

Tartu Academy of Theology

Tartu, Estonia
Newsletter, June 2017



Partnering
with
**East
European
Missions
Network**



12 students graduated
on June 16, 2017 (some
of them are missing
from the picture).

Remember, Lord, your great
mercy and love, for they are
from of old.

Psalm 25:6

Visit our website
www.tat.news

We Are Because of His Mercy!

Every year it is at the same time a bit sad but also so very encouraging when June arrives. Students with whom we have shared our lives during several years are prepared to graduate. It is joyful when these former students become co-workers in the Kingdom of God. 12 students received their diplomas on June 16th. 6 finished an undergraduate program, 3 completed the graduate program and 3 two year church musician course. 4 are planning to continue their studies to become pastors, 3 graduated pastoral care and counseling (i.e. the hospital chaplaincy specialty), and 2 are graduates of the Christian Culture master program. This means we are able to again provide new workers for the church in Estonia. God be praised!

This Spring I had the opportunity to spend time in the States from April 28th through May 10th with my 16 year-old son Eerik. First, we visited Bethany Lutheran Church in McCallsburg, Iowa, bringing them greetings, an update, and thanksgiving for their partnership with us. Then we participated in the LCMC Leadership Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. Eerik actively participated and was able to meet many people. After that I flew to Denver for two days and Eerik took a flight to Philadelphia to spend some time with our friends there. After my time in Colorado,

I traveled to Minneapolis for the weekend and visited several congregations in Minnesota. At the end of the trip I spent two days with my son in Philadelphia.

I had many fruitful meetings with our partners and new ideas for co-operation were created. It is a blessing to have so many good friends around the world, knowing that they care for us and Estonia. Mount Calvary Church in Excelsior, Minnesota offered the possibility of having a summit of Friends of Estonia in the beginning of October while I'm again visiting in Minneapolis. I have been asked to be one of the speakers at the LCMC Annual Gathering. I'm happy that good ideas are becoming realities: the first Friends of Estonia Summit will take place October 9th at 7 pm at Mount Calvary Church (301 County Road 19, Excelsior, MN)! Come and learn more about our work and the challenges we face. Share new ideas and possibilities with our other partners. We so appreciate your support. See the invitation announcing

Welcome To The Friends of Estonia Summit *Sharing Ideas, Networking, Joining Efforts*

Come, learn more about the work of Tartu Academy of Theology and the challenges we face in bringing the Gospel to Estonia.

Discover a partner and make your mission dollars more valuable.

Keynote speaker



**30-year Minnesota
State Senator
Hon. GEN OLSON
a longtime sup-
porter of TAT**

Please Register by Oct. 1, 2017
siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee

Date: Monday, October 9, 2017
Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Place: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
301 County Road 19,
Excelsior, MN, U.S.A.
(Only a 30 minute drive from Downtown
Minneapolis; we can help with transportation)
Dinner provided for \$10
www.tat.news

the event for more information.

Special thanks to Brian and Barbara Felt from Denver who covered all our travel costs: in- and outbound flights, domestic travels etc. Also, special thanks to all of you who opened your homes to us. God bless your loving hearts.

Our student Kristjan wrote in his testimony for the April newsletter of his tremendous life-changing experience of realizing that God is. I certainly agree with him and add that We Are because of His mercy!

Siimon Haamer
Dean

OUR CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

The first half of 2017 is approaching again with a **deficit of \$16,131 USD. It means we really need your support.** To give a clearer overview of our needs, I am outlining project funding options in this newsletter. We would be especially happy to see commitments for at least a 1-year period. That gives us more stability and encouragement to go on with our mission and to make new development plans.

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!

East European Missions Network

8210 Louisiana Blvd NE, Suite B, Albuquerque, NM 87113, U.S.A.
Phone: 505-990-1639
Web: www.eemn.org Email: TAT@eemn.org

Quick financial update of TAT:

Total budget for 2017	\$ 219,294
Income during Jan.1st – June 19th of 2017	\$ 98,856
Budget for Jan. 1st – June 19th of 2017	\$ 114,987
Balance on June 19th of 2017	\$ -16,131

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.**

Endowed Chair of Pastoral Care and Counseling

(designation "TAT Pastoral Care")

Purpose

To finance the Chair of Pastoral Care and Counseling through special funding over a 3-year period, 2018–2020. The Chair provides specialized training for students preparing to become hospital chaplains, i.e. pastoral care givers and counselors. He/she nurtures spiritual growth in the students and organises and facilitates life-long learning courses, providing a systematic study process and integrating theoretical knowledge with practical skills.

Cost

Monthly: \$1,600
Annually: \$19,200
3-year period: \$57,600

Use of Funds

Project funds will be used to pay monthly salary for one professor whose responsibility is to fulfill the purpose of the chair.



Project Funding

(in U.S. Dollars)

Endowed Chair of Ministerial Training

(designation "TAT Ministerial")

Purpose

To finance the Chair of Ministerial Training through special funding over a 3-year period, 2018–2020. The Chair provides ministerial training for students who are preparing to become pastors and nurtures spiritual growth of pastoral students through mentoring and supervised internship programs.

Cost

Monthly: \$1,600
Annually: \$19,200
3-year period: \$57,600

Use of Funds

Project funds will be used to pay monthly salary for one professor whose responsibility is to fulfill the purpose of the chair.



Mentors training

September 2017–June 2018

(designation "TAT Mentors")

Purpose

To develop a much needed mentoring network for the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church by training mentors for students and pastors (particularly new pastors) in offering support on their spiritual journeys. This will create a more unified body of pastors and help to avoid burnout.

Cost

Monthly: \$900
Total Need: \$9,000

Use of Funds

To cover all costs of the training seminars: accommodation, catering, study materials, lecturers' salaries, etc. 16 pastors will be participating.



Library Development 2017–2019:

Hard Copies

(designation "TAT Library")

Purpose

To buy necessary theological literature in English, the major foreign language for our students, including recent publications from around the world.

Cost

Monthly: \$500
Annually: \$6,000



Library Development 2017–2019:

E-Journals and E-Books

(designation "TAT E-Books")

Purpose

To offer more affordable, flexible, and effective study opportunities for students who live in many different places across Estonia, allowing access through the internet to study books and recent publications. This is especially important because our study process is carried out by sessions—one week per month.

Cost

Monthly: \$1,000
Annually: \$12,000



Rent and Heating of TAT Rooms

(designation "TAT Facility")

Purpose

To cover expenses of renting, heating and electricity costs of TAT rooms, 1313 sq. ft.

Cost

Monthly: \$1,500
Annually: \$18,000



Salary of the Dean of TAT, Pastor Siimon Haamer

(designation "TAT Siimon")

Purpose

To pay the salary and provide a stable source of income for the Dean of TAT, Pastor Siimon Haamer, so that daily activities of the school will continue and new developments can be initiated. This is more than a full-time job and vital that full-funding be provided to ensure continued operation of the school. Due to income needs pastors in Estonia often are forced to work two jobs. This is not possible with this key position.

Cost

Monthly: \$1,700
Annually: \$20,400



Scholarships for Students

(designation "TAT Scholarship")

Purpose

To cover a student's tuition fee, giving opportunity to those with low income to receive education and offering encouragement to the call into mission work. Each student receiving a scholarship would keep in contact with his or her donor at least quarterly.

Cost

Undergraduate (bachelor) program
Monthly: \$250
Annually: \$3,000
Total Need (6 Semesters): \$9,000

Graduate (master) program
Monthly: \$250
Annually: \$3,000
Total Need (4 Semesters): \$6,000



Salary of the President of TAT, Pastor Eenok Haamer

(designation "TAT Scholarship")

Purpose

To pay the salary for the President of TAT, Pastor Eenok Haamer, ensuring that Eenok is able to share his faith and practical experience of being parish pastor for 53 years and to honor Eenok's commitment to TAT throughout its existence since 1992, during which for 20 years he didn't receive any salary for his work with the school. Much necessary spiritual guidance comes from Pastor Eenok who is always connected with TAT in providing lessons on the field of Practical Theology.

Cost

Monthly: \$1,600
Annually: \$19,200



When donating to a specific project write a check to EEMN or Charity Lutheran and designate "TAT" and the project in the memo field. Addresses and other giving options are available online at www.tat.news. Be sure to designate the specific project.

Pastor Siimon Haamer, Dean of TAT

Ujula 1A, 51008 Tartu, Estonia

Email: siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee

Web: www.tat.news

Cell: +372-515-9127

Pastor Bob Nordvall

TAT representative in US

National Field Coordinator of EEMN

Email: pastorbob@eemn.org

Cell: 701 391-0182