

Pr. Prof. Dr. Aurel Pavel, Pr. Conf. dr. Daniel Buda

De asemenea aş dori să spun aici câteva cuvinte despre activitatea Prof. Keum ca pastor senior al Bisericii Presbiteriene din Coreea. Din păcate, nu este ceva neobişnuit pentru clerul academic să fie profund implicat în activităţi de predare, cercetare, precum şi în alte activităţi de natură academică şi să uite de viaţa bisericească şi de realităţile ecleziale. Prof. Keum este exact opusul. El a obişnuit să fie foarte activ în viaţa Bisericii sale, deja pe când era tânăr, ca predicator laic şi continuă să fie profund activ acum ca pastor senior. El este un excelent predicator şi un organizator al diasporei Bisericii sale mai ales în Europa, precum şi un vizionar al Bisericii sale. El aminteşte în mod constant Bisericii sale că trebuie să îşi menţină activitatea sa misionară care de altfel este excepţională.

La urmă, dar în niciun caz în ultimul rând, aş dori să menţionez aici faptul că Prof. Keum este un soţ minunat al soţiei sale Huyang, care este prezentă astăzi aici, şi tată a doi copii minunaţi.

Având în vedere toate aceste activităţi, nu este surprinzător faptul că Prof. Keum a fost ales în 2017 de către Universitatea Edinburg drept unul dintre cele mai recunoscute nume în studiile despre creştinismul global. Prin decernarea Prof. Keum a titlului de doctor honoris causa, la propunerea Facultăţii sale de Teologie, Universitatea “Lucian Blaga” se alătură unei lungi liste de instituţii academice şi ecumenice, de Biserici şi personalităţi care l-au onorat şi decorat deja pe Prof. Keum în ultimii ani. Şi pentru că Prof. Keum este încă foarte tânăr, ne dorim să vedem implicarea sa de viitor în conducerea mişcării ecumenice, în studiile misionare globale şi în toate eforturile de mărturisire a Evangheliei şi de pace şi dreptate în lume.

Trad. din eng. de Pr. Conf. Dr. Habil. Daniel Buda

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF AWARD OF
HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE (HONORIS CAUSA)
BY LUCIAN BLAGA UNIVERSITY, SIBIU, ROMANIA, AT THE
PROPOSAL OF THE FACULTY OF ORTHODOX THEOLOGY**

H.E. Prof. Dr Laurentiu STREZA, Archbishop of Sibiu and Metropolitan of Transylvania

Excellency, Prof. Dr. ing. Ioan BONDREA, Rector of “Lucian Blaga” University

Fr Prof. Dr Nicolae CHIFĂR, Dean of the Andrei Saguna Faculty of Orthodox Theology

Fr Prof. Dr Aurel PAVEL, Vice-Dean of the Theological Faculty

*Rev. Prof. Dr. Jooseop KEUM – Doctor honoris causa of Lucian Blaga
University, Sibiu, Romania.*

Prof. Dr Paul BRUSANOWSKI, Head of the Department of Orthodox
Theology

Fr Prof. Dr Daniel BUDA, Director of Ecumenical Relations of World
Council of Churches

Dear faculties, students and distinguished guests,

I am truly honoured and humbled to accept this honorary doctoral degree from "Lucian Blaga" University, Sibiu, Romania, at the proposal of the FACULTY OF ORTHODOX THEOLOGY. Indeed, it is my privilege to be invited here, an historic center of Orthodox missiology to gratefully receive an honorary doctorate from this venerable institution of Orthodox theological education.

Following the crucifixion of Jesus, we are told that, "the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews" (John 20:19). In today's world, disciples of Jesus can find many reasons to be afraid. Division, fundamentalism, violence and discrimination are all on the increase everywhere in the world. In our socio-political cultures, the darker side of human nature is overwhelming and without any shame. Greed of power, money, violence and claims of jealousy are competing to search for victims.

We could easily be tempted to lock the doors and concern ourselves with self-preservation. The gospel, however, leads in a different direction. Jesus came and stood among the Apostles saying: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me so I send you" (John 20: 21). Hiding behind locked doors was not their calling. Instead they were sent on a mission modelled after the mission of Jesus. Finally, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22).

Therefore, we ought to witness together to respond to these callings with the quality of ecumenical fellowship, the quality of transforming discipleship. We work with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and rely on Triune God rather than the institutional support and protection. Although we do not have "gold and silver" (cf. Acts 3:6), we have joy and commitment to the gospel and passion for peace and justice. I believe that bringing this dynamism to the heart of the ecumenical thinking and action is the first step of rejuvenating our movement.

We do believe that the power of God's peace is superior to the powers of death. We affirm that the power of the Risen Lord subjugates the powers of death, even as the rest of the world embraces or remains indifferent to the powers of death in God's beloved world. How then can we witness to God's peace in ways that our witness nurtures, protects and enhances life, while confronting and transforming the denial of God's gift of life?

The world is broken. Therefore, it is imperative for the ecumenical movement to boldly witness the unity in the Triune God and to live it out for the

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peace of humanity. The world is yearning for a Christian discipleship which reconciles the broken and troubled world. In order to do so, unity of the church and mission is not an optional agenda. In order that the church can be the light of the world, the role of Christian disciples is crucial. We should to embark a pilgrimage of “go in peace” to the world after our liturgy. The mission, the Liturgy after Liturgy in Orthodox expression developed here in Romanian missiological school, means the bold and prophetic proclamation of “Peace be with you” in the broken world.

We are called to be disciples who are ourselves transforming, and as such we are privileged to join in the mission of the Triune God, working together towards life, living out the values of the kingdom of God, and engaging in mission from the margins. In a world in which injustice and violence seems almost insuperable, where hatred and racism seem to thrive, where suffering is so widespread and terrifying, our ecumenical discipleship is costly. Our mission is witnessing to deep peace in Christ and the unity of Triune God.

With these words, I once again thank to the leadership and faculty of the “Lucian Blaga” University, Sibiu, Romania, and to the Orthodox Faculty of Theology of Sibiu for bestowing upon me this honor. I look forward to your continued friendship and fruitful exchanges with the Korean churches and theologians as one family of God in the one ecumenical movement. May God bless you and the university of Sibiu!

Thank you!

Prof. Dr. Jooseop KEUM
Presbyterian University South Korea

CUVÂNTAREA DE ACCEPTARE
ROSTITĂ CU OCAZIA DECERNĂRII TITLULUI DE DOCTOR
HONORIS CAUSA DE CĂTRE UNIVERSITATEA LUCIAN BLAGA DIN
SIBIU, ROMÂNIA, LA PROPUNEREA FACULTĂȚII DE TEOLOGIE
ORTODOXĂ

Prof. Dr. Jooseop KEUM
Universitatea Presbiteriană, Coreea de Sud

Înaltpreasfinția Voastră, Prof. Dr. Laurentiu STREZA, Arhiepiscopul
Sibiului și Mitropolitul Ardealului,