very sick herself. We still need her wise advice and her care.

I have learned that to trust in God every day is an extraordinary experience, and to depend on Him in the smallest things is so beautiful. The people that I am surrounded with have shaped me a great deal. Emanuel University is the place where you find people who motivate you to dare great things with God. It is the most amazing place to shape a character of integrity and to develop excellence in your field of study. For me, this university has been one of the great blessings I received from God. I have grown spiritually, and had great experiences with Him (*Esther Salasan, Social Assistance, 3<sup>rd</sup> yr*).

## 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 before them the character of Christ. Thank you so much for being a friend of our ministry.

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