

Romania – update January 2026

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Greetings,

We praise the Lord for the grace and privilege we have to continue to serve Him here in Romania.

We started the New Year with one of the heaviest winters Romania had in the last 20 years. We had lots of snow to shovel for a number of days, but many who do agriculture thanked God for the snow, for it is a real blessing.

We have been blessed with many wonderful opportunities to serve Him and share His loving grace with many, at the end of 2025, as well as at the beginning of this New Year. Traditionally, at Christmas, besides the caroling on Christmas Eve, there are worship services on the first day and second day of Christmas, and then a special worship service on the first day of the New Year. John was very busy during this period especially with the preaching and youth outreach ministry.

In the month of January, traditionally, most evangelical churches here in Romania concentrate at two major events. First there are special worship services with the focus on **prayer**, and secondly special worship services with the focus on **evangelism**. Most churches set aside a full week for “fasting and prayer” from Monday through Sunday, for 7 days, every evening, the worship service, the music, and the preaching are all focused on prayer. These evening worship services are organized and structured in such a way so that the believers of all ages have an opportunity to pray. It has been very encouraging to us to hear the prayers of the believers, thanking God for last year’s care and blessings, and asking for the Lord’s grace and protection in the New Year. The believers take Psalm 103 seriously, they really want to “Bless the Lord” and “forget none of His benefits”. They are grateful because they know and want everybody to know that only the Lord “pardons” our sins, “heals” our diseases and “redeems” our lives from the pit.

The “**week of prayer**” is usually planned on the same week when the Christian Orthodox believers in Eastern Europe traditionally celebrate “The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ” (The Holy Epiphany) and it ends with a special baptism service for new believers.

Recently, John was invited to preach at a special baptism service, and after the preaching, before the ten candidates were baptized, John stepped down from the pulpit and made an invitation. By God’s grace, over 10 more people responded, publicly expressing their desire to receive Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. We have no doubt the Holy Spirit was there, as we sensed His presence during the worship service and also after the baptism when we heard the testimony of a middle aged lady which was baptized. When she came to church in the morning she was partially paralyzed on her left leg and arm, following a stroke she had over a year ago. Right after the baptism, full of joy she publicly shared about the healing she experienced as soon as she came out of the water; she was able to feel and move her left leg and arm again. Without a doubt she experienced God’s loving Hand and wanted everybody to hear about her miraculous healing experience. That was indeed a very powerful testimony of God’s grace; many people were in awe.

Evangelism is the second major event the evangelical churches focus on in the beginning months of the year. Churches set aside a few days in a row, some churches the whole week with special music and guest preachers every evening. It is very encouraging to see many unsaved people come and express their desire to know Jesus and accept Him as Lord and Savior. A few churches already invited and scheduled John to preach during this evangelistic period. Most churches that invite John to preach are led by his former seminary students whom are now serving the Lord and pastoring churches all across Romania.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Please pray that God will bless John's preaching during this evangelistic period, and that God will prepare the hearts of those that hear the Word.

Please pray for the weekly youth outreach ministry at the camp and conference center.

Please pray for John as he continues to teach at the Theological Seminary.

Please pray for the Ukrainian refugees we continue to help in any way we can.

Please continue to pray for continued health and protection as we do much traveling.

PRAISES:

Praise God with us for those that received Christ.

Praise God for the peace and freedom we have to serve the Lord.

Praise God for His love, provisions, and finances to be able to do the ministry.

We praise God for the health and strength He continues to bless us with.

We Praise God for each one of you who are so faithful in your prayers and financial support.

Again, thank you from our hearts for being there for us. We love you and thank God for you. **GOD BLESS YOU !!!**

In His amazing grace,

John and Estera Vatran



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