

# TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY & HOME OF HOPE



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

Newsletter, September 2024



Short term missionaries from the US helped conduct a Bible Camp with 30 participants at Home of Hope in August. From left: Sara Gmitro, Ann Auten, Sandy Miller, Bob Nordvall and Donavon Hatzenbuhler.

Partnering with



*So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.*

**1 Corinthians 3:7**

## IT'S TIME!!!

We are so grateful to all our donors. **\$1,507,835 has already been paid** for the establishment of Home of Hope. Less than one-third of the total money, **\$715,055, still needs to be paid.**

**November 15, 2024, the deadline** for the mortgage, is very close. **Now, we really need help** to completely pay off the loan for Home of Hope. A **\$58,000 match gift** in July and a **\$100,000 challenge gift** in August have been very encouraging to us and hopefully to all others as well.

This is all doable under the guidance of God and with your help.

Let's go on prayerfully and trusting God!

## WE DO NOT WANT TO LIMIT GOD

In June the accountant of Tartu Academy, as well as the auditor who regularly audits our accounts, said that I needed to ask ASAP for an extension on the mortgage. They reluctantly agreed that I would do it at the end of September.

Ever since I have had a bad feeling about doing this. The mortgage deadline of November 15, 2024, has been prayerfully set. Many people have prayed a lot over the last years and God knows the deadline. I feel that we must not limit God and start negotiating an extension of the deadline before it arrives.

In order not to interfere with God's plans, I contacted the archbishop of the Estonian Lutheran Church. I asked church leadership to trust God together with us and not to open negotiations about the mortgage before the loan payment deadline has arrived.

They agreed with me and are ready to participate in this journey of faith. Our belief is that we will not need to negotiate about the loan at all.

*Pastor Siimon Haamer*

## \$100,000 CHALLENGE GIFT

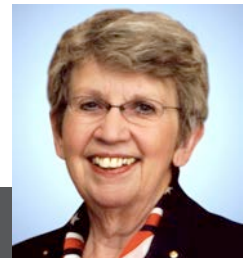
My donation of \$100,000 is a challenge gift. I challenge all of you who are aware of Tartu Academy of Theology and Home of Hope. This gift is my encouragement to all of you that TAT has loyal and faithful supporters who are convinced of the importance of their mission work. I have followed their work for almost 20 years and have been blessed by their courage of faith.

Following the example of the Haamer family, I decided to trust God and challenged myself. **With my gift I can hopefully make an eternal difference for one nation. How many such opportunities will we have in our lives?**

Home of Hope is not just a building. It's a platform that brings mission-minded people together and empowers them to preach the Word of God using various channels, platforms, activities, and locations.

**Please accept this challenge and help complete the establishment of Home of Hope**, which has already become one of the most important mission centers in Estonia. Unfortunately, this country is considered to be one of the most secular countries in the whole world.

*Gen Olson  
Minnesota State  
Senator - 1983-2012*



## Our Current Financial Situation

[tatest.org/give](http://tatest.org/give)

### HOME of HOPE Mortgage Payoff

Mortgage Total \$2,222,889

**\$1,512,615**

**\$710,274**

**RAISED**

09/20/2024

**TO GO**

11/15/2024

**\$36,020 of MATCHING FUNDS are available**

### TAT & Home of Hope Annual Operating Budget 2024

Budget Total \$355,629

**\$213,973**

**\$141,656**

**RAISED YTD 09/20/2024**

**TO GO**

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

# YOUNGEST ESTONIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD MEMBER EVER

I, Mattias Haamer, at the end of April, became the youngest board member ever to serve with the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (EELC). I'm responsible for overseeing the children and youth works for the EELC. The work is mostly volunteer and I, of course, continue my full-time work at TAT and Home of Hope.

## Why was I chosen?

This has been the result of God's overflowing blessings and guidance. One blessing is definitely the family I have had a privilege to be born into (Deut 7:9). The prayers my parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents prayed for me provide a strong foundation for my life.

During my early teenage years, I was blessed with trust from my parents and congregation which allowed me to do Christian youth work.

I believe I have the honor to serve on this board in particular because of one blessing – it's the work at Home of Hope. God answered my prayer and gave me a job in a Christian organization that I could devote

myself fully to leading people to God.

## Problems in youth work in Estonia

EELC's children and youth work is in dire straits. My understanding is that to heal a wound, first the bleeding must be stopped. In other words, before trying to find new people, we must first figure out how to keep the ones who are there and are ready to serve.

Youth work is usually done by the youth themselves who volunteer. It is crucial to understand that they might not have all the necessary knowledge, experience, motivation, or inner calling. Therefore, young people, when they take on responsibility to serve, need attention and guidance. In the EELC this support has not always been available.

## Going forward

I believe that when Estonians look at Home of Hope and see the work being done there, they find hope that it is possible to do youth work here in Estonia and in Lutheran churches. The archbishop has expressed his wish to include more young people in



*The moment when the bishops blessed Mattias as a member of the church board.*

discussions about church work, helping find ways to address new generations and allowing young people to help shape the work and take responsibility.

I see that it's all doable and in God's hands all things really are possible (Mark 10:27). Now, with God's blessing, it's my role to oversee and lead the processes. The first step will be building a supportive structure for the youth workers.

*Mattias Haamer  
Assistant to The President of TAT*

# GRADUATION IN JUNE & ADMISSION IN AUGUST

## Graduation

On June 26, we celebrated graduation of students. Since 2013 we have been conducting the bachelor's and master's studies together with Lutheran Church Seminary.

**12 students graduated** from our joint college; seven bachelor and three master students. Two also graduated from the Church Musician program. Some of the alumni intend to enroll in a master's program in the fall, two are continuing their studies in order to become Lutheran pastors and two are looking for pastoral caregiver positions. The church musicians already work as organists in churches.



*New students in autumn of 2024.*

## Admission

At the end of August, **we admitted 24 new students**: 12 for the bachelor's and 12 for the master's programs. We now have a total of 127 students.

We invite you to pray for both students and faculty, that faithful workers for the Kingdom of God may be raised up.

# Become Our Ambassador – ESTONIA DINNER

In order to complete the establishment of Home of Hope, the joint contribution of many people is really needed. To expand the network of Friends of Estonia, **we invite you to become our AMBASSADOR. It's easy, just call your friends to the ESTONIA DINNER** and share about our mission work with them. We have prepared everything for you: menu with recipes, meal prayer song, quiz, videos, handouts etc.

Go to [tatest.org/dinner](https://tatest.org/dinner) and find out.

Please be sure to let us know if you plan to organize an Estonia Dinner with your friends. **Go to [tatest.org/dinner](https://tatest.org/dinner) and fill out the registration form.**

Please become an ambassador for mission work in Estonia!

# GIVING

## CHECKS

**Charity Lutheran Church**

120 Aspen Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58503, U.S.A.

MEMO: HOME OF HOPE

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

## ONLINE

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

– Choose fund **Tartu Academy of Theology** and sub fund

> **Tartu General** to support annual operating budget;

> **Home of Hope** to donate mortgage payments.

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