

TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY & HOME OF HOPE

tatest.org

Newsletter, April 2022



Refugees from Ukraine at Home of Hope's apartment. From left: Tatjana, Ljuba, Natalja, Adelina, Jana, Oleksandr and Arina.

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 **SPIRITUAL ORPHANS NETWORK**
formerly EEMN
SONetwork.org

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
Psalm 9:9

Helping Ukraine Refugees

We are very thankful to all of you for your generous donations and willingness to help Ukraine refugees. In one month, we have received \$41,000 in designated donations. In Estonia we already have close to 30,000 Ukraine refugees.

I'm sharing how we have used your designated donation.

First of all I want to point out that this crisis might last quite a long time and our goal is to use those funds wisely, looking ahead at least for a one year period. We are thankful for your continuing help because need for help is huge and I will be implementing ways how to share this donation directly to the people who are in need.

Since March 16 we have hosted seven people at Home of Hope's small 430 sq ft apartment. Before receiving them we replaced some furniture and bought a TV, washing machine, bedding etc. Our guests are mother (Jana) and father (Oleksandr) with two children (Adeline 3 months and Arina 6 years) and three sisters (Tatjana, Ljuba and Natalja) of Oleksandr's. All are in the picture above. They escaped in the very beginning of the war as they live in Sarny which is close to the Belorussian border and military base is located at their town.

Seven people was still too many for our

small flat and I helped find separate place for the three sisters. On April 2 they moved into another apartment. The good news is that the sisters already have a janitor job at a local hotel.

One interesting fact is that these sisters have 12 brothers and sisters in their family and most of them are currently in Tartu. Their two older sisters also have big families (6 and 5 children) and I have tried to help them find housing. As refugees arrive, the Estonian government hosts them for one month in hotels but in the long run this isn't the most comfortable place for living. It's not easy to find a suitable apartment or house for such a big family and I haven't yet been successful. I was successful, though, in finding kindergarten for 6-year-old Arina. It was very special to see her happy eyes when I said that I'll try to find a kindergarten for her.

Advanced plans.

Because we have received more donations than we need for this family who is staying with us, I started co-operating with the Estonia Lutheran Church congregations in order to help them to host refugees. It means I'll create a network of people and congregations hosting refugees. Creating a good system takes some time, but soon I will be able to share with you more information about people who have been helped by you.

At the same time, our pastoral care givers are working in refugee centers. They have done this job on a volunteer basis but as time goes on I'll start compensating them this work because in the long run they also need support. Also we need to offer pastoral care for Estonian people as anxiety is very high in our society.

We very much understand Ukraine people. They are victims of Putin's dream to restore Russia with the same territory as it was during the time of the Soviet Union. Russia is threat to us as well and today it is our duty to help Ukraine people as much as we can because they truly fight for our freedom too.

At this critical time, I call you to pray continually for Ukraine and also for the Baltic region, that freedom once earned wouldn't be taken away again!

God bless you,
Pastor Siimon Haamer
President of TAT



If you would like to give your support for Ukraine refugees

and to all additional activities that we are running in this extreme situation, you can use options below.

CHECKS

Charity Lutheran Church
120 Aspen Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58503, U.S.A.
Designation "TAT Ukraine"

ELECTRONICAL

Go to www.charitylutheran.org/givenow and follow the steps. Choose from the "Fund" dropdown list "Tartu Academy of Theology" and then choose the sub fund "Ukraine".

We are very thankful if you'll keep in mind our other needs as well. In order to help Ukraine people we need to keep Home of Hope running.

More giving options are available at tatest.org/give.

“THE JUGGLER” – YOUNG ADULTS CONFERENCE

Mattias Haamer, Head of the Organizing Team



In the middle of March, Home of Hope hosted a two-day conference for young Christian adults **with 70 participants**. Looking back, I can say that it fulfilled its

purpose, and we are happy with the outcome. We gave attention to creating a good atmosphere. In the evening we had a silent disco and a board game night. A Christian band performed between speakers. The Union of Evangelical Students baked delicious cakes in Home of Hope’s kitchen and hosted a café, etc.

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The conference was called “The Juggler.” We looked at topics that can help attendees in everyday life planning, so that their actions don’t produce excessive stress. Then they can serve God for a long time without burnout.

We talked about what success means to us as Christians, how we can be entrepreneurial in serving God, how to use our talents, what to think about and how to use money, what it means to burn out, how to avoid it and how to help when someone close to us is burnt out. We also

talked about what we should think about the New Age movement as Christians and what importance do different relationships mean to us. All the topics were taught by experts in their field. It was encouraging that all of the speakers felt it important to be part of this kind of conference. We truly had great speakers, including the Archbishop of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The feedback from the participants has only been positive. Their expectations were satisfied. **They promised to come back next**

year with friends.

Finance-wise, we did not meet our budget. After making cuts we were still left with a small shortfall. The major income source was the sale of tickets. We are so grateful for the donations and support we received. It helped us to organize this year’s conference and gives us confidence to continue in this direction.

Our core team is positively fueled and we hope to organize a young adult Christian’s conference next year as well, if God allows.



Organizing team: Madis, Linda, Mattias, Anna Katariina.

Some feedback from the conference participants



MARTA

I really liked the conference! It was comprehensive and I liked that there were so many different speakers. In today’s society, where it feels that you have to be able and want to do everything, the topic was bullseye.



PAUL EERIK

The conference was cool. Very actual topics and super speakers! Well executed event.



Conference hall with participants and speaker.



Silent disco.



Café with local delicacy and board game table.

CONNECT WITH US...

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