

# The Timisoara Times

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## Areopagus Summer School

For the fourth year, Areopagus organized the summer school for children. We had over 20 children coming from both evangelical and non-evangelical backgrounds. The children spent two weeks playing, making crafts, learning about the world



around us and making new friends.

The Summer School Program is a way to raise money for children who struggle with poverty and help them stay in school. Many of them abandon school because their parents cannot provide for their basic needs (food, clothing, shelter) and very often school is regarded as an unnecessary expense. We are aware that education is the means to a better future and we are committed to help them with their studies.

Every year, before school starts, the Areopagus Center provides school bags, school supplies, clothing and shoes for twenty children.

During the academic year, they come to Areopagus and meet with our tutors who help them have better results in school. This project has been going on for two years now, and all of the children attending it have continued their studies. Their teachers' feedback at the end of the school year was positive and encouraging for us. Also, the parents seem more supportive and involved seeing their children's improvement in school.

We are determined to continue this projects and would like to find more people joining us in our efforts to support these children. The amount that we need to keep a child in school for a year is \$495. Please contact us if you want to sponsor a child and make a difference in his life.

## VBS and Parenting Conference

In June, we enjoyed the visit of our friends from US, Dr. Ed and Marlowe Bulkley and Tim and Lisa Bates. For two days we gathered the children from our social projects and their friends and shared about God and His unique way of transforming lives. Most of the children attending, come from a non-evangelical background and it was a great opportunity to share with them about



faith in Jesus. We made crafts together and played outdoor games.

One night, we gathered both children and their parents, and we discussed the role of visual arts in children's spiritual education. The seminar had a practical side, as well, when parents and children worked together on a craft based on the fruit of the Spirit.

One of the highlights of the week was the Biblical Parenting Conference held by Pastor Ed and his team.

Some of the topics addressed regarded the marital relationship and the way it influences our children, the difficult issues children face as they grow up (sex, drugs, addictions, etc.) and the problem of forgiveness in the family. The topics were of great interest for the participants who felt encouraged and determined to raise godly children.



**Faith and Profession**, one of our flagship programs originating in the well-known “Wednesday Night Forum” (which was continuously running for more than 12 years), is still growing strong. The current series brought together artists rooted in the Christian faith who perceive their works as vehicles of Light, of Truth and Life. [Silviu Oravitzan](http://oravitzan.ro) (oravitzan.ro), a world renowned Romanian painter with exhibitions in the US, in Europe and in his own country of Romania, introduced us to what he sees as the inspiration for his work.



For him, at the root of all existence is the life and Light giving Cross, a central theme of his entire creation. [Liviu Mocan](http://liviumocan.ro) (liviumocan.ro) is one of the most famous contemporary sculptors of Romania, with works placed on three continents. For Liviu as well, at the Center of our existence is the Crucified and Risen Christ. The third guest of the series was [Radu Cletiu](http://raducletiu.ro) (raducletiu.ro), a well-known caricaturist who convinced us that his work can be a very

useful vehicle for Christian spirituality.

At the closing event, our former colleague Adrian Guiu (PhD, Univ. of Chicago) took us through a fruitful theological marathon discussing Idolatry and the Image of the Invisible God.

## Summer School in Family Therapy

*“How to navigate in an ocean of emotions:  
Building a secure attachment”*

We like to define ourselves as rational human beings and less as emotional beings. Being emotional is often perceived as being weak and we tend to apologize when we show emotions in front of others. Even counsellors and therapists find it difficult sometimes to work both with their own and their clients’ emotions. Hence, we decided to have this topic as a context for our discussions, group activities, interactions and case studies during our summer school in family therapy. All three days were quite intense and full of interactive activities. Over 50 specialists took part in this event and shared their ideas on various subjects, such as the parent-child relationship (Dr. Simona Herb), treating couples with survivors of sexual abuse (Dr. Ileana Ungureanu) and therapeutic interventions for building a secure attachment (Dr. Ileana Rogobete).



Most reflections at the end of the event highlighted the fact that being connected emotionally and feeling loved by important persons in our lives give us strength when we face life adversities. As one participant declared, “this journey has been a real adventure into exploring the self and significant relationships with others. Thank you for your professionalism, acceptance, empathy and authenticity. I’m so glad I’ve chosen Areopagus at this stage in my professional and personal life.”

Please direct any support for the Areopagus Center to:

**Areopagus Romania Foundation**

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