Tartu Academy of Theology

Tartu, Estonia

Newsletter, March 2019

Partnering with ***East European Missions Network***

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11

www.tatest.org

Our Generous Supporters in 2018

Last year was unique in our history. Our vision of a center for Christian organizations in Estonia seems to be on its way to becoming a reality. This has inspired the development of new and influential future perspectives for our development. You can read about HOME of HOPE in this newsletter and in detail on our website, www.tatest.org. In addition to this major project, our current daily activities must continue. We are blessed by all of you, our donors and supporters.

In this special issue of our newsletter, we are publishing the names of people and organizations who have supported TAT and our HOME of HOPE project during 2018. Some people have donated anonymously and many through collections, so we may not know all of the names, but we are deeply grateful for all of you.

We hope you will also be our partner in 2019 and thereinafter. If you were not able to give last year, we invite you to pray about a gift in this crucial year of 2019. Your gifts and prayers are definitely helping to profoundly change the future of one nation.

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. (2 Corinthians 9:11) **We are so grateful for your generosity! God bless you!**

Waldemar Alt
Doug & Mary Anderson
Charles & Emily Anderson
John & Joan Anderson
Mari-Ann Bartlett
Carl Berquist
Ken Birst
Duane & Marlene Bohrer
Daniel & Karen Christ
James & Gwen Cosgrove
Paul & Marlys Coughlin
Linda Cruz
Steven & Susan Davidson
Lauri Desir
Robert & Dita Dow
Michael & Patty Dwyer
Steven & Jane Ekholm
Jim & DeDe Elliot
Edwin Engebretson
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Donald & Sylvia Schmid
Sidney Sehlin
Ken & Julie Slag
Terry Sletto
Keith & DeLores Soiseth
George & Ilze Stroebel
Steven & Lisa Tonder
Jeffrey & Debra Uline
Connie Volk
Steven J. Wadle
Duane & Faye Wangen
John & Chara Wangen
Kathy Wermager
Kelly Westlund
Ryan Whalen
Dale & Emilie Wildey
John & Nancy Wissman
John & Rondi Wussow
William & Barbara Young
All anonymous donors

American Association of Lutheran Churches
Amazing Grays of Charity Luth., Bismarck ND
Augustana District of LCMC
Bethany Lutheran Church, McCallsburg IA
Bethel Lutheran Church, Holdrege NE
Bible Alive Ministries
Charity Lutheran Church, Bismarck ND
Christ The King Lutheran Church, Dodge City KS
East European Missions Network
Estonian Evengelical Luth. Church, New York NY
Faith Lutheran Church, Harvey ND
Faith Lutheran Church, Hutchinson MN
First Lutheran Church WOW, Hope MN
First Lutheran Church, Hope MN
First Lutheran Church, Washburn ND
First United Lutheran Church, Roseau MN
Georgia Fellowship of LCMC
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, San Jose CA
Hope Lutheran Church, Quincy IL
InFaith Community Foundation, Minneapolis MN
Light of Christ Lutheran Church, Williston ND
Mount Calvary Luth. Church Found, Excelsior MN
Reformation Lutheran Church, Fortson GA
Richland Lutheran Church, Richland WA
Ringkøbing Y's Men Club, Denmark
Sacred Word Lutheran Church, Mobridge SD
Salem Lutheran Church Women, Roland IA
Shalom Community Luth. Church, Starbuck MN
Shepherd of The Hills Luth. Ch., San Antonio TX
Shepherd of The Valley Luth. Church, Afton MN
Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church, Parker CO
St Johns Women of the Word, Starbuck MN
St Luke's Lutheran Church, Garfield MN
St. John's Evangelical Luth. Church, Gillett WI
St. John's Lutheran Church, Howard Lake MN
St. John's Lutheran Church, Springfield MN
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hondo TX
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Taylor TX
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Minneapolis MN
Trinity Lutheran Church W.O.W., Stonewall TX
Western Washington Luth. Church, Seattle WA

Because of the HOME of HOPE project our income for general operating expenses has clearly decreased. We ended 2018 with a deficit of $20,476 USD. Last autumn we downsized our activities and budget with $35,000 in order to manage financially. We are looking trustfully forward in this new year.

Quick current financial update of TAT:

Total budget for 2019	$ 245,739
Income during Jan. 1–March 22	$ 40,001
Budget for Jan. 1–March 22	$ 54,084
Balance on March 22	**$ -14,083**

Summary of the 2018 Financial Report

Income	$ 190,406
Expenses	$ 210,882
Balance on Dec 31, 2018	**$ -20,476**

HOME of HOPE Snapshots–Small Size, Big Impact

HOME of HOPE will significantly impact the Estonian people. We don't see our activities taking place just inside the facility, but we see the facility as creator of net that will be spread across Estonia and beyond our borders. **Our aim is to reach out to the society in many different ways.**

HOME of HOPE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN
Goal: $1,597,099 USD
June 30th, 2019
Raised $276,181
$1,320,918 to go
March 18th, 2019
***Additionally** are **$5,903** **matching** funds available*

Vocational Bible School

In addition to our regular bachelor and master degree study programs we'll establish Vocational Bible School in co-operation with St Paul Lutheran Church, located just across the street. Bible studies will take place in the evening or morning once or twice per week and will have an interdenominational approach. We welcome non-religious people as well of course. In Estonia people who are not affiliated with any church are often hesitant to attend events and studies that take place in the church. We don't give the expectation to participants that they need to make long time commitments and since we are not a church, this opens a door for people to freely participate.



Big Classroom at Home of Hope on March 21st, 2019.



Space for radio studios at Home of Hope on March 21st, 2019.

Christian Radio Station

The radio station broadcasts 24/7 all over Estonia and to a large part of Russia. Every Sunday there are 6 services from various churches on the air. According to feedback, non-Christians are also listening because this is the only Estonia wide radio station producing and broadcasting programs that nurture people's hearts.



Space for Pastoral Care Center at Home of Hope on March 21st, 2019.

Pastoral Care Center

Estonian people are very much in need of spiritual help but many of them don't know where to find it. Often they are hesitant to go to church because they are afraid that their minds will be messed up there. This was the goal of Soviet authorities during 50 years of occupation. Now people want to make their own decisions for their lives. Clear evidence of spiritual need is evident in the huge popularity of self-help literature, new age philosophies and different kinds of spiritual practices. We need places that support people in their spiritual struggles outside of Church buildings. The Pastoral Care Center will be offering that opportunity and, at the same time, provide a coordination center for Estonia's wide network of pastoral care givers. There are already 60 people from across Estonia who have joined with this network and are ready to start working among their local communities. They are TAT alumni or participants of our continuing education training courses.

Pastor Siimon Haamer is sharing a story that demonstrates the need for these efforts.
Not long ago, I ordered a taxi. Sitting in the car, I heard praise music. The radio channel that was playing was the same Christian Radio Station that is becoming part of Home of Hope. I asked, "Do you listen to Family Radio?" He said that this is the only radio station where he can listen to programs that nurture his soul. He confessed that he is not Christian and not baptised. He has had difficulties in his life lately – marriage broken a year ago and mother died two weeks ago – and he is in need of spiritual support. I asked why he is not going to church. Church seemed too formal for him and he didn't wan't to belong to any particular Church. Also, he was waiting for a sign, a conviction that now is the right time to go to church or to take some kind of step. At the same time he confessed that he is believing that so called god is excisting, and he also prays. This is typical attitude of Estonian people. We want to help them.

Spiritual Mentoring Center



Space for Spiritual Mentoring Center and pop-up office at Home of Hope on March 21st, 2019.

We recently conducted a year training course for spiritual mentors for Lutheran Church pastors. Today we are building up the mentoring system in the Estonian Lutheran Church. In Estonia, pastors often feel alone and abandoned and they need support. Unfortunately many of them won't take any action to find a spiritual mentor. That's why we need to offer opportunities for them. As it's very difficult to get those who have pastored 10-15 years or more involved in the mentoring program, we are concentrating our main focus on young pastors who have recently graduated from the seminary or are still studying. This brings a new attitude into the church and changes a pastor's mindset little by little, building a healthier body of pastors. It's a long time process.

CALL TO ACTION

I hope you are convinced that HOME of HOPE will have significant impact in Estonia. Those rooms that you see on these pictures are waiting to be completed and then filled with God's people and activities that will make a huge difference for the future of Estonia.
Please help us to realise all of this and much more!

Giving

Checks
Charity Lutheran Church (Tax deductible.)
120 Aspen Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58503, U.S.

Electronical
To give eletronically through **Charity Lutheran Church (Tax deductible)** go to **www.charitylutheran.org/give** and follow the steps.

Mark designation **"Home of Hope"** in the memo portion.

We have also opportunity to borrow money for shorter period of time (2-3 years) if we won't be able to raise full amount before June 30th. This would enable us to extend fundraising campaign period for 2-3 years if this is needful.

The Second Fundraising Banquet

The second TAT and Seminary banquet in Estonia will take place on April 12th, 2019. Our goal is to raise at least $10,000 USD. **We are looking for matching partners for this event** to make it more successful and to encourage Estonian people to give. Last May, $17,150 was given as matching funds for the first fundraising banquet and the total income of the banquet was $42,750. If you would like to partner with us, please send your donation through Charity Lutheran Church in Bismarck, ND, before April 10th, with the designation on the memo line "TAT Fundraising Match". Please let Siimon Haamer know about your gift by sending an email to siimon.haamer@teoloogia.

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