

# The Timisoara Times



Autumn 2022

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## New challenges

There is no doubt that we are living in challenging times! Everywhere we look there are conflicts, confusion, crises, poverty and the future never seemed darker for many people! In the midst of these turbulent times, we find comfort in God's Word that says, "I am with you always!" What an assurance to have His presence and guidance and never lose hope! What a blessing to know that we are kept by the power of God through faith!

Nevertheless, one of the challenges the society deals with in these times, is the identity crisis. The younger generations ask questions that we did not dare to think about. Instead of pretending that these questions have not been asked, we could pray for wisdom to respond biblically and to help our children understand and live up to God's standards.



One of the challenging meetings we have recently hosted at Areopagus, was on *The New Normal between Identity and Ideology*. Our guest was a well-known Romanian pastor and author who presented God's perspective on gender issues and how the Church should help those struggling to define their identity. We had a very good response from the younger generations who appreciated the honesty and openness to discuss such issues.

On this occasion, two more articles of Cambridge Papers series have been launched: **"Are Christianity and Society in Conflict?"** And **"The case of freedom and Difficult Memories: Christian Memory and Historic Injustice."**

Later in November two more articles will be published and thus we will have reached 50 articles translated into the Romanian language and distributed in Romania and abroad. The articles have been translated with the support of Sallux- ECPM Foundation and they present theological reflections on a range of topics, to help Christians shape their thinking and work.

### How can you help?

- ♦ **Share** our ministry with others. Tell them what we do and how they can help;
- ♦ **Connect** us with churches, pastors, NGOs that have the same values and vision;
- ♦ **Pray** for us regularly;
- ♦ **Support** our social projects (<https://www.areopagus.ro/en/cris-du/social-services/>);
- ♦ **Visit** us and see for yourself our work in Romania;
- ♦ **Donate!** It is an investment, rather than an expense!

Seria de studii creștine Areopagus

48

Cambridge  
Papers

SUNT CREȘTINISMUL ȘI  
SOCIETATEA ÎN CONFLICT?  
Problematica libertății

Christopher Watkin

## Urgent repairs needed

We are grateful for the investment we can make in the people we serve and we are so excited to see the outcome of our programs in their lives. As you probably remember, we had to do major repairs to the building to be able to renew our license for social projects. We had to repaint all the offices, put fireproof doors at the entrance to the library and reseal some walls affected by mold and moisture.

However, our problems have not been entirely solved and we need to change the roof of the old building, as when there is heavy rain, the water infiltrates inside the building. We need to change the slope of the roof and replace some of the old tiles.

We have received an estimation of the total cost, which is 4,000 EUR. For us this is a lot of money and we do not have it right now. However, we need to deal with this before the rainy and cold season begins. Please pray with us to be able to raise this amount and fix the roof. If you want to help, please send your donations via PayPal: <https://www.areopagus.ro/en/donate/>.

God has been so faithful to us along the years and we are confident that He will provide for this urgent matter, as well.



## Education for disadvantaged children

As you know from our previous newsletters, we have continued all our social programmes during the pandemic, however, the educational programme for children coming from poor families with a high risk of dropping out of school was mainly in an online format. Starting this past October, children have been able to come in person for classes. Our volunteer tutors from the West University of Timisoara help improve their school performances so they can pass each grade successfully and reduce the risk of abandoning school. Their parents, as well as their school teachers, are impressed with their improvements and very much appreciate our efforts.

So far, we have 22 children enrolled in this programme and 19 tutors.



In addition to the free tutoring, occasionally they receive snacks or a bag of food for their families. Once a month they meet for extra-curriculum activities, such as crafts, board games, various trainings, etc.

**International conference.** Areopagus has been a key partner in an important international conference, „Religious Hypotheses and the Study of Human Nature” <https://religioushypotheses.com/conference/>.

The conference was held on the premises of the West University of Timisoara, on the 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, in cooperation with the Master’s Program “Values-oriented social work practice” (a program which is supported by the Areopagus Centre and led by our president, Alexandru Neagoe).



*For direct donations to Areopagus Center please visit our [webpage](#).*

*Also, follow us on [Facebook](#) for more information and updates on our social projects.*

*For donations through [Areopagus Romania Foundation](#), please contact John Livingston, [jlivingston@arfus.org](mailto:jlivingston@arfus.org)*

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Please direct any support for the Areopagus Center to:

**Areopagus Romania Foundation INC.**

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