

Christian Outreach in Estonia for **GENERATIONS TO COME**

TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY & HOME OF HOPE



*Unless the Lord builds
the house, the builders
labor in vain.
Psalm 127:1*



tatest.org

PARTNERING WITH
 SPIRITUAL
ORPHANS
NETWORK
formerly EEMN
SONetwork.org

Three generations of Lutheran pastors. Brothers Markus, Naatan and Siimon and their father Eenok Haamer. Grandfather Harri Haamer in a small photo.

**PLEASE HELP US TO RAISE THE LAST 50% OF BUILDING COSTS
FOR HOME OF HOPE, OUR CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER.**

Four Generations of Continuity

Although **Estonia was occupied for 50 years after WW II by the aggressive, atheistic Soviet Union**, we have deep roots of Christian identity. **Tartu Academy of Theology (TAT) was established in 1992** with financial support of a group of American Lutheran pastors but there is a much longer history behind the scene. This is one family's story of challenges, sacrifices and God's blessing throughout a century. The story also includes the suffering of one nation.

Three generations of Lutheran pastors have been raised up from my family. My grandfather, Harri Haamer, was a Lutheran pastor. He lived through an 8-year experience in a Siberian labor camp because of being a pastor. My father, Eenok, at 86 years old, is still serving three Lutheran congregations. He was forced to hide for almost 6 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 too. My two older brothers and myself are pastors as well.

Estonia regained independence in 1991, and Eenok, a year later, established the Christian college, Tartu Academy of Theology. During these 30 years, we have trained hundreds of Christian leaders for Estonia. For 27 years we didn't have a permanent home and we worked in very

limited rental spaces.

I worked 15 years side-by-side with my father until 8 years ago he turned leadership of TAT over to me. A couple of years ago I was under strong pressure because the rental facilities of TAT were very poor and didn't at all meet our needs. We had a decision to make: whether to vanish slowly and finish our activities or to take a great 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 dollars was raised in six weeks.** So, we had the down payment money and we needed to decide whether to begin this 2 million dollar project. Trusting the Lord, I invested myself totally. That means if this project fails, I am forced to sacrifice everything I own.

God has made this project a reality. Home of Hope was dedicated in December of 2019 and since then we have experienced great blessing and have achieved amazing results despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The results are presented on the following pages.

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 fall of 2020 and is working with me as my assistant. He comes with a great amount of energy and new ideas.

Mattias is 24 years old and is the fourth generation carrying on the legacy of our family. I'm glad he is a very devoted Christian and that Christian youth work is his passion.

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

We are not making short term plans. Our goal is to proclaim the Word of God in Estonia, which is claimed to be one of the most secular countries in the world, for generations to come.

Pastor Siimon Haamer
President of Tartu Academy of Theology



Eenok (second generation), Siimon (third gen.) and Mattias Haamer (fourth gen.).

CONNECT WITH US...

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ACTIVITIES OF TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY & HOME OF HOPE

Bible School

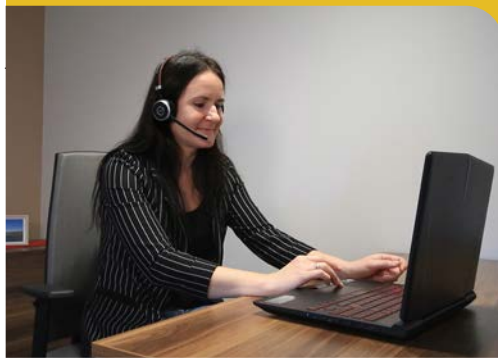
In September of 2020 we launched Home of Hope Bible School. Interest toward this was unbelievable. We were hoping to have 20 participants but we had **110 people attending**. We were able to establish campuses and we had three partner congregations where people gathered to watch live-streaming of Bible study every Monday evening.

Now we have started third year and during these free years we have had almost **200 students**. We are so grateful to God for this great blessing.

We are well prepared to offer also online participation and quite many participants are using that opportunity. All lessons will be video recorded and if students aren't able to attend every Monday they'll have an opportunity to watch recording afterwards.



Interest towards Bible study encourages us to be very devoted in finding more ways to reach out to Estonians.



24/7 Pastoral Care Telephone Line

The Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs decided to finance and launch a 24/7 pastoral care telephone line, back in June 2020. Tartu Academy was asked to initiate and run this operation until spring of 2022.

The helpline was very actively used and exceeded expectations of the Ministry of Social Affairs. We received **21 500 calls** during 20 months. 40% of the calls were

about anxiety and loneliness. 10% were calls from suicidal people. We were their last option.

Since April of 2022 Ministry of Social Affairs continued to operate this helpline itself and hired our alumnus. We are happy this work is continuing. We had again an opportunity to build up something new and ensure its continuity.

Youth Work

It has been our dream that Tartu Academy of Theology could offer activities for youth. The first 27 years we worked with very limited space and did not have enough human resources to organize youth work. But Home of Hope has basically changed everything. With this crucial step we have stepped into what looks like a different world. Now people in Tartu know where we are located as we are almost downtown and next to the main street of Tartu with a big lit-up sign announcing our presence.

In today's world young people are looking for a welcoming and attractive environment. Home of Hope definitely offers that.

In September of 2020, we began offering regular youth events and today we have total about **80 participants** in the various events. For most, this is the only opportunity to be part of Christian youth work because they don't have youth groups at their local churches. Around 10% of the participants are not yet connected with a church.



We are planning to develop also youth work in social media.

Youth Bible Camp

It's organised in cooperation with Spiritual Orphans Network short-term missionaries from US in June or August of every year.

Target group is secondary and high school students.

A Youth Evening

Held every last Sunday of the month with prayer, singing, discussion and introduction of a different topic.

Target group is secondary and high school students.

A Social Evening with Board Games

Held every second Sunday of the month with board games and snacks.

Target group is primarily secondary and high school students but might also include college students. Purpose of the event is also to establish a contact with non-christians by inviting them to hang with us.

The 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.

This Union has their meetings every Wednesday at Home of Hope.

Worship Night

Held every third Wednesday with live music, testimonies, prayer, fellowship and snacks.

Target group is college students and young adults.

Scout Troops

Some Scout troops are gathering regularly at Home of Hope for their meetings.

Bachelor and Master Degree Studies

12 students graduated in June 2022. Five of them from the bachelor program and seven from the master program. Some of them are already working in their chosen specialty:

***two** are already assistant pastors and continuing their studies in order to become a pastor in the Lutheran Church;

***four** are pastoral care givers and chaplains in hospitals.

One major task of TAT is to train pastors, chaplains, pastoral care givers, Christian youth workers, etc. Together with Lutheran Seminary currently we have **132 students**. In August of 2022 we admitted **20 new students**: 15 bachelor and 5 master students.



Pastoral Care Center

Based on the enthusiasm of students and alumni of Tartu Academy we launched the Pastoral Care Center in the autumn of 2020. 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 and that's why we need places that support people in their spiritual struggles outside of Church buildings. The Pastoral Care Center is able to offer that opportunity and, at the same time, **provides a coordination center for Estonia's wide network of pastoral care givers**.

Because of the pandemic and the restrictions limiting indoor meetings, we also offered **pastoral care giver walking sessions around the city**.

In 2021 since June and until end of the year we provided in many places all over Estonia **pastoral care for people who are receiving home care nursing service**. Nurses don't have enough time to talk with them but these people are very lonely, especially because of COVID. Financing for this pilot project was from the Ministry of Social Affairs.



Continuing Education Opportunities

Home of Hope has great potential for hosting seminars, trainings and conferences with video conferencing and recording capabilities. Because of COVID-19 we have not been able to work in full mode. Nevertheless about **600 people** have been visited our facility to attend various seminars and conferences. Based on feedback of visitors, Home of Hope is the coziest conference center in the city!

Christian Radio

The Christian radio studio and office is located at Home of Hope. The broadcast area is **1.5-2 million** square miles. The mission of the radio is to broadcast life-changing radio programs proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout Estonia, Eastern

Europe and portions of Russia. Every Sunday there are six 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.



Spiritual Mentoring

Home of Hope rooms are multipurpose and there is always a possibility to find a place to meet. We are hosting pastors group meetings and also private mentoring sessions.

Guest Apartment

In the apartment we have two rooms and sleeping space for 4 people. This is in use as a dorm for students and rental apartment for Tartu visitors which gives us good additional income.

Since middle of March we are hosting there **refugees from Ukraine**. First there was on family until August (in the picture). Since September is there one woman with her old mother.

If needed this apartment could be also used as an office space.



Server Room

In the basement we have a special server room where are located Christian radio servers and also server of the Estonian Bible internet version. This room provides much more secure conditions for the server, as previously, it was located in the kitchen of the TAT alumni who maintains the Bible website.



Chapel



HOME of HOPE Rental Income

Home of Hope income from rent was during 2021 **\$41,000 USD.** We are very satisfied with this result, especially because most of the year we were under COVID-19 restrictions. In the future we will have better opportunities and we are expecting to have an annual rental income of **\$50,000 USD.**

The heart of Home of Hope is a chapel where are held daily prayer services. Chapel is regularly used also by Moravian Church for their meetings.

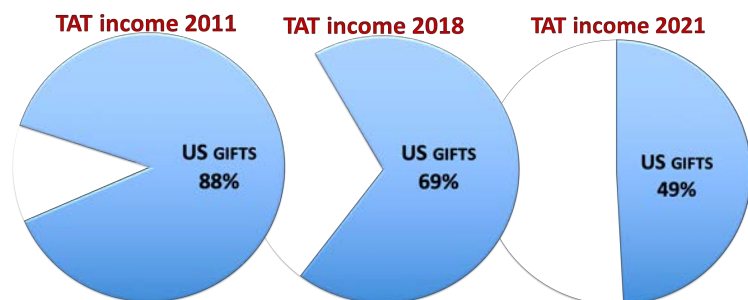
WE ARE IN NEED OF YOUR HELP!

Over the years we have worked hard to diversify our income resources in order to not be so dependant on US giving (see graphs below).

However, we need a lot of prayer support and financial help to make the Home of Hope mortgage payments.

You will read in this bulletin that Home of Hope has given us so many new opportunities to do our mission work and to serve people. **This isn't just a facility, it's a powerful tool that helps us to proclaim the word of God in Estonia and even beyond.**

We aren't asking you to only invest your resources in bricks and mortar but in the future of one nation where Christian identity was broken.



PLEASE HELP US TO RAISE THE LAST 50% OF BUILDING COSTS FOR HOME OF HOPE.

GIVING

all giving options are **Tax deductible**

CHECKS

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

Spiritual Orphans Network
8210 Louisiana Blvd., NE - Suite B
Albuquerque, NM 87113, U.S.A.

ELECTRONICAL

Go to charitylutheran.org/givenow

- Choose fund "Tartu Academy of Theology" and sub fund
- "Tartu General" to support annual operating budget or
- "Home of Hope" to donate mortgage payments.

Go to sonetwork.org/give

- Choose fund "Tartu Academy of Theology, Estonia" to support annual operating budget or
- Choose fund "Home of Hope, Estonia" to donate mortgage payments.

TAT/Home of Hope Annual Operating Budget 2022



Make checks payable to Charity Lutheran or SONetwork and mark **designation "TAT"**.

HOME of HOPE Mortgage Progress



Make checks payable to Charity Lutheran or SONetwork and mark **designation "Home of Hope"**.

tatest.org/give