

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

BIBLICAL COUNSELING PROGRAM

The Training Program in Biblical Counselling, launched in December 2011, has been graciously blessed by God and successfully developed for almost two years. We are very grateful for the commitment of our 26 students currently enrolled in the training program, who are going to complete their counselling modules in November this year and start the supervision level as well. We are praying for them and trusting the Lord to use them instrumentally as equipped biblical counsellors and faithful servants in the ministry of their local churches! Also, we are prayerfully considering and planning to start the training in biblical counselling with a new group of students for another two years. In that regard we have planned to hold an orientation conference (*Building a Healthy*



Church through Biblical Counseling Ministry) this fall on October 19 and to promote our school and invite more church leaders to catch the vision and get enrolled or/and recommend ministry-

devoted people from their churches to join our training program. We trust our faithful God will bring about a fruitful harvest for His glory and the building up of His redeemed Church in Timisoara and Romania! Thank you very much for faithfully praying with and for us and our ministry here at Areopagus Centre!

“The Training Program in Biblical Counselling is well-planned and it helps me so much in my personal life and ministry. Very good, instructive and practical!”

“The examples and illustrations given by the instructors from their personal lives and ministry experience, the case studies, questions for discussion have been so helpful and effective in our learning and equipping process as future biblical counsellors!”

AREOPAGUS SUMMER SCHOOL

Areopagus Summer School was an act of courage and faith for our team! We were at the end of our financial support for the social projects and were looking for ways to raise some more support to be able to continue helping the 30 families that we work with. Therefore, in July we gathered an average of 25 children that came to Areopagus every day for the whole month.

We studied English, we did crafts and learned about nature, we sang together and played games. The summer school had such a great impact on the children and their parents that they want to continue to come to Areopagus for various activities.



Starting this fall, we want to offer a variety of courses for children, such as English, music and painting, and we hope and pray that this will become a new area of ministry for Areopagus.



NEWS

Our colleagues Ileana and Silviu Rogobete returned to Romania after six years in Cape Town, South Africa, where Silviu served as a top diplomat representing Romania as Consul General. For three years he also served as the Dean of the Consular Corps, coordinating the activities of the representatives of over 45 countries.

The Areopagus Institute of Family Therapy The Journey Continues...

It has been seven years since the establishment of the Institute of Family Therapy at the Areopagus Centre. Looking back, we can see the meaningful lessons learned through the victories and difficulties that shaped our journey so far, in amazing ways. We started with a desire to contribute to the healing of families and relationships in our society by offering professional training in family therapy through a holistic and systemic approach. Such framework takes into consideration the complexity and diversity of human experience – the cognitive, emotional and behavioural dimensions as well as the spiritual, relational, moral, ethical and esthetical needs and abilities. Thus, this vision is reflected in our teaching, activities and relationships with students and clients. We hope that here they can find hope and strength to continue their journey, by finding solutions not only to their immediate problems but also to their spiritual and moral growth as well. Reflecting on our last highlight activities, it is worth mentioning the international volume of the selected papers presented at the conference organized in cooperation with the West University of Timisoara on “*Contemporary issues facing families: An interdisciplinary dialogue*” – the major theme of this event being “*Building resilience – Bringing hope and transformation*”. Furthermore, we have been selected to participate in a panel presentation on “*Multicultural perspectives on family therapy training and supervision: A three continents journey*” at the upcoming International Family Therapy Association Congress in March 2014. Thus, the journey of learning and growth continues...We are thankful to God for all the lessons learnt as we look forward to further meaningful experiences.

Helping Families in Great Need

In our previous newsletter, we shared with you about one of our social projects, namely, helping families in difficulty, families that have no place to live because they lost jobs or got sick and could not keep a job anymore, families with many children that struggle very hard to provide the basics for their children. Right now we have about 30 families that we take care of. Thanks to our partners from Ireland, *Team Hope*, we will be able to help these families for another year. *Team Hope* will support us financially to help these families each month with food and school supplies. We want to make sure that children do not drop out of school because of poverty, and also we try to help the families get back on the track.

Juliana is a young mother of four boys; three of them are in school and one is in kindergarten. She comes from a broken family with a history of physical and emotional abuse. She was not allowed to go to school,

and today, *Juliana* can't read or write. Eventually she ran away from home to her grandmother, who took care of her until she died. Then she met the father of her four boys, with whom she had a very hard life.

The family had no permanent place to live and moved from place to place, and they ended up sleeping on the streets. The problem was that no one wanted to rent only one room to a family with three children and one on the way. Just before she gave birth to the youngest of her children, they found a place to stay near *Timisoara*. Their father became more of a visitor in the house than a father to the children. After a while, *Iuliana* asked her husband to stay away from the children, because his immoral lifestyle had a bad influence on them.

At this moment *Iuliana* is raising up her four children by herself. She works three hours per day in a kindergarten as a helper. She is the only person to provide for the family, and she is struggling to pay the rent for the two small rooms. A couple of months ago, for about two weeks they lived on the streets again. She had no money to pay the rent, and the landlord asked them to leave the apartment. During the day they would stay in parks and on the streets, and during the night they would sleep at the kindergarten where *Iuliana* works.

They could not get back to that apartment until the rent was paid. We helped *Iuliana* to pay the rent by giving her a temporary job at *Areopagus*. Now they are back in their home, but the long-term problem is not solved. Until she learns how to read and write, she won't be able to find a job that would allow her to provide for the family. With our help she will start school in October. We help *Iuliana* every month with food and school supplies for the children, and we offer her all the support she needs to get over this hard time of her life.

Please pray for *Iuliana* and for her four children, that in the midst of all her struggles she might find the perfect peace that comes from a close and personal relationship with God.

Also, pray that she will be able to stay in school and learn how to read and write so she can find a job.

Pray for protection for the whole family and for good health.



Please direct any support for the Areopagus Centre to:

Areopagus Romania Trust

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For more information, a gift aid form or a covenant form please write to the same address.
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