

Areopagus Summer School

The Areopagus Summer School is one of the most important summer activities we hold here, appreciated by both parents and children. For four weeks, approximately 20 children from Timisoara came to our summer program. The children attending it came from various religious backgrounds, different family settings, with different stories. In spite of the differences, they made friends and learned to accept and respect one another. This year our group was mixed, as we had both Romanian and American children attending the summer school. The children learned to communicate in English, and they learned interesting facts about our world. We made crafts, we sang and played together. Also, this year, we offered two brothers the chance to attend the summer school for free. Their family is going through a difficult time, as their father has been absent from their lives for an extended period, and the mother is overwhelmed with her current responsibilities. She was grateful for this opportunity, and she appreciated it very much that the boys were welcomed with care and affection. One day, we celebrated the older brother's birthday and he felt so special and loved. It was such a rewarding feeling to see him smiling and happy.

In spite of the challenges of working with children of different ages and cultures, at the end of the summer school we can say, it was worth it! It was a good experience for all of us, and a great fund raising opportunity for our social work projects. The funds raised will be used to help 20 disadvantaged children go to school in the autumn. We will buy school supplies and school bags for them so they can have a good start. During the academic year, we will have tutors to help them improve their school performance, and counsellors to guide them. The goal is to see them graduating from secondary school and continue their education in high school and even college.



The Areopagus Center had the great honor of receiving His Excellency, Mr. Paul Brummell, the Ambassador of the United Kingdom in Romania.

On this occasion, we recalled the beginnings of Areopagus and the important role of our British supporters in laying the foundation of the center. We also discussed the possibility of future collaboration between the British Embassy and the Romanian language and culture department of Areopagus.

The Ambassador extended an invitation to the Areopagus Center to an NGO's fair organized by the British Embassy in Bucharest.

Romanian Cultural Awareness Course

Moving to a new country can be a great experience, but also a great source of stress if one does not have the right resources (people, knowledge, etc.) There are many things that need to be taken into consideration when one decides to make this transition. Some of the topics addressed are: the customs and values of the Romanian people, their beliefs and religious life, their history, and the social and political life of their country. Areopagus has been offering lectures on these topics in our cultural awareness courses since 1999, and through this we have prepared many missionaries for working alongside the Romanian people.

This year, we were happy to welcome young American missionaries and volunteers involved with NGOs and churches to our cultural awareness courses. Some of them were new comers, and others have lived here for a while but did not have a clear understanding of the Romanian culture. The participants had the opportunity to learn about culture from two perspectives, the Romanian perspective, and the American perspective of people who have been in the country for over twenty years.



The cultural awareness course I took at Areopagus was probably the best investment I have made in Romania. It was a wonderful experience. Fun, interactive and very insightful. It saved me from making many cultural mistakes, taught me how to be more culturally sensitive, and taught me how to work better, and more effectively alongside the Romanians here. (Brittany Szilagyi, one of the participants)

Updates:

- One of the most urgent needs of Areopagus is to replace part of the fence of our property, and the gate for the car access. The fence and the gate have been welded several times, but it cannot be fixed anymore because of the rust. In the winter, due to low temperatures it is almost impossible to open the gate and park in the courtyard. The cost for replacing the gate and part of the fence is \$ 1500. If you want to make a contribution, please contact our office in the USA (details on the footer of the page), or write to us at office@areopagus.ro.
- **HIV/AIDS Prevention Program in High-schools.** The CRIS-DU Areopagus Day Center for HIV-positive Persons in cooperation with Timis Teachers' Corps continued the prevention and information campaign in high schools from Timisoara and Timis County. During these campaigns we realized that many youngsters do not know much about the way the HIV virus is transmitted. Many of them believe that it cannot happen to them. However the statistics show that more and more people are infected due to drug addiction. The aim of this program is to prevent the transmission of HIV in a vulnerable group, by informing them about the many ways in which they can be infected. In the last six months we have reached over 500 high school students, and we received good feedback from teachers and school principals who find this prevention program very informative and useful. We praise God for open doors and for this opportunity to address these important issues with Romanian high school students.
- Registration for a new training program in systemic family psychotherapy and biblical counseling will begin soon. Also, students are registering right now for the Master's Program, Values-Focused Social Work Practice, offered by the West University of Timisoara and the Areopagus Center.
- **Professor Max Turner** (PhD, Cambridge University, Professor Emeritus of London School of Theology, UK) visited Areopagus and held a lecture on *The Baptism of the Holy Spirit according to the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts*.
- Areopagus has launched a series of meetings on the relationship of religion and politics. One of the goals is to train a new generation of active politicians, but also to inform Christians on the topic so they can get involved in the social—political life of the country.

Please direct any support for the Areopagus Center to:

Areopagus Romania Foundation

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