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The Road to the Unknown

Every morning we set off on an unknown path. Who knows what might happen each day? From a much more complex perspective, the beginning of a new academic year sets an unknown path ahead of us. The global uncertainties generated by the pandemic confront schools with many unknowns. How will we carry out our activity: with the physical presence of all students and teachers, in the hybrid model or online? How will we solve the problems related to accommodation and cafeteria services? What do we do if students or the teachers get sick? What do we do if they have people with comorbidities or small children in their families? And the questions could go on and on.

About 3400 years ago, at the entrance of an unknown road, the people of Israel, under the leadership of Joshua, received from God an answer that is suitable for our generation as well: "in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this way before." (Joshua 3: 4b). The

impossible to cross due to the floods caused by heavy rains, an unknown country inhabited by foreign and hostile peoples, fortified cities, and strong armies... A road unknown in all respects. Where to go? Which option to choose? Whom to ask? The answer to their questions comes from God - the One who knows both the way and the future. God assures them of:

- **A. His presence.** "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God... go after it" (3: 3). Nothing can compare with the security offered by God's presence in the face of unknown circumstances. At that time, God's ark guaranteed God's presence. For us today, God's presence is ensured by the promise of our Lord Jesus: "**And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age**" (Matthew 28:20).
- **B.** His promise. His promises accompany God's presence. "Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over ahead of you... And it will come about when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, *that is*, the waters which are flowing down from above; and they will stand in one heap." (3:11, 13). The promise for us comes from our Lord Jesus: "These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). He also said, "He Himself has said: 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever abandon you'" (Hebrews 13:5).
- **C. His power.** Trusting in God's omnipotence (Gen. 17: 1), the people of Israel set out on an unknown path, convinced of His presence, and promises: "and when those who were carrying the ark came up to the Jordan and the feet of the priests carrying the ark stepped down into the edge of the water...; then the waters which were flowing down from above stood *and* rose up in one heap, a great distance away at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those which were flowing down toward the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan while all Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan." (Joshua 3: 15-17).

God's power is still at work today: "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us reveals the fragrance of the knowledge of Him in every place" (2 Cor. 2:14). In the face of an unknown path, the students, professors and all the staff of Emanuel University invite you to look forward to the future with confidence in His presence, His promises, and in His power.



Mayor Florin Birta's message for Emanuel University at the beginning of the academic year

"Mr. President, Mr. Vice-president, dear representatives of Emanuel Church, beloved professors, and dear students,

First, as mayor of Oradea, I want to thank the president for the invitation to participate in this event. It is the first event I attended as mayor here because I have been here before, but I was a deputy mayor, and I want to tell you that I come here with great pleasure every time. I feel that I am charging with positive energy, I feel that I am happy and find peace of mind here. Thank you for this! I want to wish each one of you a big: "Welcome to Oradea!" to all those who have come from all over the country, and I hope you find your second home here, in our city. Emanuel University is a landmark for our city, mainly because we are known as a multi-faith city, and I hope we will continue to be so. The moral values that EUO has been promoting for over 30 years in Oradea help us and are models of good practice for us, the people of Oradea, and the local community. I heard during the prayer that you hope to be a positive example for Oradea. You are a positive example for our city and the local community!

I wish you a wonderful year, a healthy year, and I wish you success! God help us all!"



All my involvement in the instructive-educational process is under the imprint of responsibility to God's Word "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (Colossians 3:23).

Lecturer Adriana Foltut

My name is Adriana Foltuţ, I am a graduate of the 1996 class of Emanuel University of Oradea, and I have, from a professional point of view, the noble mission of a professor. I teach, with great pleasure, at Emanuel University, the courses of Romanian Literature, with the approach of the classical, interwar, and contemporary periods and Ethnography and folklore.

Like every new beginning, the beginning of this academic year motivates me to contribute to exploring the Romanian literary phenomenon, and I want to have a constructive collaboration with all my students from the Faculty of Romanian Language and Literature-English Language and Literature. I want to convey the importance of studying the Romanian literary phenomenon from a chronological perspective, the importance and place of reading for student preparation, as well as to identify my students' determinations, opportunities, motivations, and preferences and, at the same time, to adapt the contents using an attractive and exciting approach.

All my involvement in the instructive-educational process is under the imprint of responsibility to God's Word: "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord and not for people" (Colossians 3:23).

Lecturer Adriana Foltut

Stories of Faith



My name is David Achim and I graduated from the Faculty of Management, specializing in Management in 2014 at Emanuel University; and I also completed a master's in Theology in 2020. Currently, I contribute to developing

tech product.

Emanuel University was where my perspectives broadened far beyond what I knew and understood up until then. It was the place where I met professors and people who were my mentors, and I met colleagues with whom I had extraordinary relationships. Emanuel University is still the place where I meet honest students and young people with a good work ethic and an extraordinary drive, with whom I build the tech initiatives in Oradea.

At the end of the day, for me, success means faithfulness. Also, the reciprocal is valid: faithfulness has led me to the success of the initiatives I have developed so far.

David Achim
Executive Director,
Oradea Tech Hub

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