

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

II Timothy 2:2

ITMI
Monthly

1 JUNE 2025

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Celebrating Years of Faithful Impact:

Adi and Ema Ban's Legacy of God-Honoring Ministry

June 4th marks the wedding anniversary of two of God's faithful servants—Adi and Ema Ban. For more than 25 years, this couple has poured their lives into ministering to Romanian communities both at home and abroad, building strong families, encouraging churches, and guiding countless lives toward a deeper walk with Christ.

A Ministry Rooted in the Word and Family

Over two decades ago, Adi and Ema were a young couple with three little boys—Andrew, Eduard, and Thomas. Even then, they sensed a powerful call from the Lord: to uphold and teach **Biblical family principles** in their family and in a society deeply affected by post-communism's cultural transition and moral confusion.

Adi was already active in ministry—teaching at a seminary, coordinating a 600-member children's Sunday School, and pioneering a then-rare premarital counseling ministry in Romania.



Adi, Ema, Andy, Ema, Thomas, Elizabeth, Eduard - savor the moment that culminates from many years of study and faithfulness.



Andy, Ema, Eduard, Adi, Thomas 2003

Ema supported and partnered with him in every step. Together, they believed that **God's design for the family** is the only pathway to real



Eduard, Andy, Thomas - Caring brothers 2004

relational success and lasting joy.

They have never claimed perfection—far from it. They have

(continued on p.2)

always emphasized that **no marriage, family, or individual is perfect**, but with God's Word as the foundation, there can be healing, growth, peace, and purpose. This Biblical model has been taught, lived, and modeled in their own home and extended faithfully to churches and communities near and far.

Planting Seeds That Bear Fruit

Today, many Romanian couples enjoy stronger marriages and more peaceful homes because they embraced God's truth before entering into marriage—truth they received through Adi and Ema's guidance.

Generations of children are now growing up in homes that reflect the hope, order, and love of God's design for family because their parents decided to break unhealthy patterns and adopt God's principles.

Adi and Ema's passion is not just theoretical—it's deeply personal. Their lives testify to the very truths they teach. Their sons have not only grown up in the shadow of their ministry, but have been active participants and now **fruit-bearing disciples themselves**.

A Miracle in Progress: The Ban Boys

This past month, the Ban family celebrated a remarkable milestone: **all three sons graduated from Wheaton College**. It's a miracle, not only academically, but financially and spiritually.

"On a missionary's income, we had no way of funding even one semester of Wheaton," Adi and Ema reflect, "But God made a way. He opened doors. He provided. And we give Him all the glory."

•**Andrew (Andy)**, completed a **Master of Arts in Global Leadership**, now married to another Ema (a medical doctor in Romania), continues ministry together in their local church in Romania, carrying forward the Biblical teachings that shaped his own life and marriage.

•**Eduard**, recently completed his **Master of Arts in Higher Education and**

Student Development and will serve as the newly hired Residence Director at **John Brown University**, mentoring the next generation of students leaders.

•**Thomas**, just graduated with a **Bachelor of Science in Applied Physics with a minor in Mathematics**, and recently got engaged to **Elizabeth Hazard** of Grand Rapids.

The Ban family's legacy is not simply a



Adi training Ukrainian Pastors - 2023

story of a ministry—it is a story of God's faithfulness multiplied through generations.

Still Faithful, Still Needed

Today, Adi and Ema focus their ministry more than ever on **churches, families, and online seekers**, using their **Romanian-language Biblical Family blog** to reach those desperate for life-giving truth. Their writing, counseling, and teaching continue to guide countless individuals to **God's blueprint for relationships**.

They are busier than ever because **the need for Biblical family structure has never been greater**.

A Word to Our Partners

Many of you have supported Adi and Ema's ministry over the years—even before **Steve Evers** joined **In Touch Mission International**. Perhaps you have never visited the Bans in Romania, but **please know this**:

1. **God is always faithful**—even with our "fish and loaves." When we help God's servants obey His leading, **miracles happen**.
2. **God's Word never returns void**. Seeds of truth sown over the years are now bearing visible fruit—in

families, churches, and nations.

3. **It is never too late** to surrender all to God. Adi and Ema's message is clear: Trusting God in every part of life and relationship is the path to joy and restoration.

Will You Continue to Partner?

The fruit of this ministry is showing more than ever. And yet—**this is just the beginning**. God is still at work through the Bans, and your continued prayers and support are vital.

Thank you for investing in this 20+ year journey. Let's celebrate Adi and Ema's anniversary by **honoring the God who brought them together and empowered them to touch so many lives**.

"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." – Matthew 6:33

Happy Anniversary, Adi and Ema Ban. Your faithfulness inspires us all.

- Steve Evers



Tommy (L) and Edu (R) experiencing some of Adi's hands on Father-Son time.



Steve, Mark Burritt, Retired Colonel Stuart Watkins, Adi and Ema final meal before crossing into Ukraine to encourage and teach Ukrainian pastors and wives

A Light in the Shadows:

The Story of Eugene Kalunga and Excellence Christian Academy

In the dusty, rural town of **Kabwe, Zambia**, an unseen crisis threatens the hearts and minds of children.

Education is scarce. Christian influence? Even scarcer.

The Problem: A Silent Emergency

For many **Zambian** children, education is a luxury they can't afford. Families scrape by, unable to pay even the minimal fees for public schools—schools that often offer overcrowded classrooms, poor instruction, and **zero Christian influence**.

Government policies tighten like a noose around private Christian schools. New regulations, shifting tax thresholds, and inconsistent curriculum changes make it nearly impossible for schools like **Excellence Christian Academy (ECA)** to operate smoothly. And when underpaid teachers are lured away by better government salaries, the problem worsens.

Into this broken landscape, God placed a man.

The Solution: A Man of Vision and a Mission from God

Eugene Kalunga, founder and director of ECA, answered the Lord's call over 25 years ago. His dream? To give children more than knowledge—to give them **Christ-centered education**. ECA became a haven not just for learning but for **discipleship**, where biblical truth saturates every subject and every heart.

Over the years, many of the children who attended ECA could not have gone to school anywhere else. But Eugene welcomed them anyway, trusting the Lord to provide. What he didn't foresee was that he was also **raising teachers**, not just students. Undertrained instructors came to ECA and left equipped—both academically

and spiritually—to impact **other schools across the nation**.

Even as **Parkinson's disease** took a toll on Eugene's body, his heart remained steadfast. Today, he continues to guide the school with wisdom, passing the mantle to his oldest son, **Praise Kalunga**—a gifted leader eager to carry the legacy forward.

Their impact didn't stop at ECA. Together, Eugene and Praise launched **Spring of Love School** in a remote region where three entire villages had never seen a

school, much less a Christian one. Now, children who would have lived without hope are learning—and hearing the name of Jesus.

Spring of Love has become more than a school. It's a center of light, introducing not just children—but **whole families**—to Christ.

The Benefit: A Ripple Effect for the Kingdom

The effects of this quiet revolution are profound.

•**Children once overlooked** are now reading Scripture and excelling in their



Spring of Love students stand in line for chapel since there is not room large enough to allow all students to sit down.



Eugene Kalunga and Steve discuss the impact that ECA has made in the Kabwe, Zambia community.

studies.

•**Teachers once under-equipped** are now transforming government classrooms country-wide with biblical values.

•**Villages once forgotten** are now being disciplined—family by family.

In April, when schools closed for the term break, Eugene and his team gathered teachers from both ECA and Spring of Love. They confronted new government regulations and the financial challenges they bring. Some teachers chose to move on. Others stayed, committed to the mission. ECA sent two trained teachers to Spring of Love, ensuring the same values would be upheld.

Though trials continue—teacher shortages, shifting regulations, shrinking budgets—**God continues to move**. New teachers were trained. Classrooms reopened in May. And the Gospel keeps advancing.

To God Be the Glory

This ongoing miracle would not be possible without God's provision—or

without the steadfast support of **In Touch Mission International (ITMI) and our faithful supporters**. From the beginning, **Bill Bathman** and ITMI walked alongside Eugene and ECA, providing encouragement, resources, and prayer.

What began as a small school in Kabwe has become a **movement of Gospel transformation**—one that now reaches classrooms, families, and communities far beyond its original borders.

One Man's Faith. One School's Legacy. Our God's Glory.

This is more than a school story. It's a Kingdom story. A story of light breaking through shadows. A testimony that when God calls, He equips. When He plants, He multiplies. And when we follow Him, **the impact echoes into eternity**.
-Steve Evers



Mrs. Mercy Kafula helping Grade 3 students.

FOR PRAISE

1. India - David and Taru Kumar - God's blessing David with a translator for SALT into the local Kannada language.
2. Romania - Adi and Ema continue to minister to couples and families who want God's best for their homes and relationships.
3. Zimbabwe - Charl van Wyk - The Lord provided all the funds needed for the tractor and it has been bought and delivered.
4. Poland - Piotr Zaremba - Piotr passionately mentors the youth - the next generation of Polish Christian leaders.
5. ITMI - God's continued blessings and provision allowing us to accomplish more Kingdom work as the needs grow day by day.

FOR PRAYER

1. Poland - Piotr Zaremba - Continued provision and wisdom through challenges of ministry in the country of Poland.
2. South Sudan - Lazarus Yezinai - Provision and protection in a degrading and lawless society, as he serves the widows and orphans.
3. Zambia - Eugene Kalunga - Health and provision as he and ECA train the next generation teachers and students.
4. All ITMI - wisdom, guidance, integrity and clarity for our partners making weighty decisions around the world.
5. ITMI USA - Staff health and staff help. As God grows ITMI we need additional co-laborers in His Kingdom work.



PO Box 7575, Tempe, AZ 85281 (480) 968-4100 (888) 918-4100
intouchmission@intouchmission.org | fb.com/intouchmission
@intouchmission | instagram.com/intouchmissioninternational



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