

# The Timisoara Times

Publication of the *Areopagus Centre for Christian Studies and Contemporary Culture*, Timisoara, Romania

No. 39



## Highlights of the year 2011

- **Pro Life March**— The Areopagus Centre and other pro life organizations and churches organized a march in order to raise awareness with regard to the increasing number of abortions in Romania. (Picture nr. 1)
- This year we had two book releases: ***Redeeming the Memory: The Pentecostal Movement during communism*** and ***Communion and Participation: Theological Reflections on the Spiritual Dimension of Existence.***
- **COUNSELING, FAITH, PROFESSIONALISM:** *The role of Christian values in specialized counselling*—an international conference that brought together Christian counsellors, psychotherapists, doctors and pastors.
- **“Facing the Communist Totalitarian Regime with the Law”**. Special guests were **Dr. SILVIU ROGOBETE**, General Consul of Romania in Cape Town, South Africa, in dialog with **Dr. NELU PRODAN**, lawyer, Honoric Consul of Romania in the United States of America. During the communist regime, Mr. Nelu Prodan was a defender of Christian dissidents, taking up their cause before the communist authorities. Currently he practices as a lawyer and is the Honorary Consul of Romania in Dallas, USA. (Picture nr. 2)
- The Areopagus Centre and Grace Fellowship Church, KY, USA, organized a conference on **Biblical Models of Ministry**, with emphasis on Christian leadership, small groups ministry, discipleship and Biblical counselling.
- Andrew and Pamela LaBrecht organized at Areopagus an introductory course on Romanian culture prepared by our Romanian language and culture program coordinator, Emma Goldis. The course aimed at presenting some cultural traits to the international students that study in Timisoara.
- **HIV/AIDS International Day** - The CRIS-DU Areopagus Association, together with other NGOs and local institutions and hospitals, organised in Timisoara an event meant to show support for people affected by HIV/ AIDS and to raise the awareness level of the population. (Picture 3)



Picture 1



Picture nr. 2



Picture nr. 3



Picture nr.4

- A two-year training program on Biblical counselling started this year at Areopagus. The training program is offered by the Areopagus counselling department and Grace Fellowship Church from Florence, KY, USA. The course aims at preparing Christians to be competent to counsel in their local churches.

- **Shoe boxes for HIV children**— With the help of our partner organization Team Hope, from Ireland, we were able to bless HIV/ AIDS children in the children’s hospital in Timisoara with shoeboxes of gifts. The little boy in the picture lost his mother at birth. (Picture nr. 4).

- This year the Masters Program *Spiritually Oriented Social Work Practice* celebrated 10 years of activity. With this occasion, students from all generations and their professor got together at Areopagus for a time of recalling memories. There was also a Christmas carol concert that reminded us of the upcoming celebration of our Saviour's birth.
- We organised a Christmas party for people benefiting from our social programs. There were doctors and local representatives from partner organizations attending the event.

## NEWS

On October 19-30 we had the special visit of five representatives from Grace Fellowship Church, KY, USA (our faithful partners in the biblical counseling ministry) and held a conference on Biblical Models of Ministry (Leadership, Small Groups and Counseling/ Discipleship), which became a preliminary event leading to the launching of the Areopagus training program in biblical counseling/discipleship. The stated purpose of this training program is to strengthen the Evangelical churches in Timisoara and Romania for their ministry of biblical soul-care by developing practical ministry resources and intensive training of pastors and church leaders, and counselors and lay people with a heart for discipleship in the practice of biblical counseling.



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The training program will be over a period of two years, with intensive weekend modules (6 modules per year), every two months, that will consist of courses and seminars. The first seminar took place at the beginning of December with a first generation of students from various evangelical churches in Timisoara and around.



Lacrisa Novac, Biblical Counselling Department

## Shoe boxes for Romanian children

Every year, thousands of Romanian children receive shoe boxes from children in the Republic of Ireland. This year was no exception. The Team Hope organisation from Ireland sent about 41.000 thousand shoeboxes of gifts to Romanian children. This year, the Areopagus Centre took part in a few distributions together with an Irish team led by Carol Hennessy from Team Hope. We visited orphanages, schools, kindergartens, Roma communities, rehabilitation centres, etc. We had the chance to enter people's homes and talk to them and pray for them. Many of them were large families with very little income (about 250 Eur/family/month). Here is the story of a girl that we visited:



*Gabriela N. is a young lady who is HIV-positive. When she was nine years old, a close relative advised her to take some blood tests because of a severe anemia. Gabriela has lived all her life with her aunt and from time to time with her grandmother. Gabriela's mother committed suicide because of the problems she and her husband had. Gabriela was only three months old when her mother died. Her grandmother took over the responsibility to raise Gabriela and her three sisters. She remembers that when she was very young, she was in the hospital for a very serious cold and she got an injection with a syringe that was not sterilized.*

*Gabriela's youngest sister died of HIV, but her family found out about the disease only after her death. The other sister was adopted by a family. Gabriela's grandmother suspects that the girl has a very serious illness, but she does not know what it is, and Gabriela has no intention of telling her. Her father doesn't know anything about her medical condition, either. Right now, Gabriela is in the hospital to receive treatment for tuberculosis. Gabriela has a relationship with a young man that is not HIV-positive.*

Emma Goldis—Office Manager,  
Adina Petric—Social Worker



Please direct any support for the Areopagus Centre to:

**Areopagus Romania Trust**  
11 The Croft  
Pinner  
Middx. HA5 5EX

For more information, a gift aid form or a covenant form please write to the same address. ART is a UK Registered Charity; No. 1064613

Areopagus Centre; O.P. 16, C.P. 1170, 300774 Timisoara; Romania  
Tel: +40-256-487485, fax: +40-256-487919

E-mail: office@areopagus.ro, Internet: www.areopagus.ro