

# Tartu Academy of Theology

Tartu, Estonia

Newsletter, September 2018



We have a **NEW**  
website address  
[www.tatest.org](http://www.tatest.org)

Partnering  
with  
**East  
European  
Missions  
Network**



**Blessed be God, because  
he has not rejected my  
prayer or removed his  
steadfast love from me.  
Psalms 66:20**



English Bible Camp team members  
from US visiting construction  
site, August of 2018.

## Building Up New Perspectives

The new school year took off at the beginning of September with several new students. **We have admitted 17 new students.** 12 of them are enrolled in a bachelor program and 5 are in the masters program. This year's admission of new students is less than last year's but numbers are not the most important measure. These students really want to work in God's Kingdom. We are happy to know that they have received a call and have a desire to do God's work.

Our big challenge this college year is to raise funds for our *Home of Hope* facility project. We are very thankful to God and our donors that we were able to raise the earnest money to begin this project but much work is ahead of us. From October 2nd until the 19th I'm visiting the States. My main target is to participate at the Annual Gathering of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ in Des Moines, Iowa October 7-10. The afternoon of October 8th I have been given an opportunity to address all of the delegates of the Gathering with a short *Home of Hope*

presentation. **October 9th from 5:00-6:00 pm I'm hosting a full presentation in room 105 of the Hy-Vee Hall Convention Center.** Everyone who desires and is able to participate is welcome to attend.

We are pleased to report that Estonian businessmen are also supporting our *Home of Hope* project. The owner of the development of the complex where we are buying our rooms has agreed to allow us private use of the public hallway on the ground floor without any additional cost. Because of this, we are able to build a glass wall in the front of the hallway that makes our rooms more secure. We have a company that will build the electrical system at a much-reduced price. The lawyer who was our adviser throughout the contract preparation process worked voluntarily. This coming Spring I'm again organizing a fundraising banquet and I hope to raise funds also for *Home of Hope*.

Also, we have some new developments. Initially, there

were plans for the Lutheran Church weekly newspaper editorial office to join with us at our center but that is no longer the plan. Now we plan to use this space as a guest apartment/dorm. The design is made with the perspective that if the editorial office or another Christian ministry desires space at a later date, we would be able to transform the apartment into office space without any additional cost.

As there is a great need among Lutheran pastors for spiritual mentoring we initiated a spiritual mentors training program 1.5 years ago. Sixteen Lutheran pastors participated in the year-long training program. They are now able to mentor pastors, especially younger pastors who are the main target group. They

are required to have a mentor for 3 to 5 years after ordination. At this same time in January, 2017 we implemented small group mentoring for our students. *Home of Hope* will be a place where spiritual mentors are trained and where senior pastors share their faith and experiences with younger colleagues.

This is an inspiring time and exciting things lay ahead for of us. We hope to find many new partners from Estonia, the United States, Denmark and other parts of the world to accomplish together this vision for our country.

Siimon Haamer  
Dean

*Home of Hope future  
chapel, August of 2018.*



### OUR CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

The Facility Fundraising Campaign is clearly cutting into our regular income but thanks to the very successful May fundraising banquet in Estonia we have been able to keep the school running, although we are in a deficit. The end of the year is going to be a challenge for us because the funds raised from the banquet will be depleted in October. 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.

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-Sept. 30th of 2018	\$ 144,564
Budget for Jan. 1st-Sept. 30th of 2018	\$ 159,160
<b>Balance on September 30th of 2018</b>	<b>\$ -14,596</b>

**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

**CHRISTIAN RADIO--FAMILY RADIO FOUNDERS ON HOME OF HOPE PROJECT**

In 1995, Family Radio began broadcasting a daily program in Tartu. Volunteers from California and Colorado built studios in the summer of 1994 while the first training courses for future workers in Christian radio were being conducted.



*Paavo & Mare Pihlak. Founders of Family Radio.*

October 1, 1995 the first church service was broadcasted. Now, every Sunday six services from various churches in Estonia are broadcasted.

Since 1996, most of Estonia has been covered with our radio broadcast. Studios are located in several places in Estonia. In 2001, a 24/7 program in Russian began to be broadcasted all over the European part of Russia.

Since the very beginning we have had very close cooperation with the Tartu Academy of Theology. We have conducted trainings for TAT students and they have been able to complete their supervised practice in radio. After graduation, several students also began their professional careers at Family Radio. That's why the Home of Hope vision is a natural continuity to our cooperating in a long-term relationship. This facility and its concept is to us a new and fruitful perspective. Currently, we are located in a suburb but this new location would make a great difference. We would offer much better accessibility to our volunteer co-workers and would be located just across the street from St. Paul Lutheran Church from where we broadcast church services every Sunday. St. Paul's is our long time partner and supporter. Being in such close proximity would create good synergy in the proclamation of the Word of God.

It is amazing how God is planning everything. In the spring of this year we received information from our current landlord that the building where we currently rent our studio rooms will be sold or rebuilt and we need to find another location in about a year. It was really God's provision that shortly after that TAT presented to us their vision and offered new rooms in the Home of Hope facility.

Soon Family Radio will be celebrating its 25th anniversary, and we have to acknowledge that a Christian Radio based mostly on volunteers who are mainly pastors and students is a great miracle of God in Estonia. TAT has been a very essential partner in that throughout these years.

*Sandy Miller with Siimon Haamer on the construction site of Home of Hope in August of 2018.*

**Passionate for the Vision of Home of Hope**



I just had the wonderful privilege of spending eight days this past August serving on the EEMN English Speaking Bible Camp Team in Tartu. While there, I was also able to share in the excitement of seeing progress being made on the new location for Tartu Academy. What a beautiful and functional facility it's going to be! Our church has already been supporting this project with our resources and prayers, but seeing it firsthand and hearing the vision directly from both Ee nok and Siimon Haamer stirred up an even deeper excitement and desire to support TAT: Home of Hope. Humanly speaking, this project seems beyond reach. But Jesus said in Luke 1:37, "nothing is impossible with God." Nothing is too big for Him, and I believe in faith that this project is going to come to fruition.

One of the things that I sensed while in Estonia is that "God is on the move." The Spirit is moving in the Church and among the people. I was humbled by the faithfulness and commitment of the many pastors that I met from the area. I also saw deep and growing faith in not just the older generation, but the younger generation as well. Young people who are excited about Jesus and seeking to apply Biblical principles to their daily lives. I sensed that the Church needs to be ready. Tartu Academy needs to be ready. Ready to effectively train future pastors and ministry leaders who are equipped to respond to those who are seeking. Ready to assist in bringing unity to the Church by facilitating gatherings across all denominations. Ready to be a strong foundation on which to build upon. Ready to bring the hope of Jesus Christ to Estonia.

I only wish that everyone reading this would have the opportunity to experience the passion of this vision firsthand. That they would have an opportunity to experience the prayer that is undergirding every effort and every decision being made. I'm so excited to be a part of what God is doing in Estonia. And so is our church, First Lutheran Church in Hope, Minnesota. We are so very grateful to be a ministry partner of Tartu Academy which has given us the opportunity to be an integral part of what God is doing on a global level. It's my hope and prayer that many others will catch this vision that began decades ago, and help bring it to fruition. Now is the time! "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38

Sandy Miller  
Pastor of First Lutheran Church, Hope MN  
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ Ministry Board member

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.

**You are welcome to find more information about our facility plans and to follow construction process from image gallery on our website.**

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

**TAT FACILITY FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN**

**Goal: \$1,597,099 USD June 30th, 2019**

**\$147,157 USD pledged**      Sept. 20th, 2018      **\$1,449,942 USD to go**

*Additionally are \$10,000 matching funds available*

**Pastor Siimon Haamer**, Dean of TAT  
Ujula 1A, 51008 Tartu, Estonia  
Email: [siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee](mailto:siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee)  
Web: [www.tat.news](http://www.tat.news)

Cell: +372-515-9127

**Pastor Bob Nordvall**  
TAT representative in US  
National Field Coordinator of EEMN  
Email: [pastorbob@eemn.org](mailto:pastorbob@eemn.org)

Cell: 701 391-0182