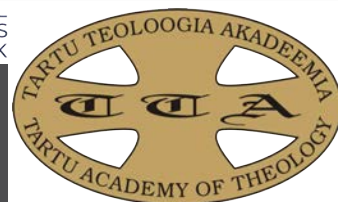


TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY & HOME OF HOPE

Mission Partner of the  &  SPIRITUAL ORPHANS NETWORK



tatest.org

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH IN ESTONIA FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

OUR MISSION

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



BECOME A PLANTER

HELP
LIFE

**CHANGING
STORIES**

TO CONTINUE 1 Cor. 3:7

tatest.org/story



Four Generations of Continuity

Pastor Siimon Haamer's 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 escaped from the country. **Before WW2 98% of Estonians were Christians; today only around 12% are members of different Christian churches.** These broken connections need to be tied together again.

I share with you a story of hope and trust. This is a story of spiritual resistance, complete trust in God, and the sacrifices of one family through a century. This is a story of the suffering of the Estonian people.

Three Generations of Pastors

My **GRANDFATHER, HARRI**, was a Lutheran pastor. At the end of the 1940s, he was arrested and imprisoned for eight years in a Siberian slave labor camp because he was a pastor.

My **FATHER, EENOK**, 89 years old, is *Father Eenok Haamer and his three sons Naatan, Markus & Siimon.*



servicing three Lutheran congregations. He was forced to hide for six years in the forest and lived in an underground bunker because he was the son of a pastor. Despite these hardships, he later became a pastor himself.

NAATAN and MARKUS, MY TWO OLDER BROTHERS, and I are pastors as well.

Fourth Generation

Now I'm looking to the future and I'm very glad that our family story is continuing. **MATTIAS, THE SON OF MY OLDER BROTHER**, joined our team in the fall of 2020 and is working with me as my assistant. He comes with fresh energy and new ideas. Mattias is 27 years old and is the fourth generation carrying on the legacy of our family.

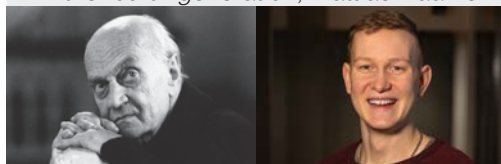
You may watch the videos about the story of four generations at tatest.org/videos.

Launch of Tartu Academy of Theology

Estonia regained independence in 1991. In 1992, my father, Eenok, established the Christian college, Tartu Academy of Theology (TAT), with the financial support of a group of American Lutheran pastors.

During the last 30 years, TAT has trained hundreds of Christian leaders for Estonia.

Grandfather Pastor Harri Haamer and the fourth generation, Mattias Haamer.



For 15 years I *President of TAT* worked side-by-side with my father. Ten years ago, I took over the leadership of TAT.

Home of Hope Christian Outreach Center

Six years ago I was under big pressure because the rental facilities of TAT were in very poor condition and didn't meet our needs at all. We had to decide whether to end our work or take a giant leap of faith.

Trusting the Lord and following His guidance, the vision of Home of Hope was created. In the spring of 2018, \$125,000 was raised within six weeks. As this miracle happened, we had to trust. We made a downpayment and trusted the Lord. I invested myself totally and undertook this project of more than 2 million dollars.

We have to believe there is a different future for the Estonian people, and we need to keep faith alive. We need this unique outreach center to answer God's calling.

God made this project a reality. In December of 2019, Home of Hope was dedicated to the Lord. We have been richly blessed and God has done amazing things, as you will see on the following pages.

We still need 0.7 M to pay off the mortgage and sustain the Home of Hope.

Our goal is to continue for GENERATIONS TO COME. **Please come along and support us with your prayers and financial gifts.**

PASTOR SIIMON'S EMAIL
siimon.haamer@teologia.ee

MINISTRIES of TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY & HOME OF HOPE

Bible School

Agne's STORY

Bible School student

In the autumn of 2020, I joined the Bible School. I was baptized and confirmed about 25 years ago, but **after my confirmation, I didn't have any connection with the church anymore.** At the time I was the only one in my family who was baptized and confirmed.

At the very beginning of our Bible School, Pastor Eenok Haamer, gave lessons. Eenok's message was so inspiring for me and because of that, I decided to visit



Eenok's church in Mustvee. Since then I was there almost every Sunday, and I took along my niece, husband, my sister with her children, my mother, and friends.

As a result of my inspiration and desire to

- ▶ Launched in September 2020
- ▶ Approx. 300 participants over five years
- ▶ On-site and online participation
- ▶ Classes are held Every Monday evening
- ▶ Several campuses gather to watch live-streaming every Monday evening
- ▶ On-demand Bible study streaming

get to know more about Jesus, in the middle of August 2021, in Eenok's church, **eight adults were baptized and confirmed and five children were baptized.**

The same autumn my mother became a student of Home of Hope's Bible School.

Christian Youth Work

Elise Nora's STORY

Team Member of Worship Night

My journey with God started as a young adult. I was raised in a non-Christian but spiritually curious environment. **Up until 21 years of my life, I had been inside a church only a few times for concerts, weddings, or funerals.** But I had seen my mother practice meditating, reiki, yoga etc. I was quite critical and defiant.

All through high school, I kept my alignment with spirituality and when I started university to study dance this mindset got even more flexed. And then my stepfather passed away. The question of the afterlife entered my mind.

Soon after I met a guy. I fell in love. To my



surprise, I learned that he's a Christian. Difficult times in my relationship showed me how unimaginable forgiveness is possible with God. We were blessed with a child. We got married. We gave our vows. But already half a year after the wedding I was facing divorce. I now believe that in our troubles we failed to turn to God. The time of divorce happened to be when I was attending the

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

Youth Bible and Mission Course. That was a crucial factor in staying with God.

Today I'm a team member of the Worship Night that takes place in Home of Hope. Our goal is to bring together young adults to hear the Word and sing in the Spirit.

Now I also lead the youth work in St. Paul's Church of Tartu. This is the work that God had carved out for me.

Pastoral Care Center

Raili's STORY

Coordinator of Pastoral Care Center

I am doing this work because in my life I have also felt a great need for spiritual help. **I spent 3 years at the hospital after the premature birth** with my second child because she weighed 1.3 pounds and had many health problems.

After the birth, Pastor Naatan Haamer, who was a Pastoral Caregiver in the hospital, came to me. He was the first person to take the time to be there for me. This conversation gave me peace and courage. Naatan's promise that I can turn to him later still carries me.



Since I received support and strength from Pastor Naatan, I also wanted to become a person who can give hope and courage to others.

I felt that there was certainly something more that I needed to learn. I realized that Pastor Naatan wasn't actually alone when he met me in the hospital. Later,

- ▶ 24/7 Pastoral Care Helpline throughout 2020-2022; financed by the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs
- ▶ 21,500 calls received to the helpline
- ▶ Coordination center for Estonia's wide network of pastoral caregivers
- ▶ Partnering with local city government
- ▶ Pastoral caregivers' walking sessions during the Covid pandemic

when I began studying at the TAT myself, I gained an understanding of the bigger picture. As a Christian, I'm a tool in God's hand. **While I want to do my best, I can trust that God will take care of the rest.** The source of the courage and hope is our Lord. Now I'm sharing this with others.

WHY OUR CHURCH is partnering with Estonia 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.



youtube.com/@simonvsgoliath

Follow stories on tatest.org/story

facebook.com/simonvsgoliath

MINISTRIES of TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY & HOME OF HOPE

Bachelor & Master Degree Studies + Continuing Education

Marek's STORY

Alumnus of TAT, Coordinator of Bible School

I was born in 1976. It is said that the 70s were the most miserable period of the Soviet time in the Estonian Lutheran Church. A large part of the society was estranged from the church.

I lived near the church building, but it was closed most of the time. My parents did not consider it necessary to baptize their children. It was only later that I learned that one of my grandmothers was praying for us. Another grandmother taught me the Lord's Prayer. **God worked and He had not forgotten us.**

In the early 1990s, a lot changed in Estonia. Suddenly one could go freely to



the church and buy a Bible. One of my older brothers became a Christian and told me about Jesus. At first, I argued with him. At the beginning of 1995, on the evening of my birthday, I again talked with my brother and he gave me one prayer text – a sinner's prayer to God. I read it alone in my room. When I woke up in the morning, I even felt physically that I had become internally new. That same summer, **I told God I wanted to dedicate my life to the**

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

work of His kingdom. In the autumn, I started studying at the TAT. From there I found my first Christian friends and also a great spiritual example, Eenok Haamer. He baptized and confirmed me in Mustvee just before Christmas 1995.

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

Christian Radio–Family Radio

Paavo's STORY

My own religious path began in parallel with the birth of Family Radio in Estonia. Like most children of the Soviet era, I did not come from a Christian family.

This is not to say that my parents were atheists, but rather cautious. My wife and I worked in national radio in the 80s without imagining that we would be able to do the same work in Christian broadcasting in the future.

God had his own plans and He put it in the hearts of people on the other side of the globe to start a Christian radio program in Estonia.

In 1995, I gave my life to God in holy



baptism, left behind my former life and materially well-paying job as a music producer, and followed the persistent voice that had begun to speak in my heart.

With the support of God's great grace, over the course of 30 years, a large-scale radio missionary work has grown from one studio, transmitter, and antenna in the

- ▶ 1.5-2M sq mi broadcast area
- ▶ 24/7 proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- ▶ Broadcast to Estonia and Russia
- ▶ 3% of Estonian population are daily listeners
- ▶ Every Sunday there are 6 services from various churches on the air
- ▶ 29 years of sharing God's Word

church tower. Now the output is 3 full-time radio programs—one in Estonian and 2 in Russian and a signal covering a very large territory in Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine.

Today the Lord has called me to a clerical position. The Lord gives encouragement to cope with all these tasks—My yoke is easy and my burden is light (Matt. 11:30).

Helping Ukraine Refugees

Natalya's STORY

I lived with my family in Mykolaiv Oblast, Ukraine. I used to be a manager of the cultural center.

When the war started my husband sent me and our two daughters (4 and 6 years old) away from the war. It was at the very beginning of April of 2022. He stayed and unfortunately was killed by a missile strike on April 5, 2022, while helping people to shelter. I have tried to find ways to earn a living. I completed a baker's training course to get a professional certificate and the right to work in this profession.



I dream of starting my own small business to make baked goods.

She is one example of a Ukrainian war refugee whom we have supported with the money that our U.S. donors have designated for Ukraine refugees. For example, we bought a Kitchen Aid stand mixer helping Natalya to start her own business.

- ▶ 16 families receiving support to reduce their monthly expense
- ▶ Supporting daycare for Ukraine refugees
- ▶ Encouraging refugees to find jobs and rebuild their lives
- ▶ Offering pastoral care for refugees

Now my younger daughter attends an Estonian kindergarten and my older child goes to the local Russian speaking school.

I'm very thankful for all the support we have received.

WHY I'M supporting Estonia mission

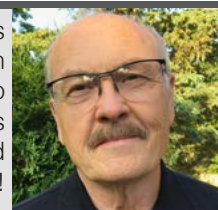
Pastor David Gran, Garfield, MN

I began to support the mission in Estonia when I learned of the passion the Haamer family had for the Gospel, specifically the vision Pr.

Eenok had for a place to provide pastoral training and care. I felt a great need to share the resources I have to support that ministry.

In Isaiah 6:8, Isaiah said to the Lord,

"Here I am, send me." Not all of us are physically able go into a foreign mission field, but we can respond to God's call by supporting our brothers and sisters with our love, prayers, and financial support—for me it's Estonia!



NOW THERE IS A LAST OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT & COMPLETE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HOME OF HOPE

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

\$1.5 MILLION IS PAID.

\$0.7 MILLION still needs to be paid.

NOVEMBER 15, 2024 is the due date of the mortgage.

\$36,020 of MATCHING FUNDS are available now.
Every donation will be **DOUBLED!**

\$100,000 CHALLENGE GIFT was given to encourage others to give.

The lender is the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church. Our mortgage payments go back to the fund that finances the building of new churches.

The money paid as interest will be used to:

- ▶ publish a new church hymnal;
- ▶ support the church's youth work.

Home of Hope is not just a building. It is a great platform for mission work in Estonia and according to the feedback as a bright spark of hope to the Christian community in Estonia.

| OUR ANNUAL BUDGET INCOME PLAN | 2010 | 2025 | 2035 |
|---|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| We share what plans we have for financing our daily activities in the future. This table gives a simple overview of where we come from and what is our plan for the future. | Tuition fees 7% | Home of Hope rental income 12% | Home of Hope rental income 12% |
| | Grants 3% | Tuition and participation fees 18% | Tuition and participation fees 23% |
| | Gifts from US 85% | Grants 15% | Grants 20% |
| | Gifts from Europe 3% | Gifts from US 40% | Gifts from US 15% |
| | Other resources 2% | Gifts from Europe 3% | Gifts from Europe 5% |
| | | Gifts from Estonia 7% | Gifts from Estonia 10% |
| | | Other resources 5% | TAT Endowment Fund 10% |
| | | | Other resources 5% |

GIVING (Tax deductible)

ONLINE


Go to charitylutheran.org/givenow

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

CHECKS

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

Charity Lutheran has been our mission partner for 18 years.

| | |
|--|------------|
|  | DATE _____ |
| PAY TO THE ORDER OF CHARITY LUTHERAN CHURCH \$ _____ | |
| DOLLARS | |
| MEMO HOME OF HOPE or TAT | |

HOME of HOPE Mortgage Payoff

Mortgage Total \$2,222,889

\$1,644,087

\$578,802

RAISED

11/15/2024

TO GO

Designation: HOME OF HOPE

TAT & Home of Hope Annual Operating Budget 2024

Budget Total \$355,629

\$284,014

\$71,615

RAISED YTD 11/15/2024

TO GO

Designation: TAT

Will you **PRAY FOR US?**

Will you **CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION?**

Will you **CONSIDER GIVING A MAJOR GIFT?**

Your gift will make an eternal difference for whole nation.

SEND AN EMAIL IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS siimon.haamer@teoologia.ee

tatest.org