

## Special Events at Areopagus

For the Areopagus Center, the spring of 2014 has been marked by important events. Starting with the end of February, we have hosted one major event almost every week, covering two main areas of interest.

One series of events, coordinated by Dr. Silviu Rogobete, was organized as part of the **“Faith and Profession” Project**. These meetings, focused on the area of **“Political Sciences and Communication”**, brought together students, graduates, and young professionals interested in learning how to express and reflect their Christian values and identity in professional fields related to public life (politics, government, journalism). As guest speakers we had renowned national and international personalities: Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach (Member of the British Parliament), Dr. Mihai-Razvan Ungureanu (former Prime-Minister of Romania), Dr. Vasile Boari (University Professor, specialist in Political Sciences) and the journalists Vlad Mixich and Daniel Dancea. The response of the public has been beyond the usual expectation for educational events – the audience reaching up to 80 people.



For May-June we are preparing, in the same framework provided by the “Faith and Profession” Project, another series of weekly events – focusing this time on **“Economic Sciences and Business”**.

The other series of events which started this spring consists of monthly meetings focused on **“Hermeneutic Principles for Interpreting Scriptures”**. In each meeting, a theology professor or a pastor presents a certain type of biblical text (narrative texts, epistles, apocalyptic literature, etc.) and some basic principles with which the reader approaches that type of texts. About 30 people have registered for the entire series and have consistently attended the meetings that have already taken place.



On March 18, the Areopagus Center in Timisoara hosted the high level visit of **Her Excellency Mrs. Tenjiwe Ethel Mtintso**, the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa in Romania. HE Mrs. Mtintso began her mandate on March 2014, the visit in Timisoara being her first visit in the hosting country.

### Teaching Them to Fish:

#### The Beginnings of a Sewing Program

At CRIS-DU Areopagus we are developing a new program that is a part of the Social Department. Who will benefit from this new program and how do they benefit? The direct beneficiaries are the women attending the program.

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(Most of them have their children enrolled in the social program “Preparing Today for a Better Tomorrow”, receiving free computer classes, monthly food and school supplies and counselling.)

How do these women benefit? Some by learning a new skill, others by the opportunity to create and do something they love to do but don't have money for sewing machines or materials. As they learn and create, their self-esteem grows. They are happier; more relaxed and have pride in what they are doing.

The items which are made are available to everyone for a donation. The donations received are reinvested into the social program to help sustain it. By having some responsibility they become accountable.

Indirectly the children are the beneficiaries. They continue to receive the benefit from the social program, their mothers are happier at home as they have a small amount of time to learn and create.

And you can benefit! Most of the articles made are girls' dresses, purses, and home décor. All are available. If you or someone you know would like to make a donation of material, lace, sewing notions to the Sewing Program, it would be accepted with much appreciation.



### **A Chance to Education for Poor Children**

In every newsletter we share with you stories of people that we work with, trying to impact their lives in a way that will make a difference for them. Every time we see these people in such great need and sometimes almost starving, we are humbled but motivated to do something for them.

There are families with many children, people with various disabilities, illiterate mothers that can't get a job because they did not spend a day in school and families in which children have to abandon school because they don't have shoes, clothes or school supplies. We realize the needs are greater than our possibilities, but God has always been faithful and has provided for these families in various ways.

Based on the level of resources we have had so far, we give these families every month a bagful of food and school supplies for their children, thus trying to keep them in school as long as possible. Sometimes we offer them small jobs so they can make a little income.

Their children come to Areopagus with great joy because they have friends here and they know we care. We care if they have eaten or if they are sick and need to see a doctor. We care if they go to school and children make fun of them because they are poor. We care, and we all should care because nobody chooses to be poor... We don't know if there is a worse feeling than having your child ask for food and not be able to feed him.

We urge you to care and join us in our efforts to fight poverty and to keep children in school. Education is their way for a different life, the chance they have to change their story.

In July 2014 the project which has financed the basic support which we have been able to offer to these families so far will be over, which means that we are in urgent need of finding other sources of income in order to continue our work at least with the 30 families we have been helping. We do not have at this moment any idea where this support may come from, but we are confident that the Lord will find a way to provide for this need. Of course, the number of families we can help and the level of support we can offer to each family will depend on the available funds. If you choose to be part of this help, here are some things you can do:

- Tell people about us and encourage them to find out about our social projects and how they can help
- Help a child stay in school – \$21/month
- Donate a bag of food every month (for one family) – \$29/month
- Help a child who does not own a computer receive free computer training at Areopagus - \$ 204/course.

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Please direct any support for the Areopagus Center to:

**Areopagus Romania Foundation**

Attn: John Livingston

**11949 Arbor Run Drive, Walton, KY 41094-9562**

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