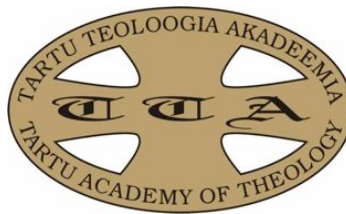


# Tartu Academy of Theology

Tartu, Estonia  
Newsletter, June 2014



Partnering  
with  
East  
European  
Missions  
Network



Holy Communion in Forest  
Church at TAT's summer  
camp, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

*To you, O Lord, I lift up my  
soul. O my God, in you I  
trust; do not let me be put to  
shame.*

*Psalms 25:1-2*

## TAT and Seminary Received Full Accreditation

We are thankful to God that the Estonian Higher Education Quality Assessment Agency has granted full accreditation for our joint educational institution. According to a current order, we need to repeat this procedure again no later than seven years from now, and in the meantime we will undergo regular quality assessments.

But we have now achieved our desired goal, which will certainly increase the interest to study at TAT. Additionally, the high mark we received serves as an official indicator to current and prospective students that we offer a course of study that is committed to

academic integrity and rigor. We are hoping for a good admission of students in August. A number of people have already expressed their interest in studying with us, and we are particularly glad that these people want to follow God's calling.

We can say that with God's help we have made the right decisions and moved in the right direction in our development — **but at the same time we are still concerned with our financial situation today and for the coming years.** By the end of the year 2013, we managed to balance our budget, and this gave us hope for the future — but during the first five months of 2014, the amount of donations has been

significantly lower compared to the previous year, and we haven't been able to fulfill all our commitments. (A more detailed overview of the financial situation can be found below.)

I am very grateful to all our supporters and hope that you are rejoicing with us for those achievements we have gained under God's provision, because you are our faithful co-workers! I hope very much that you have not gotten tired, and that we can continue to count on your support.

Siimon Haamer  
Dean



### CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

By the end of the first quarter of 2014, we had a deficit \$7,872 USD, but now, after five months, our **deficit has increased and is now \$23,458 USD.**

Quick financial update of TAT

Total budget of 2014	\$ 187,300
Income January-May of 2014	\$ 54,532
Budget of January-May of 2014	\$ 77,990
Balance on May 31 <sup>st</sup> of 2014	\$ -23,458

**The deficit is already so big that we are no longer able to cover our primary and most urgent needs.**

We would be very grateful if you could help us to bring our budget back to balance!

May God reward according to His mercy all those who have donated!

### A REMARK REGARDING MARCH NEWSLETTER

In our March newsletter, we featured an article written by one of our students, Tiit. Due to translating and editing, a different meaning came across in a portion of that article than was meant originally. Towards the end, Tiit wanted to say that while working with prisoners, one can't assume that all people in prison are bad and lost for the Kingdom of God, **but that there is good in every person and through the grace and mercy of God it could be found.**

Sorry for confusion!

East European Missions Network  
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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.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

For the school year of 2013-2014, we received six scholarships and we hope this support will continue.

We decided to increase our tuition fee, and it will be for this coming school year \$2,100 USD. Often our students are not able to pay that amount, and we try to find ways to decrease their payments, and we hope to get more scholarship funds in the upcoming years. But the fact is the tuition fee does not cover all costs, and according to the budget of 2014, the actual cost per student is \$5,300 USD.

If congregations or individuals are considering scholarship funding, there are two options:

- 1) either giving based on students official tuition fee of **\$2,100 USD** or
- 2) giving based on the actual cost per student, which is **\$5,300 USD**.

We are very thankful for all your support!

## GRANT FORM CALVARY MISSION OUTREACH ENDOWMENT FUND

We have learned recently that the Calvary Lutheran Congregation's Mission Outreach Endowment Fund decided to gift us with \$5,000 USD to fund our book project. With this generous gift, we wish to put out a third printing of the book *We Shall Live in Heaven in Estonian*. *We Shall Live In Heaven* was written by Harri Haamer, the father TAT's founder, Eenok Haamer. In this book, Harri Haamer, who was imprisoned because of being a pastor, writes about his experiences in Siberian prison camps. The stories he shares in the book inspire the heart, and encourage readers to consider the love of God and the hope of Christ for their own lives. The book helps us to remember what happens when God is eliminated from our life by the force of powerful, unbelieving dictators, who close churches and forbid worship of our God.

The book was published in Estonian in 1993 and again in 2001, but it has been sold out for years, and the interest in that book is still great.

*We Shall Live in Heaven* is also translated into English and published in the USA, and it is possible to buy it via the EEMN web store at [www.eemn.org](http://www.eemn.org).

We thank the Calvary Mission Outreach Endowment Fund for their support and wish God's blessings for the work they are doing for missions throughout the whole world.



**Representing Estonia on the European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy conference.** From left: Siimon Haamer, Liida Meel, Karin Härm, Naatan Haamer.

## European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy Conference

From May 28<sup>th</sup> until June 1<sup>st</sup>, our practical theology lecturer Naatan Haamer; dean of TAT Siimon Haamer; TAT's alumnus hospital chaplain Karin Härm; and Liidia Meel, who will graduate TAT this June and will start working as an hospital chaplain, took part of the European Network of Health Care Chaplaincy Conference that was held in Salzburg, Austria. The purpose of the conference is to influence the developments of hospital chaplaincy in Europe.

Particularly noteworthy is that there are now TAT graduates whose opinion is taken into account in Europe.

## Graduation of 2014

**Six students will be graduating on June 20<sup>th</sup>** — three from our undergraduate program, and three from our graduate program. Two of them are already working as hospital chaplains, one is becoming Lutheran pastor, one is prepared to become a religion teacher, one is pastor in a Pentecostal church, and one is a youth worker in her home congregation. What a wonderful thing to see these gifted servants going out into the world!

God has blessed us with students who share their faith and skills with other people and proclaim God's Kingdom. We pray profound blessings on their work.



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