



## Your journey with the Visan's

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## 2016 in Retrospect

**Things**, good or bad happen to us and around the world every day. They influence us directly or indirectly. Sometimes we see the results right away, understand the whys and come to grips with the answers, but other times (probably most times) we don't find the answers, don't get to see the whole picture.

**When** it comes to the great scheme of things, unless we read the history books, most of us don't get to live or see the correlation between cause and effect. You heard of the butterfly effect, a scientific theory that a single occurrence, no matter how small, can change the course of the world forever. Well, the Lord saw it fit to draw the curtains for us a little in a particular case .

**Romanian** Christians hadn't been disturbed by many things since the Revolution at the end of 1989. All the Marches for Life hadn't moved them, taking the Bible classes out of schools hadn't seemed to faze them. The news that sexual education would be made mandatory in schools hadn't shaken them.

**Yet** in November of 2015, something woke the churches up, an event that took place in Norway to a mixed Norwegian-Romanian family. Five children, 10 yrs. to 3 mo. old were taken away in one single day by the Child Protection Department on accusation of abuse and indoctrination.

**Churches** of all denominations started to pray, fast, take to the streets, write to both governments, but most importantly, they started to notice that while they were busy with their rituals and feeling good inside their churches' walls, the world was redefining the family, relationships and even gender.

**During** the summer, three million people signed a petition to clarify in our constitution that marriage is between a man and a woman. Now we're waiting on a decision from Parliament. It's hard to explain how the tragedy of a family woke up a nation to strongly state their values except that God's hand has been in it.

**Our** family has been very much involved in these spiritual battles. The Lord laid heavily on our hearts the desire to speak for the unborn, to help preserve the family the way it was designed by its Creator and to help parents understand what ideologies their children face in schools everyday.

**We've** seen many victories in 2016 in all the above areas: sexual education has not been introduced in schools, our purity presenters are asked to go to more classes than they physically can, one of the abortion doctors from the Maternity Hospital decided not to perform abortions anymore, the management of the Hospital promised to reinforce to the doctors that they need to send all the abortion minded women to us for counseling, and on November 18, Gabi will speak to the annual Conference for Pastors here in Oradea on the issue of abortion.

**As** we enter the season when we celebrate the birth of our Prince of Peace may we remember that real peace comes only through knowing Him. Thank you for keeping our family in your prayers in this past year, thank you for your friendship, encouragement and support.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

The Visans