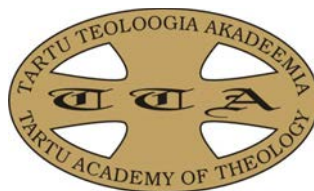


# Tartu Academy of Theology

Tartu, Estonia

Newsletter, December 2018



[www.tatest.org](http://www.tatest.org)

Partnering with East European Missions Network



For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11



HOME of HOPE construction site on December 1st of 2018.

## HOME of HOPE--School of Trust

HOME of HOPE day by day comes closer to fruition. Two things are happening side by side. On one side, construction work on the project continues daily. On the other side, information about the center is becoming more and more known in Estonia, in the States and other places in the world.

This October I traveled and visited in the States for almost three weeks. I attended the LCMC Annual Gathering in Des Moines, October 7 to 10. I'm thankful to the leadership of LCMC for giving me the privilege to share about HOME of HOPE with all of the delegates. As we need many people to join with us, I hope that this word that I shared reached out and that we will see results of that in the following months.

I'm thankful to Brian and Barbara Felt who covered all my airfare costs during my recent trip and Bethany Lutheran Church from McCallsburg, IA, for covering my housing costs during the LCMC conference. I'm also

grateful to Bob & Patti Nordvall and Dennis & Kathy Sandmann for taking care of me throughout the trip. All of them and many more people are convinced that HOME of HOPE is on its way to becoming a reality.

It may seem a bit crazy to run a project without having all the money pledged. But, at the Academy we teach students to trust the Lord and we can't act now against our teaching. Moreover, God has given to us strong encouragement and testimony that He is with us--raising the earnest money of \$125,000 in just six weeks was a miracle. We can't be unfaithful; we just have to believe as Israel did as they stood on the bank of the Jordan river during their

desert journey. If they would have stayed on the river bank and waited for the flow of water to stop they would never have been able to get to the other side. Once *those who bore the ark reached the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark touched the water, the waters flowing from above stood still* (Joshua 3:15-16). We have stepped faithfully into the water and we hope that you will join with us in this confession and that you will be like the Israelites who followed the priests and walked to the other side of the river through the empty river bed.

Walking through the Jordan was a very meaningful act for Israel. It was testimony *that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is*

*mighty* (Joshua 4:24). Also, Estonian people need to know and confess the same. HOME of HOPE will be like a landmark that was set up by Joshua from *those twelve stones, which they had taken out of the Jordan* (Joshua 4:20).

We have been on a journey quite a long time and God has prepared us. The goal of this preparation has not been for a restful life. We are prepared to be good tools in God's hand. We pray and hope that we are capable of answering this call. **Help us in this, please.**



Siimon Haamer  
Dean

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.

[www.tatest.org/facility.html](http://www.tatest.org/facility.html)

### HOME of HOPE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Goal: \$1,597,099 USD

Raised \$190,275

June 30th, 2019

\$1,406,824 to go

Pledged \$301,775

\$1,295,324 to go

Nov. 30th, 2018

Additionally are \$12,500 matching funds available

### OUR CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

The situation with our regular funding is not very good. To cover our annual budget we are missing still \$57,358. We are of course hopeful and continuing to work in faith. The Facility Fundraising Campaign is clearly cutting into our regular income and the resources gained from our May fundraising banquet in Estonia have been used.

2018 TAT annual budget **\$245,882 USD**

\$188,524 USD raised

November 30th, 2018

**\$57,358 USD to go**

We are thankful if you are able, in addition to HOME of HOPE, to donate into our regular operating fund. We are thankful for your continuing partnership in this very interesting and forward-looking period of time. In a cooperative spirit, we will be able to bring these great plans to fruition.

**Donate**

Mail a check to

**Charity Lutheran Church (Tax deductible)**

120 Aspen Ave. Bismarck, ND 58503

specifying the designation of your donation to Tartu Academy of Theology

**PASTORAL CARE CENTER AT HOME OF HOPE**

*Raili Hollo, coordinator of Pastoral Care Center*

Establishing the Pastoral Care Center at HOME of HOPE is a very natural development because TAT has already been training pastoral care givers for 25 years. We see in Estonia that people are looking for more and more help in their spiritual quest. At the same time, often people are afraid to go to church with their problems or they just can't imagine that they could get any help from the church. We want to offer an alternative option for those people.

Our goal is to form a network of pastoral care givers around Estonia with HOME of HOPE being the central location for all these activities.

I myself am doing this work because in my life I have felt a great need for spiritual help as well. I spent years in the hospital after the premature birth of my second child because she weighed 1.3 pounds and had many health problems. We needed the strong efforts of doctors and God's miracle to survive. My daughter had 12 surgeries in her first year of life.

Being in the hospital together with other parents I shared my problems with them and they shared their stories with me. I was glad to listen to others. They were happy that there was someone who had time to listen and who also was capable of understanding their pain and fear. They were grateful to me that I listened and they confessed how important it is to be listened to and understood.

I felt that there was certainly something more that I needed to learn. Later, when I did not need to spend all that time at the hospital, I began studying at the Academy myself. I learned how to better understand people and their spiritual being. I gained understanding about the bigger picture and that, as a Christian, I'm a tool in God's hand. While I'm wanting to do my best, I can trust that God will take care of the rest. I know now that the biggest support for my hospital mates was my courage to be together with them in their pain and the source of that courage was God.

Now I'm working to create a place where we can share this courage that God has given us.



*Raili with her daughter Kelli.*

## Achievements of TAT During Recent Years

In 2013 we entered into co-operation with the Estonian Lutheran Church Seminary. Now together we pass along Bible-based teaching and have experienced growth of the student body.

We train

- Pastors/ministers
- Chaplains for prison, the army, hospital and the police
- Pastoral care givers and counselors
- Deaconates
- Church musicians
- Christian youth workers
- Christian media specialists
- And offer many life-long learning courses

Graduates during the last three years

20 completed bachelor studies:

- 7 continued their studies at master's level to become pastors in the Lutheran Church
- 4 continued their studies at master's level to become pastoral care givers
- 6 graduated from the pastoral care specialty and 3 of them already work as pastoral care givers
- 1 is preparing for a prison chaplain position
- 1 is preparing for a hospital chaplain position
- 1 conducts grief groups in his church

16 completed Master's studies in Theology:

- 7 of them are already pastoring in the Lutheran Church
- 2 are continuing preparations for Lutheran Church pastor positions
- 3 are working on pastoral care giver positions
- 1 is pastoring in the Adventist Church
- 1 is pastoring in the Pentecostal Church
- 2 are pastoring in the Orthodox Church

10 completed Master's studies in Christian Culture:

They work in different specialties. The curriculum is created to expand Estonians knowledge of Christianity and its introduction into Estonian and European culture. Education in that field is very poor in Estonia due to 50 years of Soviet Occupation.

3 completed the 2-year church musician course.

1,200 participated life-long learning courses.

**5 facts about Tartu Academy of Theology**

**80%** of ordained pastors of the Lutheran Church are from the Seminary and TAT

**130 students**, significant and comparable to a U.S. college of **30,000** students

**49 graduates** during last 3 years, significant and comparable to a U.S. college of **11,500** graduates

TAT and Seminary joint annual budget is **\$680,000**

Working together with the Seminary, sharing professors and staff, **we save \$200,000** annually

*Tartu Town Hall Square decorated for Christmas of 2018.*



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