



The Timisoara Times

Center for Christian Studies
and Contemporary Culture

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Highlights of 2015

Here we are at the end of 2015, a year in which we have experienced God's presence, guidance and provision. We are thankful for the way God used Areopagus to bless others, to transform lives, to fulfill needs, and to give hope. We would like to share with you some highlights of our journey in 2015.

- This year, the second generation of students graduated from the **biblical counseling** training program. Over 20 biblical counselors are ready to advise, give hope and guidance to people that struggle in their own churches. There are another 20 students ready to begin the training in 2016.
- Six new articles of the **Cambridge Papers** series were translated into Romanian and distributed throughout the country and abroad with the support of our partners from CPFE. The articles which have been translated address subjects as euthanasia, trans-humanism, race, ethnicity, human rights, and Islam.
- Areopagus **Summer and Autumn School** gave parents the possibility to bring their children to Areopagus during their holidays. This project aims at raising support for children with a high risk of dropping out of school because of poverty.
- **The Institute of Family Therapy and Systemic Practice** celebrated the graduation of 20 students that completed their training, becoming autonomous family therapists. This is the fifth generation of students graduating from our institute.
- Within the **Faith and Profession** program Areopagus hosted two professional groups, lawyers and nurses that met to discuss how their Christian values and faith influence their professional lives. Various Christian denominations have been represented at these meetings. It was a time for reflection and evaluation of the motives behind good professionalism.
- Areopagus organized several fundraising events, such as concerts and fairs, in order to support the social programs, namely the HIV project in two hospitals and the project that supports 20 needy children in school.



- In 2015 we assisted over 160 **HIV patients** in the hospitals, offering them and their families counseling sessions, group support meetings, English language classes, computer courses, and various items that they needed in the hospital (toiletries, pyjamas, food, vitamins, etc.)
- Twenty children from needy families with a **high risk of dropping out of school** came daily to Areopagus to study with tutors in order to improve their school performance. They received school supplies, school bags, food, household products, toiletries, clothing and shoes. In addition, they also learned to work on a computer.
- In December, thanks to our partners from **Team Hope Ireland**, we distributed over **300 shoeboxes** to needy children and partner organizations that work with families in need.
- Areopagus and CPFE organized a round table within the project "**Training Young Politicians: Promoting Integrity/Christian Values in Romanian Politics.**" Our guest speaker was Dr. Iulian Chifu, one of the most important specialists on strategic and security studies, and a long-term former Presidential adviser on national security.
- The launching of Diane Collard's book, ***I choose to forgive. An Intimate Journey with God.*** I Choose to Forgive is an emotional journey from devastation to freedom and presents a strong biblical foundation undergirding the practical steps of doing forgiveness. The book was distributed in prisons, and it was very encouraging to receive feedback from prisoners. One of them told us that the book changed his life and he understood how important it is to forgive himself.



We would like to ask you to continue this journey with us in the coming year. We count on your prayers and support to make a difference in people's lives. It is people like you that make our mission possible. You can be an ambassador of Areopagus and tell others about what we do. If you want to be more involved and are looking for practical ways to help, please e-mail us at office@areopagus.ro.

This Christmas, may you all rejoice in God's precious gift, Jesus Christ and experience His perfect love and peace. May His blessings rest upon you in the coming year.

The Areopagus Team

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