



HOME of HOPE

A Christian Outreach Center of ministries spreading the Gospel in ESTONIA, a country that suffered 50 years under aggressive atheistic propaganda, with outreach into surrounding countries including Russia.



Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.

Psalms 127:1

www.tatest.org

The vision of HOME of HOPE started to take shape in early spring of 2018 and **was launched with 100 dollars** under God's guidance in April of the same year. Six weeks later we had raised \$125,000 earnest money. **Sixteen months later we had raised \$557,255 and we took out a \$1,3 million loan for 5 years. September 19, 2019 the Christian**

college of Tartu Academy of Theology (TAT) became the occupants of a property of very good value. We have experienced tremendous blessing and December 2, 2019 HOME of HOPE was officially opened. This facility is a landmark for Estonian people testifying that God is alive.

We hope that all the damage caused by Soviet occupation throughout 50 years will be cleared up one day. People often lose their hope and they need encouragement. They need to see God's work among us today.



Pastor Siimon Haamer (dean of TAT) with keys in front of the HOME of HOPE after Tartu Academy of Theology gained ownership of the facility on September 19, 2019.

Story of God's Guidance Throughout the Century Background of HOME of HOPE

Siimon Haamer, 3rd generation Lutheran pastor

I'm sharing with you a story that is the background and reason of the HOME of HOPE project in Estonia.

My grandfather, Harri Haamer, was ordained in 1929 and the story of a pastors' dynasty began. Harri experienced hardships during his 58 years of service as a Lutheran pastor, because he suffered together with his nation under those difficulties Estonians were facing because of World War 2 and aggressive atheistic Soviet occupation that began in 1940. **During the first 10 years of occupation about 70% of Estonian Lutheran Church pastors were killed, imprisoned, deported to Siberia or escaped to western countries.**

My grandfather wasn't afraid to continue proclaiming the Word of God during Soviet occupation, although it was life threatening. He got his punishment. He was arrested in 1948 and was accused of organizing youth work at the church. He spent 8 years of his life in slave labor camps in Siberia but while

there he didn't stop being a pastor. He survived and returned and pastored 32 more years until he died in 1987.

I recently read my grandfather's diary. At the end of the 1950's, after he was back from Siberia, he wrote that it is so sad that young people are taken away from churches and there is no Christian education at school. He was writing to Soviet authorities and explaining why it's important to educate young people in the Christian mindset and was hoping that his concerns would get their attention. But of course, nobody listened to him and he just got in trouble and the KGB (Russian secret police) wasn't very friendly to him.

Going back to the end of the 1940's... after my grandfather was arrested, the rest of his family needed to escape from their home a year later, because Russian authorities wanted to deport them to Siberia as well. A result of this was that my father, along with his mother, had to hide 6 years in the forest, 4 years of that time living in an underground bunker. He was 13 years old at the onset of his journey of Golgotha.

My father Eenok got very ill in the bunker and was lying there weeks without seeing any daylight and receiving any medical care. He has told me that there was a moment when he felt himself being on the edge of life and death. God gifted him life and it is clear that this gift was given on purpose. Hardships in the bunker were preparations for

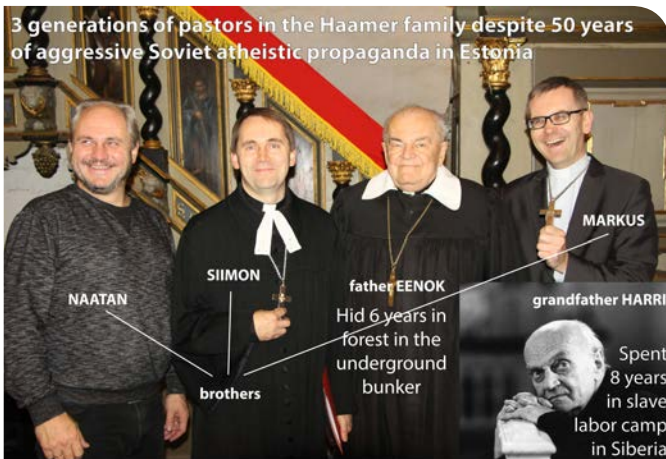
the future. **In 1964, my father Eenok became an ordained Lutheran pastor.**

Under pressure and persecution Christians need strong pioneers who know that if there is no opportunity for a better life...no future, no solution, no food, that there is always Jesus Christ our Savior who is very, very close. And then, one can joyfully sing praise songs—praising the Lord for those bitter thorns that wound. Eenok has been such a Christian leader for 56 years and today at 83 years old is still continuing to serve three congregations.

Eenok had the privilege of seeing Estonia regain its independence in 1991. Being independent again also meant that oppression toward Christians was finished. Since that time, we are able to speak and work freely without any fear but the problem is that during 50 years of aggressive atheistic propaganda continuity of our Christian identity was severed. Now we are trying to work hard to heal our country from this damage but there needs to be much effort for this to happen.

A large part of the work to be done is through the Christian college, Tartu Academy of Theology (TAT), established by my father in 1992 to train Christian leaders. Home of Hope is the result and the natural continuity of 27 years of the good, fruitful work of TAT.

A meaningful part of this story is that my two older brothers and myself are all Lutheran pastors as well. We chose to become pastors already while under Soviet occupation. We are carrying on this legacy that began about a hundred years ago. Our story continues and we are convinced that HOME of HOPE has a very important role in this continuing story.



3 generations of pastors in the Haamer family despite 50 years of aggressive Soviet atheistic propaganda in Estonia

NAATAN

SIIMON

brothers

father EENOK
Hid 6 years in
forest in the
underground
bunker

MARKUS
grandfather HARRI

Spent
8 years
in slave
labor camp
in Siberia

HOME of HOPE Ministry Snapshots

TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY (TAT)

Christian college TAT is the owner and main organization at HOME of HOPE. TAT is responsible for running the center and co-operating with organizations that will support the vision. In 2013 TAT entered into co-operation with the Estonian Lutheran Church Seminary. Now together, we pass along Bible-based teaching and have experienced growth in the student body. Together we train:

5 facts about Tartu Academy of Theology

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

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

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

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

- 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
- & offer many continuing education courses

80%

of ordained pastors of the Lutheran Church
are from the Seminary and TAT

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. We also welcome non-religious people. In Estonia people who are not affiliated with any church are often hesitant to attend events and studies that take place in the church. Since HOME of HOPE is not a church this opens a door for people to freely participate.



Big Classroom at Home of Hope on Sept. 6, 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

Radio staff is having their first coffee break in their new rooms. August 21, 2019. 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 Sept. 24, 2019.

VOCATIONAL BIBLE SCHOOL



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 of fear 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 outside of Church buildings that support people in their spiritual struggles. 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.



SPIRITUAL MENTORING CENTER



Spiritual Mentoring Center and pop-up office at Home of Hope on Sept. 24.

We recently conducted a year-long training course for spiritual mentors for Lutheran Church pastors. Today we are building up the mentoring system in the Estonian Lutheran Church. 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 putting 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.

SERVER ROOM FOR ESTONIAN BIBLE WEBSITE

At HOME of HOPE we will not only have a special server room for Christian Radio servers but also a server that hosts the Estonian Bible internet version. This will provide much more secure conditions for the server, as currently, it is located in the kitchen of one of TAT's alumni who is maintaining the Bible website.

YOUTH AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Union of Evangelical Students

Tartu University, Estonia's oldest and largest university (est. 1632) is located in Tartu, a city of 100,000 inhabitants and about 20,000 students. There are various student organizations including the Union of Evangelical Students which has an interdenominational approach. We hope to have good collaboration with them and we will open our rooms for their events.

Scout and Guide Troops

This autumn some scout and guide troops will start to use our space regularly for their meetings. In the 1990's, scouting was one of the youth ministries held in many congregations in Estonia but today scouting is less connected with churches. We want to introduce scouting again as one attracting opportunity for church youth work.

Youth Bible Camps

In co-operation with East European Missions Network and other Christians from the United States we have organized English Bible camps for adults since 2006. In August 2019 we had the first Bible camp for youth which was very fruitful. It seems that a Christian youth group may be forming from English Bible camp participants.



Bible Camp youth in Aug. 2019.

GUEST APARTMENT/DORM with 2 rooms and 4 beds

This space could be used **also as a regular apartment or additional office space.** Both rooms of the apartment have removable glass walls that can be easily removed to make the space more open.



HOME of HOPE FUNDRAISING PROGRESS

\$629,940

RAISED
01/28/2020

\$6,911 to go

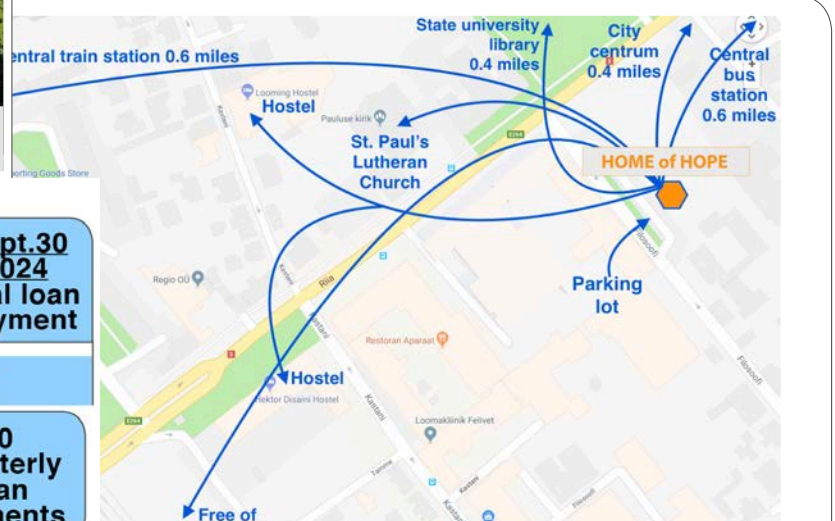
Dec. 31st goal
1st loan payment

\$1,399,235

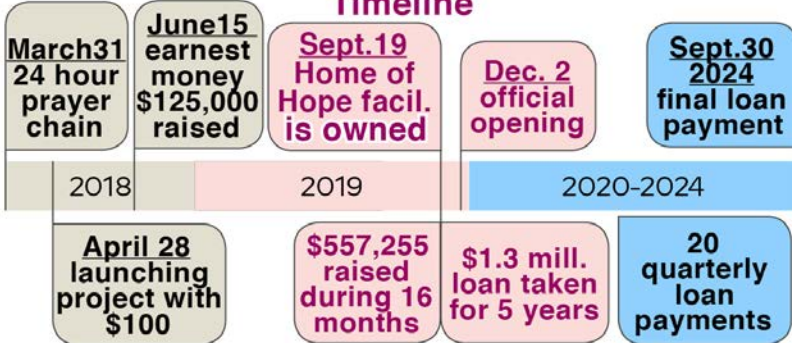
Total need
09/30/2024

Location

Unique environment with about 1500 people living in surrounding houses
www.riiakvartal.ee/galerii



Timeline



GIVING

CHECKS

Charity Lutheran Church (Tax deductible.)

120 Aspen Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58503, U.S.A.

Gifts for Home of Hope

Designate **"Home of Hope"**
in the memo portion.

Gifts for Tartu Academy of Theology

Designate **"TAT"**
in the memo portion.

ELECTRONICAL

To give electronically through

Charity Lutheran Church (Tax deductible.)

go to www.charitylutheran.org/give follow the steps and choose first **"Tartu Academy of Theology"** fund. Then you can choose also **"Home of Hope"** sub fund.

YOU CAN HELP!

- **Pray** God's blessing for our project.
- **Become our fundraising partner and share** information about our project and needs. HOME of HOPE Bulletin and all other materials are available on our website tatest.org/facility.html.
- **Donate** to the HOME of HOPE.

We do not have fundraising administration costs as all this work will be done voluntarily.

With any questions and ideas contact **dean of Tartu Academy of Theology pastor Siimon Haamer** and let him know.
email: siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee
cell & FaceTime: +372 5159127



Tartu Academy of Theology mission work funding

It is important to note that Tartu Academy of Theology is running HOME of HOPE center and needs support gifts from our donors to finance the mission work in the coming years.

It's challenging to maintain regular funding while we are in the middle of HOME of HOPE campaign but it's not possible to realize the vision of this outreach center without having funds for our everyday work.

PLEASE ALSO DONATE TO TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY IF YOU ARE ABLE!

**JOIN WITH US AND HELP CHANGE
THE FUTURE OF ONE NATION!**

www.tatest.org

www.facebook.com/simonvsgoliath

2019 TAT annual budget **\$236,471 USD**

\$221,069 USD
raised

January 28th, 2020

\$15,402 USD
to go

Pastor Siimon Haamer, Dean of TAT

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Web: www.tatest.org

Cell: +372-515-9127

Pastor Bob Nordvall

TAT representative in US

National Field Coordinator of East European Missions Network

Email: pastorbob@eemn.org

Cell: 701 391-0182

Design of the HOME of HOPE

Room setting at HOME of HOPE-- 4811 sq ft on the ground floor:

- B**ig classroom--36 seats
- S**mall classroom--12 seats
- B**ig & small classrooms merged--48 seats
- M**edium classroom--18 seats
- R**eadng room/small group class--8 seats
- C**hapel
- K**itchen
- M**ultipurpose main hall-club room (including reading room)
- T**AT's main office and dean's office
- M**ultipurpose pop-up office & spiritual mentoring center for pastors & lay leaders
- R**oom for pastoral care center
- C**hristian Radio office and 3 studios
- G**uest apartment/dorm & prospectively also office space
- S**torage & archive space on the main floor and in the basement
- 9** parking spaces in the underground parking lot
- S**erver room in the basement



How we run the HOME of HOPE

All organizations occupying the space we own will pay rent.

At least one week per month classrooms for trainings, seminars, conferences etc. will be rented out.

The guest apartment will be rented out.

Various organized events will bring additional income.

To manage the whole building all owners of condos (the remainder of the building is condos) will form a housing association to manage the building and deal with everyday tasks. Therefore, we don't need to deal with daily management questions by ourselves and don't need to hire an additional employee for that.

According to the business plan we are able to cover all regular costs of the facility and to **earn additionally \$25,000 USD profit per year**, which can then be used in financing the mission work.