

Educational Activities

The Areopagus Centre in partnership with the Timisoara Anti-Drug Center and the West University of Timisoara organised as part of the "Faith and Profession" Project a seminar on ***The Role of Christian Spirituality in Preventing and Overcoming Drug Addiction***. This event was organized particularly for high school teachers and brought together about 60 teachers from different high schools (both private and public) in Timisoara. The topic was addressed from medical, psychological, social and spiritu-



al perspectives, in order to give the participants a better understanding of the drug issue and to encourage them to consider the impact that Christian spirituality can have in the life of those who are dealing with drug addiction.



Seminar for Pre-school Teachers

The project entitled *Quality in Education – A Necessity for Our Society* was organised in partnership with the Local State Department of Education and "First Steps" Kindergarten. On four consecutive Saturdays, a group of 20 teachers gathered in order to improve their educational skills and to learn how to develop a quality-oriented approach in educating pre-school children. The last seminar in this series of meetings was particularly focused on the importance of Christian values in education and how they shape both our approach to the educational process and our view of children's status and development.

Book Presentation

The event was organised on the occasion of Dr. Thomas Schirmacher's visit to Areopagus and the recent translation of one of his books into Romanian: *Ethical Responsibility in Decision Making* (original title: *Führen in ethischer Verantwortung*). A group of about 20 people most of them involved as church leaders, high school teachers, managers, department coordinators, gathered at this event to hear Dr. Thomas Schirmacher's presentation and to engage in the discussion that followed the author's lecture.

In his presentation, Dr. Schirmacher underlined the complexity of the decision making process and the fact that each decision has three aspects that should be kept together: the normative aspect (God's law), the situational aspect (practical wisdom) and the existential one (the attitude of the heart).



News

- This summer we had to replace the roof of the old building because water was infiltrating and damaged the interior walls.
- Doug and Diane Markesbery, our friends from Grace Fellowship Church, Florence, KY, moved to Romania at the end of August to serve as missionaries working with Areopagus and local churches in the area of Biblical Counselling and small group ministry.
- Areopagus and the West University of Timisoara organised an international conference on *Contemporary Issues Facing Families: Psychological, Social and Spiritual Perspectives in Dialogue*.

Day Care Center for Children and Families in Difficulty

Last year, Areopagus started a new project for children and families that struggle financially. Our target groups are families that have less than £60/member/month, those where one of the parents has lost his/her job, families with children with chronic illnesses and single-parent families.

Each month we offer food bags, medicine, and school supplies. In addition, we provide counseling and group support. Our goal is to help these families get back on the track, encourage them to look for a new job and help them to make good decisions for their future.

Here are a couple of their stories:

Claudia is a mother of 6 children.

“Several years ago my husband attended a computer course (2005) and shortly after completing this course he found a job. The following year I attended the same course, with my little boy, David, in my arms. This course gave me the motivation and the necessary skills to register in a faculty. The course itself and the support group meetings helped us to understand the fact that with determination and some help we can do many things.

On the 12th of October 2011, Tabita (11 years old), our only daughter, was injured in a car accident. From that moment on our lives were turned up side down. A friend of ours posted a letter with Tabita’s situation on the internet and after a short time somebody from The Areopagus Centre called us. It was just in time. We have to carefully manage our income in order to cover living expenses, food, medicine and the recovery treatment for our daughter.

However, there are also pleasant memories from this difficult period in our family life. We thank God for everything and we pray that in return we would be able to help others.”

You can help us support a family for one year and make a significant difference in their lives!

It costs us **£60/month** to buy food and medicine for one family. You can “adopt” a family for a few months or for one year. We will keep you updated regarding their situation and how money was spent. If you choose to be part of this great ministry, please contact our office in UK.

Lidia and her husband **Milan** have three children: Fabian – 9 years old, Medea – 7 years old and Alexandru – 2 years old. In order to be able to take care of Fabian, his mother decided to give her mother – who lives on the same street, the responsibility



of raising up Medea (the second child). Medea calls her grandmother “mom”. Medea is supposed to go to school this fall, but the grandmother shows no interest in this.

The family lives on Fabian’s disability allowance and his mother’s salary as personal assistant of the child. Occasionally Fabian’s father finds temporary jobs, particularly during the summer months.

The family lived for a while in a house with two rooms and a hall, for which they paid £40 /month rent (excluding water, electricity, etc.).

Because they could not afford to pay rent anymore, they moved in first with Milan’s family, but there were some disagreements, and eventually Lidia and the kids moved in with her parents, while Milan is staying with his parents.

Lidia gave birth to her fourth child a month ago. Before Fabritio was born, the family decided to leave him in the hospital. The child was born with some malformations and currently he is in hospital. The mother explained the situation to the older son, who is suffering of epilepsy and West Syndrome and, surprisingly, the boy understood something and started to cry. Lidia said that eventually she wants to take Fabritio home, but right now they do not have a place of their own.

They all live in a rented room without a bathroom.



We all can help Lidia and Milan to finish their little house so they can have a safe place for their children!

The family started to build a small house close to the father’s parents, but they do not have the financial means to finish it. This is how the house looks like right now.

Needs:

Windows and doors: £ 720

Wood for the roof: £ 200

Heating: £ 200

Flooring: £ 240

Bathroom: £ 1290

Documents (project of the house, authorizations, contract, notary fees): £490.

If you want to help, please contact our office in UK or write to office@areopagus.ro (our headquarters in Romania).



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