



Centre for Christian Studies  
and Contemporary Culture

# The Timisoara Times

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## Education Beyond Barriers

The goal of this project is to help children from very poor families stay in school and have good results, in spite of the poverty and difficult situa-



tion of their families. Some of them have a single parent; some have behaviour problems and live with parents that do not offer them the emotional support they need. Areopagus is like a second home for them. When they come for classes most of them have not had a meal that day; we feed them and we encourage them to study and never give up on their education.

Twenty children come to Areopagus daily for various classes (Math, Romanian, English, French, etc.) where volunteer tutors help them with homework. Because they have very difficult situations at home, they find it very hard to focus on studying. Apart from these classes we offer them the possibility to talk to a counsellor and deal with some of their personal issues. In addition, once a month we have an art class and other educational projects that aim at developing new skills in these children and helping them to develop better relationships at home and at school.

*Liviu is one of the children that come to Areopagus for classes. He is 12 years old and is in the 6th grade. He lives with his mother, grandfather and sister in a rented room, where they share a bathroom with other people in the building. Liviu's father died over a year ago. This had a great impact on the family and especially on Liviu, as he was very close to his father. When Liviu came to Areopagus, he had very bad friends that got him into smoking, stealing and missing school. His mother was worried about him, and she knew that in a way he was trying to cope with the pain of losing his father. She asked us for help, and Liviu started to come for counselling. Now he is taking classes with our tutors and is doing much better in school. Also, his behaviour and his relationship with his family have started to improve. Liviu's mother works shifts in a factory in very harsh conditions. A few months ago she had kidney surgery. After that the doctors had to remove a brain tumour. Delia, Liviu's older sister, took over most of her mother's responsibilities. Liviu has started to help his family by going shopping and doing chores. In the fall, he collects walnuts and sells them at the market to make some money for his family. He does not know what he wants to become, but he realizes that without education he will not be able to achieve much.*



## The journey continues...

We have been sending our newsletters for years and have made known the ministry of Areopagus in Timisoara, Romania. We told you stories about people in desperate need, people with chronic illnesses that were so poor they could not get to the hospital without our help, HIV/AIDS children that struggle to understand why they have such a terrible disease when they did nothing wrong, children that abandoned school because their parents were too poor to buy school supplies or food, single mothers that struggle to raise their children even when they do not have shelter, but sleep in the park...

On the other hand, we, have shared with you about professionals from various fields who come to Areopagus to talk about their Christian values and how they influence their work; politicians, academics, diplomats that visited us to talk freely about their faith in Christ. We shared that some of our students have become Biblical counsellors others family therapists, others students in our MA program, VALUES - FOCUSED SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE.

We have always focused on two objectives: reaching the bottom and top of the society, and our history testifies that we have been successful doing both. Some of you have been part of this great ministry through prayers, encouragement and financial support. Let's continue this adventure together. We invite you take a step forward:

- Become an Areopagus regular prayer partner.
- Become an "Areopagus Ambassador" in your church/community (we can provide more information on this).
- Organize a small group of friends willing to learn more about our ministry – we can share with them either directly or via internet.
- Put together a team of volunteers willing to visit us and be directly involved in our daily ministries as well as learning more about our beautiful country.
- Become a regular donor (we have a UK registered charity).
- Sponsor a child/family in special need.

You can contact us directly at [office@areopagus.ro](mailto:office@areopagus.ro).

## Updates

The Series of regular events on *Faith and Profession* continued with a new Profession in Focus: the judiciary! Again Areopagus was honoured to host debates with some of the best minds in the field, but most importantly professionals in search of ways to honour truth and glorify God through their work. The list of special guests included a judge from the Superior Council of the Magistrates of Romania, a former General Director of the Judicial Office of the Romanian Presidency, a law university professor and the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in Romania.

## Cambridge Papers

Cambridge Papers is a translation project that aims at providing good Christian resources for Romanians, offering a competent Christian perspective on major issues that our society struggles with.

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.

In December 2014 we launched 4 articles translated into Romanian: *Eschatology and Politics: the last things we want to talk about?* by Geoffrey Penn; *A burning issue: Christian care for the environment*, by Robert White; *Beyond scrutiny? Minorities, majorities and post-modern tyranny*, by Michael Ovey; *Gender co-operation*, by Michael and Auriel Schluter. We pray for good impact on our society also through this project.



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.

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