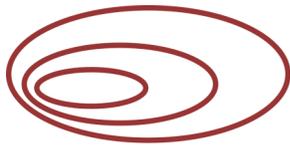




The Timisoara Times

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



Areopagus

Center for Christian Studies and Contemporary Culture

No. 43

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Support for Education

Life has never been easy for the 20 children in our day care center. They all come from very poor families, some have abusive parents and some of them have to live with alcoholic parents. Their sad stories make us want a different life for them, a life of dignity, and a life in which they can enjoy the same rights as anyone else even if they are poor.

For over a year, with the financial support of our Irish partner, Team Hope, we have been able to keep these children in school. We helped them with school supplies, food, clothes and boots. We encouraged their parents to be supportive of their children and to appreciate their efforts in school. For some families, sending their children to school was a luxury. We helped them realize that this is normality and they need access to education if they hope for a better life in the future.

This year in October, Gabriela Povian, our new social worker, took over the social department and all the responsibilities of this project. Although the funding for this project is over, we have continued to visit these families and encourage them to keep their children in school despite their financial problems.

In December we organized a fundraising event for our social project. The children had a concert at Areopagus, and on this occasion we sold a lot of Christmas decorations, placemats, potholders and homemade cookies made by the children's mothers and our missionary colleagues, Cheryl Zumbrunn and Diane Markesbery.



Thank you for your prayers and support throughout the year of 2014. Your care and support can make a difference in the following year too. Please join us in our efforts to assist these children in 2015 as well. Your contribution will be much appreciated and may change someone's life forever.



Highlights of the Year

- The Areopagus Center hosted the visit of **Her Excellency Mrs. Tenjiwe Ethel Mtintso**, the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to Romania, launching Mandela Day in Romania. The children from the Areopagus summer school program welcomed Her Excellency with a lot of enthusiasm and an African dance. Together they planted the Nelson Mandela tree in our back yard.



- This year, six new titles of the Areopagus Christian Studies Series “Cambridge Papers” were translated and published in Romanian. The aim of Cambridge Papers is to make clear the relevance of biblical teaching to a range of contemporary issues and to equip Christians to respond to the ideas which are shaping our society. Cambridge Papers seeks to make a strategic Christian contribution to public debate at a time of rapid social and cultural change.

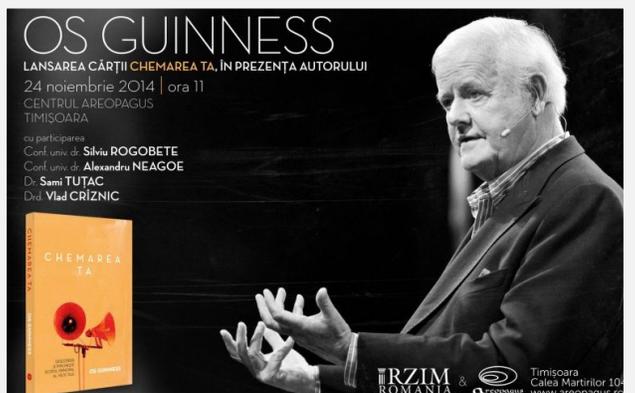
- The Areopagus Center was honored to have as guest speaker **Lord GRIFFITHS of FFORESTFACH**. The event was organized under the “Faith and Profession” project and represents our effort to engage in, and stimulate Christian professionals for, a serious search for integration, precisely because this is required by the lordship of Christ over all creation and by the public nature of the Gospel. The ultimate goal of the project is to equip Christians in various professions with a holistic understanding of reality, and to prepare them to engage deeply with God’s world, with all aspects of cultures and societies.



- The Areopagus Center in partnership with RZIM Romania organized a special event: The launch of the book *The Call: Find and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life* followed by a lecture by the renowned speaker **Os Guinness**, author of over 30 reference works in various areas such as sociology, history or politics and religion.

- Thirty church leaders and lay people have enrolled for the new series of our two-year training in biblical counseling offered by Areopagus in partnership with Grace Fellowship Church, Florence, KY. New resources for Biblical counseling were translated and published into Romanian within our program: two of Mark Shaw’s books- *Strength in Numbers: The Team Approach to Biblical Counseling* and *Hope and Help through Biblical Counseling*.

Also, a new set of counseling booklets: “Pre-Engagement”, “Hope and Help for Marriage”, “Sexual Sin”, “Homosexuality”, “Suffering”, “Suicide”.



- A new group of students enrolled in our systemic family therapy training. There are about seventy professionals studying at the Areopagus Institute of Family Therapy. The institute provides counseling, individual, family and couple therapy, education and training in systemic family therapy, clinical research.

Please direct any support for the Areopagus Center to:

Areopagus Romania Foundation

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