



## *Stories of Faith* *from Emanuel University of Oradea, Romania*

Dearly beloved,

All over the world Christmas is a special time of the year when believers seek to meet with family and friends to celebrate the gift of God to humanity. It is the season which makes us all think of gifts, blessings and joys. Now that Christmas is here, allow us to give you a gift, a gift of another kind. It is of the kind that apostle Paul speaks of in 2 Corinthians 9, a gift that will enrich your faith and strengthen your walk with our God. It is the story of a student who graduated from our seminary a few years ago, whose life testimony shook our school and strengthened us in faith. We wish it will do the same for you on this Christmas.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Emanuel University of Oradea!

Paul Negrut,  
President

### *The story of Lilian, a story of faith...*

Coming from a wealthy non-believing family Lilian was expected to pursue business with his father. Upon his conversion however, he felt God calling him to leave the business track and train himself to be a preacher of the Gospel. Against his parent's will he followed the call and came to Emanuel University knowing that he will lose everything his family was going to give him.

Finding himself at the Seminary he gathered a group of student to do personal evangelism in secular campuses around Oradea. In his early years of study he also met a godly young lady and were soon married. His wife encouraged him to share the gospel not only to Romanian students but also to Moldovians and Russians alike.

One Saturday night Lilian decided to go out by himself to a campus that was housing many of the Russian students. As he was approaching the campus, a group of students aggressed him and

beat him hard, so hard that they broke some of his bones, and to make it worse they threw him in a ditch. No travelers passed by. Left there, unable to move for quite some time, Lilian was miraculously noticed by a taxi-driver who took him to the nearest hospital.

What a cruel treatment to receive for bringing the Gospel to your own countrymen. After the incident, his wife Rima decided to track down the aggressors and surely, after some searching, she found out who they were. With an unusual boldness she met them personally not to condemn, nor to turn them in, but to share Christ with them. One of the aggressors, a student in a wrestling club, admitted that he was touched by Lilian's behavior and now seeing Lilian's wife come to share Christ simply melted his cold heart and repented.

Lilian finished his studies and Emanuel University and returned to his home country, Moldova, where he started a ministry among unconverted youth. His ministry doubled in the first year, but along with this spiritual success Lilian encountered one of life's most tragic news, he was diagnosed with leukemia. In less than a year the Lord called Lilian home, leaving behind a young widow and a son. For many the question came, why? Why Lilian? Only God knows why Lilian had to leave us so early, but the story of his life will remain in our memories for a long time – because we had as our student a hero of faith who dared to leave behind a very promising future in order to share the good news with the lost.

His father, who wanted to pass to Lilian his inheritance, never accepted the conversion of his son, let alone the call to ministry. He never wanted to hear the Gospel, although Lilian shared it with him many times. Yet, it was only at the funeral of his son that the father's heart started to melt and be touched by the Spirit of God.

Lilian was a young man who lived very few years compared to many of us, but left a tremendous impact in our university. He was a dreamer, but had dreams worthy to envy. He had something worth taking to the rest of the world, even if the cost was high.

## *Thank you*

Friends, the story of Lilian is a unique story of one of our alumni at Emanuel University. We are grateful to God for the call He gave us to train the next generation of pastors and missionaries, business men and teachers, social workers and musicians. We invite you to continue to support us in accomplishing this task.

We want to inform you of a new way in which you can support the ministry of Emanuel University. It is called EFT – electronic fund transfer. A way to make a small donation on a monthly basis – and have it done automatically. Emanuel University is making this available to each of you. To sign up, simply request the EFT form by replying to this email or by contacting:

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