



*Hi from Romania!*

*February 2025*

***Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth! Jubilate!***

*Jubilate!* Many of you know that's the name of our ministry here in Romania. It's the Latin word for "Shout for Joy" from Psalm 100:1. This year we will celebrate 24 years since we started the foundation!

### ***A special dedication***

I'm dedicating this newsletter to my dear friend Susan Joy Strohschein – front & center in the top photo. It was in 1996 when Susan and I first met in the Detroit airport, and during the flight to Romania. We both had been called as professors of music at the Emanuel Bible Institute in Oradea. Who would have thought that we would be partners in ministry for 29 years? And what blessed years they have been!!



Susan will be moving back to the US in April. It is so hard to imagine our *Jubilate* ministry without her here in Romania. Susan was the one whom God used in 2001 to give birth to *Jubilate*, and she has served as the executive director of the foundation since then.

More importantly, she has been the "heart and soul" and Joy of *Jubilate* since that first day! Susan has many hundreds of friends of all ages in every corner of Romania! The farewells in the next two months will not be easy.

Photos: left – young'uns! right – well, a few decades older. 😊



Please be praying for Susan in this time of transition as she moves to TX to be near her sister and family.

*Jubilate* in photo above – left to right: Alina & Emanuel Bălăceanu, Anca Toia, Laura & Ken Tucker, Elisei & Naomi Ștefănescu (behind Susan), Oxana & Ruben Mureșan, and Mariana Gherasim (in front of me).

Richard Mauney e-mail: [richard@jubilate.ro](mailto:richard@jubilate.ro) // 421 Welsh Poppy Way, Greer SC 29650 ➡

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## ***Sing to the Lord a new song !***

One of the priorities of our *Jubilate* ministry is to encourage and equip Romanians to write their own songs. Sat. March 22 we will have a special event when many of these songs written over the past 2 years will be sung. Many of the composers are coming from all over Romania. Over the years we've offered workshops on how to write texts and to compose melodies for congregational songs. Please join us in celebrating the fruit of these labors, praying for many more songs to be born from the Romanian people.

## ***Worship retreat in the mountains !***

Imagine spending four days at this beautiful setting! – worshipping together, learning new songs, discussions from God's Word about worship and service, about the role of music



in worship – and lots of time for rest and exploring God's creation! My friends Anton & Ruben will be assisting me in leading this *Jubilate* event for leaders in various kinds of worship ministry. On Sunday we will lead worship at a local church.



The photos are of a similar retreat in October '24 at the same location. We even had a shepherd and his sheep who seemed interested in joining us for worship! Please pray for us – that we will fill the maximum capacity of 65 (people, not sheep!) We already have some coming from Rep. of Moldova, Italy and England! Pray that God will bring us all together “in one heart and one voice” for the Lord's glory and for the building up of His church. The event is April 30-May 4.



## ***Selah: An Invitation to Rest in the Lord***

The last chapter of this book I am writing is “Selah and Waiting.” Waiting is difficult. How can “selah moments” of pausing and resting help us in our waiting? In so many ways we're living in troubling and uncertain times. It's easy to be consumed with questions – Why is this happening? For how long must I wait? What will be next? Questions after questions. . . But God calls us to stop and rest in His promises:

*The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.*

*He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. Isaiah 40:28*

Isaiah 40 has been a tremendous comfort to me in these difficult days, especially living here in Europe.

## ***Prayer points***

- Susan's preparations for moving to the US the second week in April.
- Elisei and Naomi – still raising support through Greater Europe Mission. So, if you would be interested in being a part of their support team through prayer or finances, please let me know.
- “Sing a new song” event – March 22
- Worship retreat in the mountains – April 30-May 4
- *Selah* – the completion of my book by Aug., especially for the final editing and typesetting work.

## ***Thank you ...***

... so much for your faithful support through prayers and gifts. What a blessing you are to me – to us!

*Richard*

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