

# The Timisoara Times

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Winter 2021

## We will remember...

*We will remember, we will remember the works of Your hands. We will stop and give you praise for great is Thy faithfulness...* These are the lyrics of a beautiful worship song written by Tommy Walker. It expresses in such a wonderful way our overflowing gratitude and thankfulness for the way God has fulfilled His plan with the Areopagus Center during 2021. We will definitely remember His faithfulness and His provision for us!

Despite unfavorable conditions, we continued to serve the community through our educational and social programs. It was not an easy task and often fear shrouded us, but God faithfully reassured us of his love and protection. As restrictions were lessened, we resumed our face-to-face activities for most of the programs. Our beneficiaries would come to our premises for various activities and counseling. The library has been open to the public for the whole year. Our language classes and trainings continued in a hybrid system.

Here are some of the 2021 highlights:

- ◆ Over 30 people living in poverty received monthly material support (food, school supplies, hygiene products) and counseling through our social services for adults and children.
- ◆ A group of 30 people graduated from our Biblical Counseling Training Program and are now ready to offer support to other Christians who struggle in their lives and in their relationships. Another group of people will begin their two-year training in January 2022.
- ◆ Major renovations have been done to a part of our premises that was severely affected by damp and mold. With the support of some generous donors we were able to renovate a couple of offices, the kitchen and the hallway. We have also put fireproof doors at the library.
- ◆ A new series of students has graduated from our Master's program at the West University of Timisoara (Values-focused Social Work Practice), and another group of 20 new students have enrolled in October. This year, we celebrated 20 years of activity of this Master's Program. It is a valuable opportunity to share Christian values in a public university, therefore we pray that people will continue to show interest in it.
- ◆ Over 70 professionals are continuing their training in family therapy and systemic practice. The switch to the online program attracted more students and made the program available to those living in various parts of Romania and abroad.



- ◆ Thanks to our partners from Team Hope Ireland, we distributed over 100 shoeboxes to needy families and children. For many of these children, these shoeboxes are the only Christmas gift that they will receive.
- ◆ We have continued to address important issues that the society is facing through our forums and debates. Although the meetings were not in person, people showed interest in our online meetings.
- ◆ We began a partnership with a food bank from Timisoara and now we are able to help more families with food and sanitary products. More and more families are struggling financially due to the increase in prices for food and cost of living.

It has not been an easy task to operate under these circumstances, but people's positive feedback, your prayers and support really made a difference in our work. For a time like this we are here to be a resource for the needy, a blessing to those that lost hope, and a guide for those that are struggling through life.

## Bogdan's Story

Bogdan is a hardworking high school student that started to attend our after school program in 2018. At that time he was in the 7th grade. He dreams of becoming a good mechanic and also, a good football player. Bogdan lives with his mother and maternal grandparents in a two-room apartment. His grandparents are doing various jobs to add some income to their small pensions. About five years ago, Bogdan's mother underwent a surgery after which she was in a coma for two months, and later in a clinical death ... Since then, her health condition has been very frail. She is staying in the house all the time, but she can't do housework at all. She moves with difficulty but Bogdan and his grandparents are happy that she is at least talking to them, even if she has memory problems.

Bogdan's father left them saying that he could not take care of his wife for the rest of his life. Bogdan was devastated, but he continues to take good care of his mother and he is very patient with her. He knows that his mother can't do anything and he does not mind doing the chores. He is just happy to have her around.

Bogdan started to come to Areopagus After School Program as he was preparing for a high school entrance exam. He did well on his exams and we were very happy for him. He has continued to come to Areopagus and we have tutors that help him with various school subjects. It is a great opportunity for us to stand by him at this stage of his life, to guide him and support him in whatever way we can.

You can pray for Bogdan and his family and if you are interested in helping him in any way, please contact us.

## Saying farewell to Doug and Diane Markesbery

At the beginning of December this year, our dear friends and partners in the Biblical Counseling Program, Doug and Diane, have returned to the US, after serving the Lord, together with us, for almost ten years. We are deeply grateful to the Lord for their valuable contribution in our organization and in our country and we are praying that the Lord will continue to bless and guide them, as they are settling back in their home country.

For direct donations to Areopagus Center please visit our [webpage](#). Also, follow us on [Facebook](#) for more information and updates on our social projects.



*Bogdan came to Areopagus to take some food for his family*



Please direct any support for the Areopagus Center to:

**Areopagus Romania Foundation INC.**

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