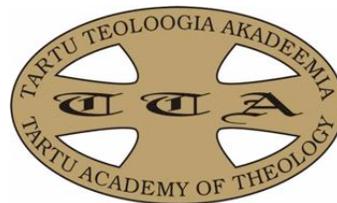


Tartu Academy of Theology

Tartu, Estonia
Newsletter
December
2015



Partnering
with
East
European
Missions
Network

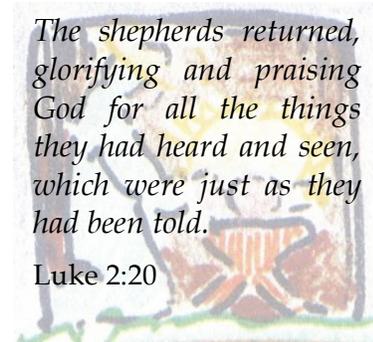


Have a blessed time of Christmas and a wonderful new year of God's grace in 2016

Visiting lecturers pastors and therapists Todd Riggs (on the left) and Kevin Hoffman were delivering lectures at the TAT on Shame and Celebrate Recovery Program as a Christ-centered Recovery Group Ministry throughout first week of December, 2015.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:20



Ove Sander and Siimon Haamer visited LCMC Annual Gathering

Ove Sander and Siimon Haamer participated in the LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) Annual Gathering held in Frisco, Texas, on October 4-7, 2015. It was Ove's first and my fourth time attending the gathering. Ove was also welcomed as a speaker during the time for international focus. It was great chance to introduce Estonia and Tartu Academy of Theology (TAT) to all the participants.

We have always felt the warm welcome of our sisters and brothers in Christ during the gathering. This experience of fellowship is uplifting and encouraging. It was very refreshing to listen to presentations dealing with the theme of the gathering: "Our DNA." Even though Estonia is so far from the States, we found many similarities in our struggles and the challenges our churches are facing today. We hope, besides the cooperation we have between LCMC churches and TAT, that we are able

to develop contacts between Estonian and US congregations to support and strengthen each other in the future. As we share common worries about developments taking place in Lutheran churches around the world, we need to co-operate.

After the gathering, Ove flew to Minneapolis and preached in St. John's Lutheran Church in Howard Lake the following Sunday, October 11th. I flew to Albuquerque, enjoyed for some days the great hospitality of David and Angela Breidenbach. I also brought greetings to all services at Faith Lutheran Church on October 10-11. It was good to be back there, because my first visit to Faith Lutheran was with my father and mother in Autumn of 2007.

This trip was very short, only a week and a half, but we are thankful for this experience. I'm especially thankful for Brian

and Barbara Felt who purchased my tickets for the overseas flight.

Siimon Haamer
Dean



Ove Sander, Siimon Haamer and Bob Nordvall (from the left) at the LCMC Gathering.

CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

At the end of November 2015, our deficit is **\$55,031 USD**. During last two months, the deficit decreased by \$1,396 USD and that is positive news, but our deficit is still pretty big. We have cancelled different development plans and we have kept costs as low as possible to manage our cash flow in the presence of our debt. We hope that the end of the year gives some relief to that and that the [TAT Matching Program](#) will help to stabilize the budget of 2016. Your participation in the TAT Matching Program can have positive, lasting benefit to the work we are accomplishing in Estonia. Please consider becoming a part of this program with us!

Thank you, as always, for your kind support, encouragement, and faithful prayers. May God reward all of you according to His mercy!

Quick financial update of TAT:

Balance in the end of 2014	\$ -19,624
Total budget of 2015	\$ 175,880
Income Jan. 1 st – Nov. 30 th of 2015	\$ 126,384
Budget of Jan. 1 st – Nov. 30 th of 2015	\$ 161,791
Balance on November 30th of 2015	\$ -55,031

East European Missions Network

2111 Golf Course Rd SE, Suite C, Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Phone: 505-990-1639

Web: www.eemn.org Email: TAT@eemn.org

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.

Greeting from David Breidenbach – Executive Director of EEMN

East European Missions Network (EEMN) has been in close partnership with Tartu Academy since its inception. Many years later God continues to bless our collaboration in teaching and equipping leaders for building the Body of Christ in Estonia and throughout Eastern Europe.

My name is Pr. David Breidenbach. I am the new Executive Director of EEMN. In March of 2015 I completed a call of 14-years having served as Associate Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, NM and Lead Pastor of Eagle Ranch Church, a newly formed LCMC church plant of Faith Lutheran. It was in 2006 that my wife, Angela, and I first served with EEMN; and every year thereafter we served as volunteers leading short-term summer missions teams to several former Soviet Bloc nations. In our new capacity, we are excited to continue the traditions of connecting ministry partners, equipping the saints, and helping develop sustainable ministries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.



David and Angela Breidenbach

This last summer Angela and I spent a few days in Estonia, where we were blessed by fellowship and conversation with, both, Rev. Eenok and Rev. Siimon Haamer. In October, we also had the pleasure of hosting Siimon in our home. It would seem that we are of the same mind when it comes to the future ministry needs in Estonia and how some changes are necessary in assuring continued growth, support, and expansion of the Church. We also agreed that there are many good things about our partnership that will remain the same!

Our primary passion is twofold: Introducing the Gospel to people who have never learned about the saving grace, love, and mercy of God in Christ Jesus; and helping to train and equip a new generation of Christ-centered leaders committed to building the Church in obedience to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Therefore, our task as a mission organization is **Rebuilding & Equipping the Body of Christ in Eastern Europe & the former Soviet Union**.

An entire first-generation has now matured into young-adults, since the collapse of the Soviet Union. This reality has changed the way EEMN approaches ministry and whom we identify as “missionaries.” Rather than ascribing to the long-standing tradition of sending North Americans to serve as fulltime, residential missionaries overseas, it is apparent that countries like Estonia are now best served by their own, indigenous missionaries. EEMN seeks to be true partners in ministry by providing practical, educational, and spiritual support for leaders serving in ministry among their own countrymen.

While, bringing short-term summer missions teams to serve overseas in English Bible Camps remains a valuable function of EEMN, we are also developing a network of mature Christian congregational leaders to serve in the capacity of long-term partnerships with pastors and ministries in Eastern Europe. This includes hosting practical ministry and leadership training seminars for those already engaged in front-line ministry, as well as providing mentoring, counseling, and spiritual care and support for pastors and their families. Serving in fulltime ministry can be a daunting and often spiritually draining experience for clergy and their spouses, which is why EEMN endeavors to come alongside and be present for leaders who are serving to build God’s Kingdom on earth! To God be the glory!

In His service to the world,

Pr. David Breidenbach
Executive Director, EEMN

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT BY BOB NORDVALL AND PATTI IVEY

To our friends, a very joy-filled and Merry Christmas!

In this most holy season we remember God’s passionate heart for the world and the magnificence of His great Love for all of us through the Gift of Christ, our Lord and Savior. It is His love shown on the cross that anchors our love for you, and is the ground for the love we, Pastor Bob Nordvall and Patti Ivey, have found in each other! It is our joy to share the news with all of you in this wedding announcement. The wedding ceremony will be April 2, 2016 at 3 p.m. at Charity Lutheran in Bismarck, ND. We would be honored to have you share the day with us and would appreciate your prayers. We will make our home at 4855 249th Street NE, McKenzie, ND 58572.

Bob Nordvall and Patti Ivey



Tartu Academy of Theology
Ujula 1A
51008 Tartu, Estonia
Email: siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee
Web: www.eemn.org and click on Estonia

Pastor Bob Nordvall
TAT representative in US
National Field Coordinator of EEMN
Email: pastorbob@eemn.org
Cell: 701 391-0182