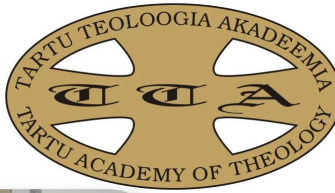


# Tartu Academy of Theology

Tartu, Estonia

Newsletter, June 2016



Partnering  
with  
**East  
European  
Missions  
Network**



*With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.*

2 Thess 1:11



17 students graduated on June 17, 2016.

## Gratifying Spring

We are grateful to God for this ending academic year. We met successfully all the requirements for institutional accreditation: a committee of foreign experts paid us a visit, making us to prepare voluminous self-examination and present a large number of documentation. In June 13, the final decision was made and we were awarded full accreditation for 7 years. Now, as we have managed to comply with all sorts of demands, which the state has presented to us, we can continue our work in peace and set new goals.

Due to the positive developments in recent years we can be thankful to God that on June 17 students graduated from the Institute of Theology. 6 of them completed undergraduate studies: two already work in hospital as pastoral care givers and counsellors, one wants to start working as a prison chaplain, one conducts grief groups in their church, one would like to

continue the studies at master's level and become a pastor in the Lutheran Church. There are also 6 graduates of Master's level in Theology. Three of them are already working as pastors in the Lutheran Church, one is serving in the Adventist Church and one in Pentecostal Church. We also provide Studies in Christian Culture at Master level. The curriculum is created to expand Estonians knowledge of Christianity and observe its manifestation in Estonia and in European culture. This master's program was completed by 5 people. They work in different specialties and according to their competence they can contribute to the enhancement of general knowledge of Christianity in Estonia.

Between June 15 and June 20 the EEMN director David Breidenbach visited Estonia and Daniel Galassini accompanied him. They also participated in the graduation ceremony of the academic year in

June 17, where David was bringing greeting on behalf of the EEMN.

Thanks to Brian and Barbara Felt who covered our travel expenses I had the pleasure to stay at the beginning of April in the United States with my son, Eerik, and, in April 2, have witnessed Bob and Patti Nordvall's wedding in Bismarck, North Dakota. It has been a wonderful guidance of God that being in Estonia in early springtime 2006 Bob and his late wife Karen lost their heart to our country, and this God-given mission is to be continued now by Bob and Patti. God bless their life together!  
2 Thess 1:11-12.



Siimon Haamer  
Dean

### CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

By June 20 our budget deficit has already risen to \$ 31,657. Since usually is our income lower in the first half of a year, we have tried to make the budget in a flexible way, so that we postpone some expenses, if necessary. We do hope that together we can stop the deficit from increasing and in the end of the year we will be able to meet the objective. From autumn the tuition will be raised by 10% (from \$ 1,900 USD to \$ 2,090 USD an academic year). This increases a little bit the income from tuition fees, and we hope the higher tuition fees will not become an obstacle for anyone.

You may also be considering to become part of TAT Matching Program. More information is available on our webpage and you can find it by clicking [here](http://teoloogia.ee/wb/pages/en/extras/newsletters.php) or typing into your web browser address line <http://teoloogia.ee/wb/pages/en/extras/newsletters.php>.

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:

Total budget for 2016	\$ 208,850
Income during Jan.1st – June 20th of 2016	\$ 73,566
Budget for Jan. 1st – June 20th of 2016	\$ 105,223
<b>Balance on June 20th of 2016</b>	<b>\$ -31,657</b>

#### East European Missions Network

2111 Golf Course Rd SE, Suite C, Rio Rancho, NM 87124, U.S.A.

Phone: 505-990-1639

Web: [www.eemn.org](http://www.eemn.org) Email: [TAT@eemn.org](mailto: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.**

## STUDENT VOICES: HEIDY

I entered the Tartu Academy of Theology thanks to one copy of the lecture notes brought home by my husband who was a student there, so that I happened to read them. Having completed the confirmation class, I looked forward to reflecting upon religious issues and these lecture notes provided an answer to my thoughts. Later, the Academy did not only provide the education but also the community who prayed together and taught me to rely on God. Personal faith of professors and fellow students sustained and cultivated the seed sown by God. As time went by, I found myself getting deeper and deeper into care of soul, where I discovered the whole new world: kingdom of God revealed.

Once a week I work as a volunteer in children's hospital, providing pastoral care and counselling. Serving as a pastoral care giver and counsellor I put all my hope in God, because this is the only way for me to help people. Before going to hospital I ask His guidance to reach the people who He has chosen. I wish that the will of Jesus would be done by each adult and child, hospital staff and patients whom I meet.

Congregational life has played an important role in my growth as a pastoral care giver and counsellor. I would say that I belong to three congregations at the same time. First is a small home church in a small village called Mary Magdalene, where I go every Sunday. Second congregation is my family, and third is fellowship in Tartu Academy of Theology. In all three I highly appreciate the care and honesty, which are not so obvious in this world.

Working as a trip advisor at present, I hope that my extra work as a volunteer in the church, and pastoral care giver and counsellor in hospital may someday become my profession.



Heidi with her husband Aivo.



Bob and Patti Nordvall's wedding on April 2nd, 2016 in Bismarck, North Dakota. From the left: Erik Haamer, Patti and Bob Nordvall, Siimon Haamer.

## Joint Mission for Estonia

Greetings to all of our friends in Estonia and all of our friends of Estonia! This will be Bob's eleventh year of partnering with Estonia through the Eastern European Missions Network (EEMN). Patti partnered in 2007 and again in 2014, 2015, and 2016. As of April 2, 2016 we look forward to sharing in ministry as a married couple. What a privilege it was to share our wedding day with Siimon Haamer and his son Eerik, David Breidenbach, Director of EEMN, and the many friends who have traveled to Estonia with us, pray for us, and provide support.

We are excited by the faith of the Estonian people, what we see God doing, and the hope that is always there in Him. In August of 2016, the 11th annual Bible-based English Language Camp, under the leadership of Bob and in partnership with Tartu Academy of Theology (TAT), will be held in Tartu. For the 2nd year, we will come again to the island of Saaremaa. This year's camp lessons are based on the story of David. David surely conquered more than one giant in his life and we see that nothing is impossible for our Lord. As we all know, David had a heart for the Lord. That is what God asks of all of us. As we share together our hearts grow stronger together in the Lord.

In early 2016 we had the privilege of visiting several congregations in Estonia, sharing with pastors and lay people. We were involved in Bible studies and met with Stephen Ministers, Healing Room Volunteers, and church council members. We met with Archbishop Urmas Viilma and were very encouraged by his love for the people. He shared strong optimism as he sees people longing to revisit their own spiritual roots.

We again visited the Seminary. Our faith grows stronger as we sit around a table and talk with students and pastors about Saint Peter's ministry. Peter's story opens us to talk about our own stories.

There is a growing relationship between Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) with the Estonian Seminary and with TAT. Ove Sander and Siimon Haamer have attended both the National Gathering and the National Leadership gathering. The vision for strengthening of the partnership, not only with EEMN, but also with LCMC is being fulfilled.

We look forward to many more years partnering with Estonia! Thanks for your prayers, financial support, and team participation. A special thank you goes to those participating in the TAT Matching Fund Campaign, which helps stabilize the financial outlook.

For information contact Bob at 701-391-0182 or [pastorbob@eemn.org](mailto:pastorbob@eemn.org).

Bob and Patti Nordvall

### **Tartu Academy of Theology**

Ujula 1A, 51008 Tartu, Estonia

Email: [siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee](mailto:siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee)

Web: [www.eemn.org](http://www.eemn.org) and click on Estonia

### **Pastor Bob Nordvall**

TAT representative in US

National Field Coordinator of EEMN

Email: [pastorbob@eemn.org](mailto:pastorbob@eemn.org)

Cell: 701 391-0182