

## Newsletter June - Incredible Testimonies from Romania!

Dear Mission Friend!

I recently returned from a trip to Suceava in northern Romania. We have previously held a few shorter FBS seminars in the city, but this time was different as we conducted a two and a half-day introduction to FBS, focusing on the basics of personal finance and vision. The training was complemented with testimonies from those who had previously attended FBS. I'd like to share some of the inspiring testimonies we received from the participants.

Our gathering was primarily aimed at introducing the FBS material to a church planting team, but we were also joined by a group of teenagers who were incredibly eager and engaged, asking numerous questions after each session. We also had partners from Hoppets Stjärna present, along with various businesspeople and pastors. We hope to return to Suceava later for a more comprehensive teacher training for entrepreneurs and youth.

We've already secured a venue for the next FBS class. Carmen, one of the participants who runs a business with several hundred million SEK in turnover, has offered to host the next FBS class at her office. They are eager to start the course as soon as possible. Below are some testimonies from the week, which I believe will be encouraging for those interested:



### Josef

Josef, 25, comes from a Romani community. Thanks to Hoppets Stjärna, he started working at a pizzeria a few years ago, beginning with simple tasks like washing dishes and chopping vegetables. Over time, he advanced to making pizzas and is now the manager of the

restaurant. After attending FBS last fall, particularly the teachings on honesty deeply impacted him. He decided to take his faith seriously, was baptized in June, and now lives for God. Additionally, he has become more serious about his job, now managing two pizzerias and is responsible for opening a new location in Timisoara. His boss shared how much Josef means to him and how they are able to share their faith at work. Josef now provides wisdom and comfort to his colleagues and is a significant inspiration to other young Roma in his village. We hope he will become one of our new FBS teachers in Romania.

### **Andrei**

Andrei, 25, attended FBS last fall. During the course, he realized he could use his knowledge of Hebrew, acquired during his upbringing in Israel, to run a business. He started a company that assists Israeli entrepreneurs and tourists coming to Romania. He has recently been overwhelmed with work.

### **Vasilica**

Vasilica is a pastor in a church by the Black Sea. After attending FBS in January 2016, he introduced FBS to his area, leading many in his congregation to start businesses. Previously, he faced constant emigration of members to the West, but now many see a future in the country and remain in the area and the church. He has also developed side ventures that provide additional income without requiring significant extra time, improving his financial situation.

### **Ami**

Ami, 27, attended FBS during high school. Today, she is an FBS teacher, runs a marketing business, is pursuing a doctorate in the field, and also lectures at the city's university. She represents the new generation of FBS teachers and leaders.





### **Rasvan**

Rasvan, 27, grew up within Hoppets Stjärna's work with the disabled. He attended FBS in 2016 when we first introduced the course in the country. He has completed a master's degree in computer science and now works at an IT company, using the back of his fingers to type. He also runs his own IT business on the side and is an inspiring example of what can be achieved despite serious disabilities.

### **Adi**

Adi is married to Aura, who is responsible for Hoppets Stjärna in Romania. They attended FBS in 2016 and reported that since the course, they have been able to pay off their mortgage and are now completely debt-free.

### **Brigader**

Brigader, a pastor in a Romani village, had severe financial difficulties and was deeply in debt. After attending FBS, his life underwent a revolution. He now always has money left by the time the next paycheck arrives, owns two greenhouses, and teaches others about financial management. His children have learned to manage their finances, with one son saving for a driver's license and buying a car outright. The whole family tithes monthly, and now the entire congregation wants to attend FBS. He brought a pastor from another Romani village, and we hope he will also spread the teachings to his area.

### **Camilia and Viorell**

Camilia and Vio work with Hoppets Stjärna's social projects in northern Romania near the Ukrainian border. They attended FBS in 2016 and started a wedding planning business. They sold their business to return fully to social work, but they used their profits to build a new debt-free house. They have continued FBS's principles by teaching Romani women previously involved in begging. They invested in sewing machines and equipment and trained 29 women to sew curtains and bed linens. All 29 women are now employed, with one saving for a driver's license and a car. Five of the women attended FBS, and one, initially planning to leave the country, now works at a factory, earning a work book, which is a significant step into society.

### **Gabriel**

Gabriel, 17, whose father is a businessman, was very eager during the lessons, asking questions during every break. He is keen on starting a business and brought two other young people who decided to start a business together. They plan to print T-shirts for various companies and events in their city, sourcing them from China and reselling locally.

### **Kostel Kuchuryan**

Kostel Kuchuryan, chairman of the Ukrainian Pentecostal Church's social work in Europe, attended the training and was deeply moved. He expressed interest in training Ukrainians in Europe and inside Ukraine with FBS. We will discuss how to develop this in the future.

### **Florin**

Florin attended our first seminar in Suceava in 2017. He shared that he had dreamed of starting a Christian publishing house. Today, he runs two publishing houses, one of his own and one where he is the CEO. He is truly a driven individual.

### **Simon**

Simon attended early FBS sessions at his high school. Deeply impacted by the teachings, he planned his future and is now a top student at his university while helping in his parents' business. He aspires to become an FBS teacher and help spread the school among the youth in his city. He also wants to join me on trips to train teachers around the world and assist where needed.

Wishing you continued blessings!



### **Prayer Requests:**

- Pray for the strong development of what has begun in Romania, with many new teachers, collaborators, schools, and miracles as our students transition from poverty to good stewardship.
- Pray for all our translations.
- Pray for anointing and grace over the schools.
- Pray for the resources we need: money, collaborators, prayers, and support.
- Pray for all our autumn initiatives.

Marco Strömberg