



Areopagus

Centre for Christian Studies
and Contemporary Culture

The Timisoara Times

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Areopagus Summer School

Every year the Areopagus Centre organises a summer school for children from 5 to 12 years old. For four weeks, about 20 children with various religious backgrounds and social status come to Areopagus and enjoy our educational programmes. We teach English, we do crafts and many outdoor activities.

The purpose of our summer school is to raise support for 20 children from very poor families and help them with school bags and school supplies in the beginning of September, before the school starts. Throughout the year we help these



children with an after-school programme that helps them do better in school. Very often their poor results make them drop out of school thinking that they are not good enough to graduate. Our goal is to offer them support to continue their studies and to help them dream about what they can become.

We received very positive feedback from the parents of the children that attended our summer school. Knowing that their money is going to help other children go to school was a very good motivation to bring their children week after week.

It has been a great opportunity to share with them about our mission and work at Areopagus. Most of them asked us to send them updates of our activities and about practical ways in which they can help.

To keep a child in school for a month we need about 49£. This amount covers four meals a week, school supplies, clothes and shoes and other urgent needs that they might have.



You can become our partner in this project by "adopting" a child for a year. It is a great opportunity to invest in others and to share your blessings with the needy. For more information you can contact us by e-mail at office@areopagus.ro.

Also, you may send your donation through *Areopagus Romania Trust*, our UK registered charity. For more information go to <http://opencharities.org/charities/1064613>.

The Areopagus Institute of Family Therapy and Systemic Practice is organising the fourth edition of the Summer School for practitioners and trainees of our institute. The subject that our guest trainer, Isha Williams, (Adler University, Chicago) will address is Biopsychosocial What? Integrating Family Therapy into the Medical Setting.

The Institute begins registration for another training programme in family therapy and systemic practice. The course is designed to help students and practitioners develop clinical abilities in family and couple psychotherapy by learning to evaluate the family dynamic and build suitable interventions in working with families facing developmental challenges, trauma, depression, anxiety, divorce, loss, substance abuse, violence, etc.

HIV Infection—Still a Burning Issue

It has been almost 15 years since we began our work with HIV infected people. At that time they were children; now some of them are adults and have their own families. Over the years we have lost some of our patients and met new ones. We learned to mourn and rejoice with them, we met their families and we still visit them for counselling and group support. Our colleagues, *Gabriela Povian* (social worker) and the newest addition to our team, *Karina Velescu* (psychologist), continue to visit the HIV patients in two hospitals in Timisoara. There has been a decrease in the number of HIV patients since 2001, but still, because of drugs, prostitution, early beginning of sexual life, sexual immorality and the list can continue, we register new patients. Communicating the diagnosis and helping them get through the denial, anger, depression and learn to accept their condition and live with hope are not easy tasks, but we do not fight alone. There are people that pray for this ministry and people that make it possible by their support.

This autumn we will start a new prevention programme in various high schools in Timisoara. We will reach students from 15 to 18 years old to talk to them about HIV infection and the consequences of it. In our former HIV prevention programme we reached 10 high schools from Timisoara and over 800 students. We hope that our efforts made a difference for some of them, and this is our hope for this new campaign. Here are a few ways to pray for this project:

- Pray for acceptance and a positive attitude of the directors of the schools and that they will see the need for this prevention programme.
- Pray for the people involved in it, coordinators, volunteers, medical staff.
- Pray for a good impact on the students and receptivity and for financial resources to produce flyers, posters and other materials for the project.

Registration for our Masters Programme: Social Work and Spirituality has begun recently. Pray for the students that will enrol in this programme that throughout the two years of studies, they will have the opportunity to explore not only the theoretical but also the spiritual aspects and the way their values influence their work.

The Sewing Programme

Last month two of the ladies in our sewing programme received two brand-new sewing machines as a reward for their activity within this project. The sewing machines were donated by



John and Cheryl Zumbrunn, our missionary colleagues from Canada. Cheryl coordinates the sewing programme at Areopagus and she manages to attract more and more people in this project. Geta and Vilica joined our sewing programme while their children were part of our social projects. The two ladies started to sew for us and identified

with our work and ministry. Even after their children were no longer part of our projects, they continued to come to sew. They have never asked for anything in return, but continued to come faithfully.

It is hard to express the amazement and the joy on their faces. They were overwhelmed and could hardly speak.

We asked them what made them keep coming to sew for us although there were no immediate benefits. Both of them said that they were so impressed with our work and determination to help the needy that they decided to keep coming and join our efforts. Coming here made them realize that they have



something to offer and that there are people in greater needs that they can help. Also, they found out that it is a very therapeutic activity and it makes them focus on something other than their own struggles. Now, Geta and Vilica continue to come and sew for us and have started to prepare products for our autumn sale.



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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