ROMANIA – UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2025

"HAPPY THANKSGIVING"

In the months of October and November, here in Romania, most evangelical churches across the country celebrate Thanksgiving (Harvest time) the churches are decorated beautifully with harvested fruits and vegetables, flowers, etc. The preaching, the singing, the prayers, and testimonies are all directed toward giving thanks. Usually at these services there are invited guest musicians and speakers from other churches to share the message of gratefulness. These Thanksgiving worship services are very evangelistic in purpose they offer amazing opportunities to share God's Truth, His goodness and His loving grace. Many unsaved family members and friends are invited, and they like to come. John was already invited to preach at a few of these services both, at Thanksgiving and Evangelistic meetings and many have been touched by God's Word.

Many passages in Scripture remind us and encourage us to <u>always give THANKS to God "for all things in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ" Ephesians 5:20</u> ... and "through Jesus Christ", Romans 7:25; Colossians 3:17. This we believe, because everything we are and have, <u>"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17.</u>

The Lord Jesus told His disciples, "In the world you will have tribulation", John 16:33. We know that at some point in life all of us will face tribulations and trials. No doubt we all want to be victorious in every battle we encounter. Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:57 encourages us to be grateful and thank God "who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ," and also, to be grateful and thank God for He "always leads us in His triumph in Christ." 2 Corinthians 2:14. We thank God for the victory we are blessed with by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Apostle Paul also points out that being thankful is not just a choice, or a simple desire, it is a command, <u>"in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."</u> 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Apostle Paul also warns us that it is very dangerous, for those who are not thankful and "do not give thanks to God". Romans 1:21

For us here on the mission field, "Thanksgiving" celebration is very special because it reminds us and encourages us to be grateful to God, our supporting churches, and individuals. Here are some of the blessings we receive from the Lord as a result of your faithful prayer and financial support that enable us to continue to serve the Lord on the mission field.

- 1. First we are grateful for the privilege and honor to serve the Lord on the mission field, for the freedom and the opportunity to preach and teach God's Word and to spread the Good News and the loving Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to many.
- 2. We are grateful for all the unsaved who got to hear the Word of God through us and made a decision to receive Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior. So far 80+ people committed their lives to Christ this year.
- 3. We are grateful for being able to travel, to have a car and cover the fuel costs (which is \$8 a gallon), air travel, and transportation in general.
- 4. We are grateful to be able to help the poor, the sick, and to visit orphanages, not empty handed, to be able to offer more than just "a cup of water" to those in need.
- 5. We are grateful for being blessed with health insurance, not to worry about medical costs. We consider this a great blessing.
- 6. We are grateful for being blessed with the possibility to purchase food and clothes and cover the costs of our basic needs.

God bless you all!!! In His amazing grace, John and Estera Vatran ivatran@aol.com

