

# TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY & HOME OF HOPE

## Launch of Tartu Academy of Theology

After 50 years of Soviet occupation, Estonia regained independence in 1991. Recognizing the need for Christian leadership in the newly free nation, Pastor Eenok Haamer founded Tartu Academy of Theology (TAT) in 1992 with financial support from American Lutheran pastors. **For over 30 years, TAT has trained hundreds of Christian leaders.** Today, Pastor Eenok's son, Pastor Siimon Haamer, continues his father's mission, ensuring that theological education remains strong.

However, we soon realized that theological education alone was not enough. Estonia is one of the most secular countries in the world, and we saw the urgent need to go beyond education and actively share the Gospel. We needed to create a space for practical ministry, outreach, and community engagement. This vision gave birth to Home of Hope.

## Establishing Home of Hope Christian Outreach Center

In 2018, we faced a defining moment—either shut down the ministry due to financial challenges or take a bold leap of faith. Our rented space was too small and deteriorating, and we lacked funds to expand. But we had something greater—a calling from God to do more for Estonia.

Trusting God, we stepped forward—just like Joshua at the Jordan (Joshua 3). Then, the impossible happened: in just six weeks, \$125,000 was raised to support our vision! With faith as our foundation, we made a down payment on a \$2.26 million dream, unsure how the rest would come.

And God provided. In December 2019, Home of Hope opened its doors—a continuation of TAT's mission and the Haamer family's commitment to Estonia's faith. Today, we see God's blessings beyond what we envisioned in 2018, and the ministry continues to grow.

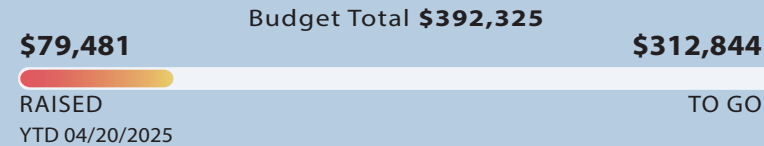
In one of the world's most secular countries, we must keep faith alive. **Home of Hope isn't just a building—it's a movement and a beacon of encouragement.**

We still need \$492,419 to pay off the mortgage and fully secure Home of Hope.

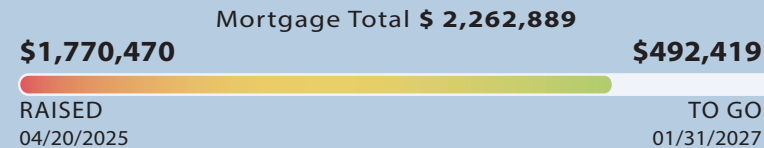
Stand with us. Pray. Give. Be part of God's miracle today!

**MAKE AN IMPACT!**  
SUPPORT OUR MISSION & HELP  
KEEP THE LEGACY ALIVE!

## TAT ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET 2025



## HOME OF HOPE MORTGAGE PAYOFF



## ONLINE

Go to [charitylutheran.org/givenow](https://charitylutheran.org/givenow)

Choose fund ▶ *Tartu Academy of Theology*  
and sub fund ▶ *Home of Hope*  
▶ *Tartu General*

## GIVING (Tax deductible)

## CHECKS

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

MEMO line: **TAT** or **HOME OF HOPE**

## CONTACT US

**Pastor Siimon Haamer**  
*President of TAT*

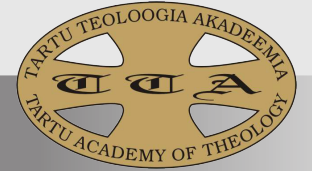
[siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee](mailto:siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee)

[facebook.com/simonvsgoliath](https://facebook.com/simonvsgoliath)

[youtube.com/@simonvsgoliath](https://youtube.com/@simonvsgoliath)



[tatest.org](https://tatest.org)



# TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY & *Home of Hope*



## OUR MISSION

Proclaim the Word of God in **ESTONIA**, the country that suffered under Soviet occupation for 50 years and is considered to be one of **the most secular countries in the world.**



**CHRISTIAN OUTREACH FOR  
GENERATIONS TO COME**

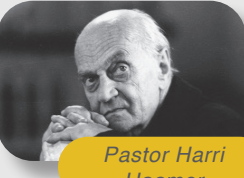
# A LEGACY OF FAITH

## The Haamer Family Story

### 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 pastors were killed, imprisoned, or forced to flee. **Before WW2, 98% of Estonians were Christians; today only around 12% are members of different Christian churches.** These broken connections must be restored.

We share with you a story of hope and trust—a testament to spiritual resistance, unwavering faith in God, and the sacrifices of one family over a century. It is also the story of the suffering endured by the Estonian people.



Pastor Harri Haamer

### Four Generations of Continuity

**1st generation:** **HARRI HAAMER** (1906-1987), a Lutheran pastor, was arrested in the late 1940s and imprisoned for eight years in a Siberian slave labor camp because of his faith.

**2nd generation:** **EENOK HAAMER** (1935-2025), served as a Lutheran pastor for 61 years until his passing on February 27, 2025. After WWII, he was forced to hide in the forest for six years, living in an underground bunker because he was the son of a pastor. Later, **he founded Tartu Academy of Theology**, ensuring that Christian education continued in Estonia.

**3rd generation:** **NAATAN, MARKUS & SIIMON HAAMER**, Eenok's sons, are all Lutheran pastors. Despite the Soviet regime's hostility toward Christianity, they chose to follow in their father's and grandfather's footsteps. **Siimon now leads Tartu Academy of Theology and Home of Hope**, carrying forward the family's vision and legacy.

**4th generation:** **MATTIAS HAAMER**, son of Markus, **joined Home of Hope's mission in 2020**, bringing fresh energy and new ideas. At 27 years old, he represents the next chapter of the Haamer family's commitment to Christ in Estonia.

More info and videos on the Haamer family: [tatest.org/videos](https://tatest.org/videos)



Pastor Eenok Haamer, his three sons Naatan, Markus & Siimon and grandson Mattias

# MINISTRIES of TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY & HOME OF HOPE

### BA & MA Degree Studies + Continuing Education

- ▶ 130 students in partnership with the Lutheran Church Seminary
- ▶ 43 graduates in the past 3 years
- ▶ Training pastors, chaplains, pastoral caregivers, church musicians, etc.
- ▶ 300 hours of continuing educ. courses annually in addition to BA & MA studies

### Pastoral Care Ministry

- ▶ Coordination center for Estonia's wide network of pastoral caregivers
- ▶ 455 individual counseling sessions in 2024
- ▶ Partnerships with the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs and local city government
- ▶ 24/7 Pastoral Care Helpline (2020-2022): **21,500 calls received**
- ▶ Multiple support groups, for example groups for grief, trauma survivors and the elderly

### Youth Ministry

- ▶ 120 participants in various events
- ▶ A meeting place for Christian youth organizations and activities
- ▶ Producing social media content - One Miut Bible Study series
- ▶ Annual Youth Bible Camp
- ▶ Annual young adults conference 'The Juggler'
- ▶ Worship Night every third Wednesday

### WHY OUR CHURCH is partnering with Estonia's mission

#### Pastor Wendy Poch, Aurora, CO

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



### Bible School

- ▶ 300 participants over five years
- ▶ On-site and online participation
- ▶ Multiple campuses join via live-stream
- ▶ On-demand Bible study streaming



### MAREK'S TESTIMONY

Alumnus of TAT, Coordinator of Bible School

I was born in 1976. It is said that the 70s were the most miserable period for the Church in Soviet-era Estonia. A large part of society had become estranged from the Church.

I grew up near a church, but its doors were rarely open. My parents saw no need to baptize their children. Only later did I learn that one of my grandmothers was praying for us, while the other taught me the Lord's Prayer. Even then, God was at work—He had not forgotten us.

In the early 1990s, much changed in Estonia. Suddenly, one could freely go to church and buy a Bible. One of my older brothers became a Christian and told me about Jesus. At first, I argued with him. But on my birthday in early 1995, we talked again. That night, he gave me a simple prayer—the sinner's prayer. Alone in my room, I read it. The next morning, I felt physically different, as if I had been made new inside. That summer, I told God I wanted to dedicate my life to the work of His kingdom.

That autumn, I began studying at the Tartu Academy, where I found my first Christian friends and a great spiritual mentor, Pastor Eenok Haamer. Just before Christmas in 1995, he baptized and confirmed me.

In 2003, I was ordained as a pastor in the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church. A few years earlier, I had married Pirjo, whom I met at TAT.

God's plans are greater than we can imagine.

### Christian Radio

- ▶ 1.5-2M sq mi broadcast area
- ▶ 24/7 proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- ▶ Broadcast to Estonia and Russia

### Other Ministries

- ▶ Men's ministry
- ▶ Women's ministry
- ▶ Prayer services in the Chapel
- ▶ Aid for Ukrainian refugees
- ▶ Moravian Church prayer services