# WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF THE LIFE CHANGING STORIES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

## Home of Hope's Challenge

### **Stories Matter**

presented in this booklet are meaningful example (Josh. 3) and stepped out and are good seeds for new God stories? trusting the Lord.

Home of Hope, is a powerful tool that bed and I'm happy that I'm not alone: enables us to create these stories ► Hundreds have supported this and fulfill Christ's Great Commission.

In the four years since Home of Hope was established, we have achieved excellent results as you have read in this booklet.

### **This Work Must Continue**

This is a work that must continue. We with their Christian identity that was lost future. during 50 years of Soviet occupation.

### Will You Walk With Us?

Without God working through you, these stories may not continue.

# GIVING (Tax deductible)

## ONLINE

Go to charitylutheran.org/givenow

► Choose fund Tartu Academy of Theology and sub fund ► Home of Hope

## CHECKS

Charity Lutheran Church 120 Aspen Ave. Bismarck, ND 58503, U.S.A.

Charity Lutheran has been our mission partner 17 years and sends 100% of all gifts

DATE	
PAY TO THE CHARITY LUTHERAN CHURCH	
DOLLARS ₪	
MEMO_HOME OF HOPE or TAT	De
	ТН
SEND AN EMAIL IF YOU HAVE ANY QUE	STI

Pastor Siimon Haamer's STORY–Part 2

Establishing Home of Hope was a > get a permanent source of income Do you share our conviction that stories great leap of faith. I followed Joshua's

The Christian Outreach Center, Now we are in the middle of the river

- endeavour with their prayers and finances;
- God has provided faithful co-workers to help carry this vision forward;
- God has blessed us with people who events.

need to reconnect the Estonian people Come along and walk with us into the Will you PRAY FOR US?

### \$1 Million to Go

\$1.2 million has been raised. \$1 MILLION STILL NEEDS TO BE **RAISED BEFORE NOVEMBER 15, 2024**.

RA

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and become full owners of the Home of Hope facility; ▶ sustain this great tool for the work of the Kingdom of God:

to finance our mission work (in three years, we have earned \$100,000 from the rent of premises which covers all maintenance costs and much more)

The lender is the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church. Our payments go back to the fund that finances the construction of churches. The money paid as interest will be used to:

- ▶ publish a new church hymnal;
- ► support the church's youth work.

take part in Home of Hope's activities Paying off the loan maintains our and always look forward to new independence in preaching the Word of God.

### Will you CONSIDER MAKING A **DONATION?**

### Will you CONSIDER GIVING A MAJOR

GIFT to inspire others to join and

immediate and lasting impact on not only this growing ministry, but an entire nation!

### **HOME of HOPE Mortgage Payoff Mortgage Total \$2,222,889** \$1

,246,691	\$976,199
ISED	TO GO
31/2024	11/15/2024
	ELINDS are available.

**\$10** ,000 of MATCHING FUNDS are available Designation: HOME OF HOPE

directly to Estonia.	TAT & Home of Hope		
Ē	Annual Operating Budge	et <u>2024</u>	
CH J \$ dollars fi	Budget Total \$355,629 \$29,136	<b>326,493</b>	
	RAISED YTD 01/31/2024	TO GO	
	Designation: TAT THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANC	IAL SUPPORT	
AVE ANY QUESTIONS siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee tatest.org			



# **Four Generations of Continuity**

### Background

Estonia was occupied for 50 years after WW2 by the aggressive, atheistic Soviet **Union**. This regime tried to break our deep Christian roots. Unfortunately, they were quite successful. During the first 10 years of Soviet occupation, 2/3s of Lutheran NAATAN and MARKUS, MY TWO OLDER pastors were killed, imprisoned, or escaped BROTHERS, and I are pastors as well. from the country. Before WW2 98% of Estonians were Christians; today only around 12% are members of different Christian churches. These broken

President of TAT serving three Lutheran congregations. For 15 years I He was forced to hide for six years in the worked side-by-side with my father. Ten forest and lived in an underground bunker years ago, I took over the leadership of because he was the son of a pastor. TAT. Despite these hardships, he later became **Home of Hope Christian Outreach Center** a pastor himself.

### **Fourth Generation**

Now I'm looking to the future and I'm very glad that our family story is continuing. Trusting the Lord and following His connections need to be tied together again. MATTIAS, THE SON OF MY OLDER guidance, the vision of Home of Hope was BROTHER, joined our team in the fall created. In the spring of 2018, \$125,000 of 2020 and is working with me as my was raised within six weeks. As this miracle complete trust in God, and the sacrifices of assistant. He comes with fresh energy and happened, we had to trust. We made one family through a century. This is a story new ideas. Mattias is 26 years old and a downpayment and trusted the Lord. I is the fourth generation carrying on the invested myself totally and undertook this legacy of our family. project of more than 2 million dollars.

## Launch of Tartu Academy of Theology

Estonia regained independence in 1991. calling. In 1992, my father, Eenok, established God made this project a reality. In December My FATHER, EENOK, 88 years old, is the Christian college, Tartu Academy of of 2019, Home of Hope was dedicated to Theology (TAT), with the financial support the Lord. We have been richly blessed and of a group of American Lutheran pastors. God has done amazing things, as you will see on the following pages. During the last 30 years, TAT has trained

hundreds of Christian leaders for Estonia.

Grandfather Pastor Harri Haamer and the fourth generation, Mattias Haamer.



We are grateful for every donation.

I share with you a story of hope and trust. This is a story of spiritual resistance, of the suffering of the Estonian people.

> **Three Generations of Pastors** My **GRANDFATHER**, **HARRI**, was a of four generations at <u>tatest.org/videos</u>.

Lutheran pastor. At the end of the 1940s, he was arrested and imprisoned for eight years in a Siberian slave labor camp because he was a pastor.

Father Eenok Haamer and his three sons Naatan, Markus & Siimon,



complete this Spirit-driven cause? pay off the mortgage Your sacrificial gift will have an

## **Pastor Siimon Haamer's STORY**

Six years ago I was under big pressure because the rental facilities of TAT were in very poor condition and didn't meet our needs at all. We had to decide whether to end our work or take a giant leap of faith.

You may watch the videos about the story We have to believe there is a different future for the Estonian people, and we need to keep faith alive. We need this unique outreach center to answer God's

> We still need \$1M to pay off the mortgage and sustain the Home of Hope facility.

> Our goal is to continue for GENERATIONS TO COME. Please come along and support us with your prayers and financial gifts.

**PASTOR SIIMON'S EMAIL** siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee

# MINISTRIES OF TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY & HOME OF HOPE

## **Bible School**

## **Aane's STORY**

autumn Bible School student the In of 2020, I joined the Bible School. I was baptized and confirmed about 25 years ago, but after my confirmation, I didn't have any connection with the church anymore. At the time I was the only one in my family who was baptized and confirmed. Eenok's church in Mustvee. Since then I get to know more about Jesus, in the middle

At the very beginning of our Bible School, Pastor Eenok Haamer, gave lessons. Eenok's message was so inspiring for me and because of that, I decided to visit As a result of my inspiration and desire to



was there almost every Sunday, and I took along my niece, husband, my sister with her children, my mother, and friends.

surprise. I learned that he's a Christian.

Difficult times in my relationship showed me

we failed to turn to God. The time of divorce

## **Christian Youth Work** Elise Nora's STORY Team Member of Worship Night

My journey with God started as a young adult. I was raised in a non-Christian but spiritually curious environment. Up until 21 years of my life, I had been inside a church only a few times for concerts, weddings, or funerals. But I had seen my mother practice meditating, reiki, yoga etc. I was guite critical and defiant.

All through high school, I kept my alignment with spirituality and when I started university to study dance this mindset got even more flexed. And then my stepfather passed away. The question divorce. I now believe that in our troubles of the afterlife entered my mind.

Soon after I met a guy. I fell in love. To my happened to be when I was attending the

## **Pastoral Care Center Raili's STORY**

### Coordinator of Pastoral Care Center

I am doing this work because in my life I have also felt a great need for spiritual help. I spent 3 years at the hospital after the premature birth with my second child because she weighed 1.3 pounds and had many health problems.

After the birth, Pastor Naatan Haamer, who was a Pastoral Caregiver in the hospital, came to me. He was the first person to take the time to be there for turn to him later still carries me.



Since I received support and strength from Pastor Naatan, I also wanted to courage to others.

and courage. Naatan's promise that I can more that I needed to learn. I realized that Pastor Naatan wasn't actually alone our Lord. Now I'm sharing this with others. when he met me in the hospital. Later,

# WHY OUR CHURCH is partnering with Estonia mission Christ to a people who

Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church, from is also passionate about raising of His love. The Home of Hope helps the very beginning of our existence, up pastors for Christ's Church. to spread that message throughout has partnered with TAT. In addition The TAT raises up pastors with Estonia and beyond. We are eager to to seeing the tremendous need for sound Lutheran theology who are support this mission for generations the Great Commission to be carried passionate about delivering Jesus to come

Pastor Wendy Poch, Aurora, CO out in Estonia, our congregation

Launched in September 2020

- 250 participants over four years
- On-site and online participation
- Classes are held Every Monday evening
- Several campuses gather to watch livestreaming every Monday evening

### On-demand Bible study streaming

of August 2021, in Eenok's church, eight adults were baptized and confirmed and five children were baptized.

The same autumn my mother became a student of Home of Hope's Bible School.

- ▶ 80 participants in the various events
- ► Producing social media content
- Youth Bible Camp every year
- Annual young adults conference 'The Juggler'
- Worship Night every third Wednesday
- A meeting place for Christian youth organizations and activities

Youth Bible and Mission Course. That was a crucial factor in staying with God.

how unimaginable forgiveness is possible Today I'm a team member of the Worship with God. We were blessed with a child. We Night that takes place in Home of Hope. got married. We gave our vows. But already Our goal is to bring together young adults half a year after the wedding I was facing to hear the Word and sing in the Spirit.

> Now I also lead the youth work in St. Paul's Church of Tartu. This is the work that God had carved out for me.

► 24/7 Pastoral Care Helpline throughout 2020-2022; financed by the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs

- 21,500 calls received to the helpline
- Coordination center for Estonia's wide network of pastoral caregivers
- Partnering with local city government Pastoral caregivers' walking sessions

during the Covid pandemic when I began studying at the TAT myself, become a person who can give hope and I gained an understanding of the bigger picture. As a Christian, I'm a tool in God's hand. While I want to do my best, I can me. This conversation gave me peace I felt that there was certainly something trust that God will take care of the rest. The source of the courage and hope is

### profession. desperately need to know

youtube.com/@simonvsgoliath Follow stories on tatest.org/story facebook.com/simonvsgoliath

## MINISTRIES OF TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY & HOME OF HOPE **Bachelor & Master Degree Studies + Continuing Education** ► 130 students in partnership with Lutheran Marek's STORY

### Alumnus of TAT, Coordinator of Bible School

I was born in 1976. It is said that the 70s were the most miserable period of the Soviet time in the Estonian Lutheran Church. A large part of the society was estranged from the church.

I lived near the church building, but it the church and buy a Bible. One of my was closed most of the time. My parents did not consider it necessary to baptize me about Jesus. At first, I argued with him. their children. It was only later that I learned At the beginning of 1995, on the evening that one of my grandmothers was praying of my birthday, I again talked with my for us. Another grandmother taught me the brother and he gave me one prayer text -Lord's Prayer. God worked and He had a sinner's prayer to God. I read it alone in not forgotten us.

In the early 1990s, a lot changed in Estonia. Suddenly one could go freely to God I wanted to dedicate my life to the whom I met at the TAT.

## **Christian Radio–Family Radio** Paavo's STORY

### My own religious Founder of Family Radio path began in parallel with the birth of Family Radio in Estonia. Like most children of the Soviet era, I did not come from a Christian family. This is not to say that my parents

were atheists, but rather cautious. My wife and I worked in national radio in the 80s without imagining that we would be able to do the same work in Christian broadcasting in the future.

God had his own plans and He put it in the hearts of people on the other side of the globe to start a Christian radio program in Estonia.

## **Helping Ukraine Refugees** Natalva's STORY

I lived with my Refugee from Ukraine family in Mykolaiv Oblast, Ukraine. I used to be a manager of the cultural center. When the war started my husband sent me and our two daughters (4 and 6 years old) away from the war. It was at the very beginning of April of 2022. He stayed and unfortunately was killed by a missile strike on April 5, 2022, while helping people to shelter. I have tried to find ways to earn a living. I completed a baker's training course to get a professional certificate and the right to work in this



to make baked goods.

## WHY I'M supporting Estonia mission Eenok had for "Here I am, send me." Not all of us

I began to support the mission and care. I felt a great need to share mission field, but we can respond to in Estonia when I learned of the the resources I have to support that God's call by supporting our brothers passion the Haamer family had for ministry.

the Gospel, specifically the vision Pr. In Isaiah 6:8, Isaiah said to the Lord,



► 41 graduates during last 3 years

just before Christmas 1995.

- Training pastors, chaplains, pastoral care givers, church musicians, etc.
- ► 300 hours of continuing educ. courses annually in addition to BA & MA studies

work of His kingdom. In the autumn, I

started studying at the TAT. From there I

found my first Christian friends and also

a great spiritual example, Eenok Haamer.

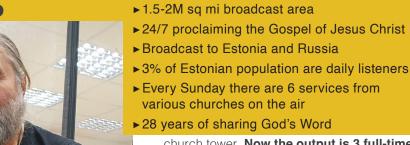
He baptized and confirmed me in Mustvee

In 2003, I was ordained as a pastor of the

Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church. A

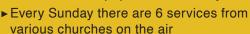
couple of years before I had married Pirio.

older brothers became a Christian and told my room. When I woke up in the morning, I even felt physically that I had become internally new. That same summer, I told



that had begun to speak in my heart.

In 1995, I gave my life to God in holy one studio, transmitter, and antenna in the



► 28 years of sharing God's Word

church tower. Now the output is 3 full-time baptism, left behind my former life and radio programs-one in Estonian and 2 in materially well-paying job as a music **Russian and a signal covering a very large** producer, and followed the persistent voice territory in Russia. Belarus, and Ukraine.

Today the Lord has called me to a clerical With the support of God's great grace, position. The Lord gives encouragement to over the course of 30 years, a large-scale cope with all these tasks-My yoke is easy radio missionary work has grown from and my burden is light (Matt. 11:30).

- ► 16 families receiving support to reduce their monthly expense
- Supporting daycare for Ukraine refugees
- Encouraging refugees to find jobs and rebuild their lives
- Offering pastoral care for refugees

Now my younger daughter attends an Estonian kindergarten and my older child goes to the local Russian speaking school.

### I dream of starting my own small business I'm very thankful for all the support we have received.

She is one example of a Ukrainian war refugee whom we have supported with the money that our U.S. donors have designated for Ukraine refugees. For example, we bought a Kitchen Aid stand mixer helping Natalya to start her own business.

Pastor David Gran, Garfield, MN a place to provide pastoral training are physically able go into a foreign and sisters with our love, prayers, and financial support-for me it's Estonia



Broadcast to Estonia and Russia ► 3% of Estonian population are daily listeners

