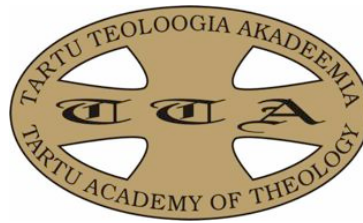


Tartu Academy of Theology

Tartu, Estonia
Newsletter, March 2015



Partnering with
East
European
Missions
Network



On February 2nd of 2015 a new archbishop of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Urmas Viilma (in the middle), was consecrated at the Tallinn Cathedral Church.

Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Titus 2:14

Sunny Spring and Good Fruits

The current academic year has gone calmly and according to a plan. Hopefully this sunny spring, a total about 20 students will graduate all together from undergraduate and graduate programs. We also hope that in August we will have enough new motivated student candidates. In the coming fall, we will start a Master level Diaconal Work and Pastoral/Christian Counseling program, and this will bring hopefully more new students.

During current academic year, one of the key development activities has been compiling the Diaconal Work and Pastoral/Christian Counseling curriculum within the Master of Theology curriculum. This creates a good opportunity for our alumni to continue their studies and will also contribute significantly to the development and quality of this study field

in all of Estonia, as this is not taught in any other educational institution.

During this academic year, we have also been able to develop the procedures for issuing state professional standards for chaplains and pastoral/Christian counselors. Soon our alumni can apply for a professional certificate that will certainly increase the possibilities for working in hospitals and overall health care system. The goal for the next academic year is to apply for the rights of the Seminary to issue pastoral/Christian counseling professional certificates for our graduates together with a diploma. TAT has been working towards this goal for seven years already, but joining the Seminary in 2013 gave this process new inputs and possibilities. We hope that through these additions, pastoral care work will be more well-known and will generate

interest among employers as well as in the Ministry of Social Affairs.

We are very glad that our friends in the States have created a new initiative to help establish TAT's financial stability. Curtis Levang from St. John's Lutheran Church (Howard Lake, MN) and Bob Nordvall (EEMN Field Coordinator) started TAT Matching Program. You can read more about this initiative on the other side of the newsletter, and you can also learn how you can participate in this new program!

We trust you all in the arms of God, and we will enter Easter time with the hope that Christ has died and risen for every one of us.

Siimon Haamer
Dean



CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

In the end of 2014, our deficit was \$ 19,624 USD. The deficit dropped significantly during December. We are thankful for supporters who made great donations during the end of the year. We were also able to cut our planned costs, and so the deficit wasn't very bad.

Today we are almost finishing first quarter of 2015, and our deficit has increased a bit and is at the moment **\$ 30,572 USD**. Because of the strong US dollar, our debt is smaller then it would have been otherwise.

Quick financial update of TAT

Total budget of 2015 (according to current exchange rate)	\$ 175,880
Income January-March of 2015	\$ 27,524
Budget of January-March of 2015	\$ 41,487
Balance on March 24rd of 2015	\$ -30,572

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

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.

The Tartu Academy of Theology Matching Program for Estonia

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6)

Will you pray about partnering with TAT and Eenok with a major gift commitment over the next 3 years?

Dear Friends of Tartu Academy,

The verse above is the guiding passage for Eenok Haamer, Founder of Tartu Academy of Theology, Estonia. It has been a blessing and a joy to work alongside of Pastor Eenok over the last 9 years. We have traveled the north central area of the U.S. visiting congregations and sharing the story of Tartu Academy. You have blessed TAT with gifts that have helped sustain TAT in its mission to “Provide theological education based on the Word of God, in the context of the spiritual inheritance of the Estonian people.” We have been so very thankful for the blessings of God!

While TAT continues with the original vision, it is critical that financial support be secured for the future. Freedom came in 1991 when the wall came down, but the church has struggled in rebuilding and reclaiming faith long suppressed under Communism. Materialism and secularism have taken over the culture of Estonia. In 2009, Gallup research rated Estonia as the most secular nation in the world. Lutherans represented 88% of the population in 1939 but shrank to 2.4% in 2009. There is much work to do in a darkness that has changed from powers of oppression to the powers of apathy!

Finances continue to be a burden. A merger with the Lutheran Seminary in Tallinn has helped both institutions trim costs and share resources. The national Church provides financial support to the Seminary but none for TAT, which is regarded as an independent department with its ecumenical commitments. TAT is heavily dependent on international support from the Body of Christ, predominantly from the United States.

We are working to establish the **Tartu Academy of Theology Matching Fund**. I am inviting you to consider how you might be involved at one of two levels. We are looking for two types of partners with each group committing to \$32,000 of support.

Sponsoring & Founding Partners: providing matching dollars for the contributors.

TAT Sponsor: \$5,000 - needing 4 members committing for 1, 2 or 3 years

TAT Founders: \$6,000 plus - needing 2 members committing for 1, 2 or 3 years

Matching Partners:

TAT Matching Contributors: \$1,000-\$3,000 - 20-30 members committing for 1, 2 or 3 years

To date we have one Founder, Curt Levang, with a gift of \$6,000 for each of 3 years and one Matching Contributor, Bob Nordvall, with a gift of \$3,000 for each of 3 years.

Eenok has been encouraged in these challenging times about how the Lord will “bring to completion the work that has begun.” It is my hope and prayer that we will find 30-50 friends of TAT who could provide the base for this major appeal! Thank you for your prayers in this urgent time! We look forward to hearing from you.

Will you pray about partnering with TAT and Eenok with a major gift commitment over the next 3 years?

Please let me know if you can partner. As the Founder/Sponsor match is established, gifts coming from Matching Contributors will immediately trigger matching funds sent to TAT.

In Christ,

Contact:

Pastor Bob Nordvall
Field Coordinator, EEMN & ambassador for Tartu Academy, Estonia
701-391-0182
pastorbob@eemn.org

Gifts can be sent to:

Charity Lutheran Church, TAT 2015 Match Fund
120 Aspen Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58503

Curtis L. Levang
Matching Development Coordinator
St. John’s Lutheran Church
Howard Lake, MN

Indicate one of 3 accounts on your check:

“TAT Match Founders”

“TAT Match Sponsor”

“TAT Match Contributor”

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