

Newsletter December - Exciting Developments in Romania!

Dear Mission Friend!

Winter has now laid its white cover over Sweden and the much-anticipated Christmas is just around the corner. It's amazing to think that we celebrate and remember how our Savior was born in a stable so that you and I could have a relationship with God.

Focus Business School is progressing in various countries, and 2024 promises to be a very exciting time with new ventures in entirely new countries for us. We have been working for nearly 15 years, and the work continues to accelerate with new locations and contexts eager to use the material. We have witnessed consistent growth in the work, even though it has been very challenging at times, with few shoulders bearing the expanding workload.



Romania

During the first weekend of November, I had the honor of speaking at three sessions of a major leadership conference in Romania. Approximately 300 people attended, including many prominent entrepreneurs, church leaders, and representatives from Christian schools and universities.

Over the weekend, I had discussions with the deputy coordinator for Pentecostal Romania, the largest Pentecostal denomination in Europe by numbers, about their plans to start 30 different social centers across the country. These centers are intended to provide practical help to lift people out of poverty and misery. One of the tools they want to use is FBS. This concept is very exciting, as the denomination has around 800 churches in the country and has a presence in nearly all cities – and in those cities where they are not present, they are working to plant churches.

We are also in discussions with Christian high schools about introducing FBS as an elective subject in entrepreneurship. There are 10 Christian high schools in the country, many of

which have around 1,000 students. We also discussed starting two new teacher trainings in the country during the spring. I met one of the country's leading Christian IT entrepreneurs who leads a network for entrepreneurs. We are exploring ways to collaborate with them to help more people together.



In the picture above, you see Iona, who took FBS a few years ago. He had an idea during the year about how to build a business in medical environmental consulting. He is now hired as a consultant for major infrastructure projects, examining how they affect people's health. He currently employs 12 people and holds 50% of the market in the country with his specialized service. He is also a major donor to his church. We hope he will soon become one of our new FBS teachers.



Would you like to support our work?

Our work is expanding like never before, with new countries added and FBS being translated into new languages. We have likely invested nearly 1 million kronor just in various translations, covering 30 languages!

We find this very exciting, but we need your help to move forward. New languages, countries, trainings, coordination, etc., require financial resources, and we are currently in a tight spot. This is due to both our expansion and some of our sponsors having faced challenges during the economic downturn and having to stop their support. When both these issues occur simultaneously, it creates a tension that we need your and God's help to overcome.

If you are not currently a donor, it would be fantastic if you could consider becoming a monthly supporter of 100 kronor or a few hundred kronor a month. If you are a business owner, we would appreciate it if you could become a monthly partner. Please consider setting up a standing transfer or becoming a direct debit donor!

Together, we can achieve great things and see new wonderful things happen for God!

All the best,

Marco Strömberg