

John and Estera Vatran serving the Lord in Romania

Update and prayer requests September 2025

Greetings from the Vatrans,

In the following we share with you an update on the three main areas of ministry we have been concentrating this year.

Leadership training

There is still a great need for pastors and church leaders in Romania. This is one of the reasons why investing in the training and equipping of national church leaders, continues to be one of our main ministry goals.

In July we celebrated the graduation of a new generation of theological students, a new generation of young pastors, all these were John's students. Most of them are already engaged in ministry and are serving in different parts of the country. During summer we met personally with some of them to fellowship, pray and encourage them in their new beginning.

In less than a month, in October, the Theological Seminary begins a new academic year. John has already been scheduled to teach his classes.

We know that discipleship is not done only on the benches of the theological seminary, that is why we often meet individually or in small groups with pastors, young church leaders, and seminary students in a very informal way, to teach to counsel and to encourage them. Many pastors, although they have been ordained, don't have any theological training, they know they need to be trained and desire to be taught.

It is evident that the present political, social, and economic crisis in this part of the world has influenced life in general and evidently the life of the church. During these times of trials and hardships, the authenticity of the "call", the gift of serving, and the spiritual maturity of pastors and church leaders is put to test. Many stand up strong and faithfully continue to serve the Lord in spite of financial crisis and hardships. But some church leaders and pastors quit the ministry altogether

Prayer request: Please pray for the young servants that they will remain faithful, and that the Lord will use them in mighty ways for His glory. Please pray for John as he will start again to teach a couple of classes in October.

Youth outreach ministry

This year again, by God's grace we've been blessed with many wonderful opportunities to share the love of Christ at youth camps and other youth programs and activities. It was wonderful and very encouraging to see a good number of youth from un-churched families come to hear the Word of God, and worship together with their Christian friends. It is also wonderful to see the parents encouraging their children to attend the youth meetings.

At the summer camp meeting a few responded and expressed their desire to receive Christ. In the month of August we had another river baptism of others that received Christ at a previous evangelistic meeting, and after John's preaching, at the invitation, a few more responded to the gospel and received Christ. Praise the Lord!!!

Without a doubt, many churches here in Romania need to consider investing more in the spiritual growth of the youth and in the youth outreach ministry altogether.

Prayer request: Please pray for the new believers that they will remain firmly rooted in Christ; bring forth fruit, be a light and a testimony to others as well. Also for the Lord's guiding of the church leaders in their ministry to youth.

Interim Pastoral ministry

Last year, the leadership of a Baptist church, located almost 2 hours away, contacted John and asked him to accept to serve as interim pastor; he accepted. Besides teaching in the theological seminary, John has been serving as interim pastor in various churches since we first arrived on the Romanian mission field. John usually serves until a student from the theological seminary graduates and takes over from him or, until the church finds a permanent pastor.

Prayer request: Please pray for protection on his travels and for wisdom as he serves the body of Christ in that region during this transition time; "fruit" while serving there; and that the Lord will send the right person to take the responsibilities and serve as permanent pastor of the church.

We thank the Lord for your faithfulness, and treasure your prayers and financial support, which keeps us on the mission field, enables us, and encourages us to continue to faithfully serve Him.

In His grace,

John and Estera Vatron



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