

The Centre for Reformation Studies within Emanuel University of Oradea

By Corneliu C. Simut

The Centre for Reformation Studies was founded in 1996 as a research department within Emanuel University of Oradea. Its primary objective is to present the theology and history of the Protestant Reformation of the XVIth century to the Romanian people in their native tongue for the enlargement of God's kingdom and to the benefit of Romanian Christianity.

The activity of the Centre for Reformation Studies is validated by the peculiar religious situation in Transylvania. Thus, in the region of Romania, German ethnics are mostly Lutheran and Hungarians are Reformed. The vast majority of Romanians remained faithful to Orthodoxy because neither the Lutheran Germans nor the Reformed Hungarians spread their teachings in the Romanian language. Over the years, however, small Romanian communities did adhere to Lutheran and Reformed theology but these are notoriously exceptional.

This situation has remained unchanged until nowadays. Within this particular religious context, the work of the Centre for Reformation Studies becomes relevant as we intend to present all aspects of the Reformation to Romanians in the Romanian language. The Centre is not preoccupied with theology only. The history, politics, economics, philosophy and sociology of the Reformation are all part of the research which is being developed at the Centre.

The research of the Centre for Reformation Studies has been developed in six main directions:

1. Translation of primary sources. We plan to translate the most important works of the main Reformers from all Protestant traditions.
2. Translation of relevant contemporary studies. We have already published two books in Romanian: Professor Timothy George's »Theology of the Reformers« and Dr. James Montgomery Boice's »Foundations of Christian faith«, which are both extremely important as reliable presentations of the history and theology of the Reformation.
3. The establishment of solid research in view of the development of the Centre for Reformation Studies into a department, which shall issue MTh, MPhil and DPhil diplomas in historical theology.

4. Publication of research articles. Emanuel University of Oradea has been publishing »Perichoresis«, which is the theological journal of the Faculty of Theology. Within »Perichoresis«, the Centre for Reformation Studies will periodically publish an entire issue on the Reformation, with the support of contributors from abroad and from Romania.

5. The establishment of a Reformation Library. Either in the form of primary sources or as secondary material, books on the Reformation are almost totally lacking in Romania. This is why the Centre for Reformation Studies is very interested in the acquisition of any books on the Reformation (the works of the Reformers and any other book on Protestant theology, history, etc.).

6. To share with churches and pastors, by means of books and seminars etc., the results of the research undertaken by its members and contributors.

The Centre for Reformation Studies welcomes any suggestions and support. Prospective contributors who want to publish an article in the periodical issue on Reformation Studies hosted by »Perichoresis« theological journal are most welcome to contact us. For more information, please write to:

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