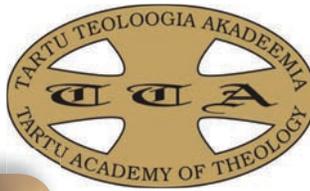


# Tartu Academy of Theology

Tartu, Estonia

Newsletter, June 2018



Partnering  
with  
**East  
European  
Missions  
Network**



Fundraising banquet in Estonia May 11th, 2018. EEMN video greeting is presented on the screen.

**The Lord is good to all;  
he has compassion on  
all he has made.**

**Psalm 145:9**

## Fundraising Banquet in Estonia--Great Success

Last fall I began making plans for a fundraising banquet in Estonia. It seemed to us that Estonians were ready to accept the same kind of fundraising format that is very popular in the US. Although many people were very suspicious about this plan, I was willing to take the risk.

I shared this vision with our American friends and they were willing to offer matching funds for this event. In the end, there were **\$17,150 USD for matching**. It was a very good challenge for Estonians and very important to make this event successful.

We are very thankful to all donors of matching fund:

Bob & Patti Nordvall  
Gen Olson  
Gloria Erickson  
Agu & Tiina Kaia Ets  
Bethel Lutheran Church, Holdrege, NE  
Ken Birst  
Bill & Carolyn Quehl  
Ken & Connie Geiger

I understood it is important to give a very clear and specific purpose for these donations. Because of that, we decided to raise the funds specifically for our pastoral care specialty activities.

On May 11th we had a great banquet evening in one of the medieval buildings in the old town of Tallinn. From the attached pictures you can hopefully get some feeling of the atmosphere there. We had 90 guests and really enjoyable 3 hours with good food, motivated people, wonderful piano music and great speakers. As this evening was concentrated on pastoral care work, my brother Naatan was a keynote speaker. I may say that he is a grand old man of pastoral care work in Estonia. We also presented an EEMN video greeting on the screen.

There were actually many more people who contacted me prior to the banquet and expressed their regret that their time was al-

ready booked. They still wanted to make a donation.

**We raised a total of \$25,600 USD.** This means we exceeded the challenge and covered all match funds. **The total income of the banquet was \$42,750 USD!**

I have received so much very, very positive feedback from the people who participated. They said it was professionally organized and conducted and they are waiting for the next banquet. 20 participants marked, on their feedback cards, that they are willing to call their friends and invite them to the next banquet. Soon I will set a date for the 2019 banquet. We will need to get a much bigger room.

Praise to the Lord this event was an absolute success. It may become an attitude breaking event in Estonia. Information on this type of fund raising will spread. The majority of the participants were business people, also politicians and representatives of various other professions. Many of them are not members of any church. This is very encouraging that people do care about our work and are willing to give support.

We will hold the next fundraising banquet in April or May of 2019 and we would be very thankful if we could again get match funds for this event.

Lord bless you for your love toward Estonia!  
Siimon Haamer



### OUR CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Income through the first five months of the year has been very encouraging. After a long period of time our running budget is balanced even though we now have our ambitious facility campaign. One main reason is the successful fundraising banquet that we had in Estonia on May 11th. The money we raised will be distributed throughout the year and that's why the full amount will not be presented in the accounting of our first five months. As of May 31st we had a **\$120 USD surplus**.

Our sincere appeal is not for you to substitute current giving with funding for the facility project because our most important task is to continue our everyday work so that the new building can be put to good use in the future.

Thank you for your continued kind support, encouragement, and faithful prayers. May all of you be rewarded by God according to His mercy.

### Quick financial update of TAT:

Total budget for 2018	\$ 245,882
Income during Jan.1st – May 31st of 2018	\$ 92,087
Budget for Jan. 1st – May 31st of 2018	\$ 91,967
<b>Balance on May 31st of 2018</b>	<b>\$ 120</b>

### East European Missions Network

8210 Louisiana Blvd NE, Suite B, Albuquerque, NM 87113, 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.**

**ESTONIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH BISHOP JOEL LUHAMETS ABOUT FACILITY PROJECT**

The site, where Tartu Academy is planning to purchase rooms, is a remarkable development. In addition to the extraordinary architecture this will bring many new people into an area where there are different activities, restaurants, hostels, etc. An important landmark just across the street is St. Paul Lutheran Church which is newly renovated and has an active congregation. It would be hard to find a better place for a theological school that incorporates different ministries to proclaim the Word of God. Ministries that will be situated in this well-developing area will become very visible to the public.



Planting new congregations is important but expanding a training center where pastors, workers for various church ministries, and layleaders will be trained is even more future-focused action. In addition, this work is in harmony with Jesus' Word: *The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field* (Luke 10:2).

Tartu Academy in this new development will be like *a town built on a hill that cannot be hidden* (Matthew 5:14).

I pray God's blessing into this endeavor.

**You are welcome to find more information about our facility plans and capital campaign from our website [www.tat.news/facility.html](http://www.tat.news/facility.html).**

**If you are planning to donate or you have questions, contact with Siimon Haamer [siimon.haamer@teologia.ee](mailto:siimon.haamer@teologia.ee), please.**

You can make your tax deductible donation toward the purchase of our facility through

**Charity Lutheran Church (Tax deductible)**  
120 Aspen Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58503

It is very important to mark the donation designation "TAT Facility" in the memo portion.

*The construction site as it is currently. In front--a lot where the building which includes TAT rooms will be built, on the back next door--a building that looks like our future building.*



## Current Status of Facility Fundraising Campaign

On April 28th we launched the TAT Facility Capital Campaign at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Excelsior, MN. There was a great group of very dedicated people gathered. We experienced God's provision during this event and we have been blessed by God's guidance continually during the last month.

In two weeks we raised \$77,708 USD. That was very encouraging and we decided to go on with this project because such an excellent start for a campaign was again proof of God's provision.

Another proof is the of the owner of that development. When we started planning in March he offered to make architectural drawings of our rooms without any cost. After we announced to him May 15th that we will purchase this facility we have been in very active communication in considering all details of the project. Already today, construction details are being made according to our room plans, even though we have not signed any contract with the developer and we have not paid one cent down. He is just trusting our word. As far as we know, this is unusual in the business world. We have been honest with the owner in explaining to him that we do not have all of the money yet. Because of all these good signs, we are convinced that we will have the necessary amount when it's needed. Now we have to prove that Christians really are reliable and they won't back off from the given promises.

**As of June 5th, we have raised \$84,929 USD and we are still short \$54,781 USD of the down payment that needs to be made by June 15th. We need your help in this most difficult phase of our campaign!** The final result is still far away and seems like a dream but we hope that you are as convinced as we are that this is God's plan and is meant to become reality. We just need God's ambassadors to show up.

We are very thankful to all donors so far. This is a pretty big group of people and congregations. You may find them on our website [www.tat.news/facility.html#donors](http://www.tat.news/facility.html#donors).

### FACILITY FUNDRAISING CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

**Goal: \$1,547,099 USD May 31st, 2019**

\$84,929 USD pledged	June 8th, 2018	<b>\$1,546,769 USD to go</b>
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Earnest money, June 15th, 2018  
**\$139,710 USD**

**JOIN WITH US AND HELP MAKE OUR FACILITY DREAM COME TRUE!**

**PRAY, SHARE, DONATE**



<https://www.facebook.com/tartuacademy>

Visit campaign website  
[www.tat.news](http://www.tat.news)

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