

Tartu Academy of Theology

Tartu, Estonia
Newsletter, April 2017



Partnering
with
**East
European
Missions
Network**



“Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.

1 Peter 3:14b-15a

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www.tat.news



Fear Not!

Fear is what makes people powerless. This is why our proclamation of the Gospel remains weak, as we are carrying with us fears for situations and future events which we can't avoid or redesign by worrying. How can I get up from the burden and stand tall?

By training at the Academy those who are needed to help and encourage others, I have understood that I am not able to do what is needed with my own strength. I would like to honor the Lord, but what I say sounds so powerless. I have then turned and will continue to turn there, from where our help comes.

The most important message of Christ's resurrection is: Do not be afraid! Go with Him to the first morning of resurrection. You will hear it there. Frightened people are coming to the tomb, but what a miracle, above them stands a group who are ready to testify of Him, of the victorious Lord Jesus! Only when we give our fears into His hands, can this miracle also happen to us.

Why do people believe they can honor Christ without inner transformation, depending on their own strength? Without becoming free from fear it is not possible to sanctify the Lord Jesus in our hearts. On the road of following Christ, the steps must

be taken in the right order. When we reach to the sanctification of Christ in our hearts, it is revealed what He has come to bring us and His true power becomes visible.

May Jesus give us courage and trust!

Eenok Haamer
President



OUR CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

The beginning of 2017 has been financially promising but we still have a deficit of 12,914 \$ as of April 27th. We have experienced summer and early autumn are usually challenging for us and thus we are very thankful to all opened hearts and arms and we hope to receive your continuing loyalty and co-operation.

The TAT Matching Fund Program continues through 2017. It is the 3rd year of that program. Please consider partnering with us in this program! More information is available on our website tat.news under „To Donate“.

Thank you for being a valued partner in our mission! May God reward all of you according to His mercy!

Quick financial update of TAT:

Total budget for 2017	\$ 219,294
Income during Jan.1st – April 27th of 2017	\$ 68,600
Budget for Jan. 1st – April 27th of 2017	\$ 81,514
Balance on April 27th of 2017	\$ -12,914

East European Missions Network

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To Donate

Mail a check to EEMN office, specifying in the memo portion or on an attached sheet of paper the designation of your donation to Tartu Academy of Theology. **All contributions are tax deductible.**

STUDENT VOICES: KRISTJAN

It's difficult to say the moment when I became a Christian. I have been always aware of my Father's warm and enlightening direction—as a child wandering in forests, as a teenager on the streets, later in the army and today studying theology. I was a fisherman for many years. In the beginning of my career as a fisherman I was a greenhorn in the eyes of old jack-tars. One early-spring morning I went with three old fishermen to let down the nets. Men were studying the sea with deep looks to find the best place for their nets. When all had let down their nets then one of them discovered that I also was in the boat with my nets. Nobody examined the sea any longer and my nets were just let down into the sea. They wanted to get back home and did not want to waste any more time. Next morning we went to bring out the nets. It was a big surprise! These jack-tars got only some fish. Finally, we brought up my nets. The nets began to break under weight of fishes. There was silence in the boat. I was looking to the sky and I knew—God is.

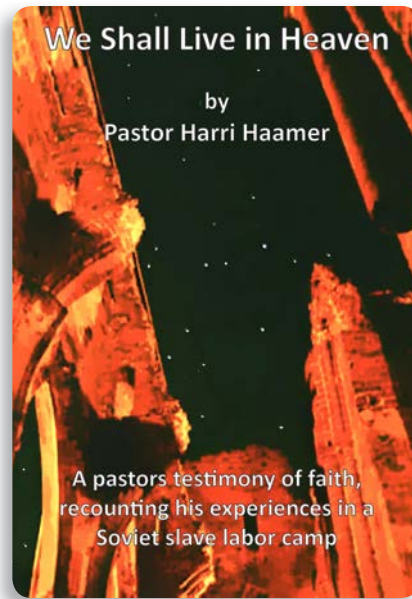
I have seen many miracles. Admission to the Academy is one of them. I came with the aim to become a better servant of God. My miracle starts when I see all that I have. I'm living in a rural area in the parsonage of a local congregation. Sometimes people come to talk with me. We talk about God's direction in our lives. When this stranger is leaving he or she is not any more a stranger but my brother or sister. I feel fellowship in Christ and I understand that this is the way to serve God, it's the expression of God's love.

I have been working for years in an orphanage and have learned much from the children. I believe I have learned more than I am able to teach them. I learned to experience God. My wish is that God's will, not my will, be done in my life. Training at the Academy has opened my mind and heart and it has woken me up. I often give thanks to God for connections I have been experiencing with professors and students of the Academy. God's grace is holding that school. I pray for wisdom from Father to find the best use for the knowledge I will receive from that school during my life journey. I won't verbalize my future service, I'll follow the Lord's direction. He is the Alpha and the Omega.



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We Shall Live in Heaven E-Book Published

Pastor Harri Haamer was arrested in the winter of 1948 because, despite of being forbidden, he continued Christian youth work under Soviet occupation. He was sentenced and deported to the Kolyma Gulag in far-eastern Siberia for an eight-year term in a labor camp and an additional three-year term of "limited freedom." This was eventually reversed in 1955 when he was notified that he had been "arrested in error." Harri Haamer was permitted to continue his ministry upon his return from Siberia. However, the convicted pastor was not permitted to resume pastoring at his former congregation in Tartu which had a big university with many young people. Instead, he was sent to the rural congregation in Tarvastu in eastern Estonia. He ministered there from 1955 until his death in 1987. He passed away on August 8th, 1987 at the age of 81.

Harri wrote a book about his journey which took him to the Gulag labor camp. It was first published 3 years after his death and today it is already translated into 5 languages: Finnish, Russian, German, English, and Danish. The first paperback was printed in English in 2007. Print-runs have not been large. This book has not been accessible worldwide but now I have joy to announce the book is a published e-book of We Shall Live in Heaven in English. It includes a new ending chapter of "The Journey Home" written by Harri in 1982, but missing from all previous publications. Also, an additional introduction explaining the sufferings of the Estonian nation and the Church has been added. You will also find two paintings of Harri's depicting the Kolyma nature and labor camp.

To purchase an e-book for \$5.99 through secure PayPal payment go to www.tat.news/books.html. All the profits from the sale of this book will go directly to Tartu Academy of Theology for the education of clergy and pastoral care givers and counselors in Estonia, one of the world's most secular countries.

Hopefully the book will reach out to the bigger audience and income from sales will help us to continue our mission work in Estonia.

Soon we hope to publish an e-book also in Estonian, Russian, German, Finnish, and Danish.

Siimon Haamer
Dean

Tauno Väinola is writing in the introduction of the Finnish translation:

Though Haamer's diaries do not add anything substantively new to the already published works about life and conditions in Soviet prison-camps, their significance lies in something else. While taking the reader through Estonia's bitter tribulations and painful memories, his accounts testify of the sustaining power of a Christian's faith and hope. As Harri Haamer would affirm – while imitating the arrogant intonations of the prison guards – "Hopelessness has no place in Our program."

Pastor Bob Nordvall have written about the book:

As we find ourselves in a world that is ever more hostile to the Gospel, do you wonder how you would fare if you were persecuted for your faith? This book will give you courage, for it was the Holy Spirit that sustained Pastor Haamer through those long years. More remarkable still to me was the testimony of another Estonian pastor, "After Harri Haamer came back from Siberia, he was fearless!"

Pastor Bob Nordvall

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