

# TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY

## & Home of Hope

Newsletter, May 2025

Visit us at [tatest.org](https://tatest.org)



Partnering with



*Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! Psalm 139:7-8.*



### In Memory of Eenok Haamer—Founder of TAT

On February 27, God called the founder of Tartu Academy of Theology and Estonia's oldest Lutheran pastor, Eenok Haamer (89), into eternity. His funeral took place on March 8 in Mustvee, at the church where he faithfully served with his wife Eha, despite his advanced age, as a pastor for 61 years. **Eenok followed in his father's footsteps, and his three sons continue his ministry.**

He was a man of God, a steadfast prayer warrior, and a spiritual father for so many people. He prayed for a revival in Estonia. Our prayer is that Eenok and his prayers may be the fertile seed for the emergence of a spiritual revival. Please join with us in this prayer.

Eenok established TAT in 1992, shortly after Estonia was freed from 50 years of Soviet oppression. He felt a calling to rebuild the Christian church that had been deeply damaged during that time. Despite many challenges along the way, the work has continued. **The blessings of his obedience and vision are still unfolding and will continue to impact generations to come.**

### Empowering Estonian Business Leaders To Give

Two recent fundraising gala dinners brought together Estonian business leaders to support vital areas of ministry: pastoral care and pastors training.

On November 21, 2024, in cooperation with the Lutheran Church Seminary, we hosted a gala in Tallinn to support theological education. Held in the Seminary's largest classroom, the event welcomed forty-three guests and raised \$17,680. Theological education is not a business—it relies on donors to thrive. This event resumed a tradition paused since 2019 due to the pandemic and war.



Gala Dinner in November 2024

On March 31, 2025, we held a gala at Home of Hope in Tartu, focused on supporting our pastoral care ministry. Thirty-one guests joined us for an evening of stories, fellowship, and insight into our daily work. Our caregivers shared how this ministry is unique—because we never walk alone. God is present in every encounter, enabling us to bring hope even in the darkest situations.



Gala Dinner in March 2025

The evening raised \$19,940, covering a large portion of our pastoral care ministry's annual budget.

Moving forward, gala dinners will be a yearly tradition, with 2 events annually:

- A spring event in Tartu to support mission work through Home of Hope
- An autumn event in Tallinn to raise funds for theological education for pastors

**We're encouraged by the growing generosity of our supporters and are committed to expanding the community of those who share a heart for mission.**

We are deeply grateful to all our donors. Thank you for supporting us and helping spread God's word in Estonia.

### Our Current Financial Situation

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

#### HOME OF HOPE MORTGAGE PAYOFF

Mortgage Total \$ 2,262,889

\$1,774,488

\$488,401

RAISED  
05/25/2025

TO GO  
01/31/2027

#### TAT ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

Budget Total \$392,325

\$112,905

\$279,420

RAISED  
YTD 05/25/2025

TO GO

**SUPPORT CHRISTIAN OUTREACH FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!**

## Meet Our New Team Member

### Laura, Project Manager

I'm so grateful to be joining Tartu Academy of Theology as a project manager. I came to faith in my early 20s after seeing the impact of Jesus in the lives of two close friends. In 2021, I was baptized and became a member of Viljandi Baptist Church. After going through burnout in secular work, my husband and I moved to Tartu. I began praying for a job where I could truly glorify God—and not long after, I unexpectedly found myself at Home of Hope, helping a friend with a filming project. That "random" visit led to a job offer, and I started here on November 4, 2024. **It's clear to me that God opened this door, and I'm so thankful to be part of what He's doing here!**

You can find the longer version of my testimony at [youtube.com/@simonvsgoliath](https://youtube.com/@simonvsgoliath)



## Young Adult Conference 'The Juggler'

This year's 'The Juggler' conference brought together **over 70 participants**, some of whom contributed in various roles to make the event happen. Attendees ranged from teenagers to those in their forties, with an average age of around 28.

The program focused on the theme of communication—how we communicate, how God communicates with us, what we can learn from Jesus' interactions, and how to stay grounded amid information overload.

Topics included team communication, active listening, conflict resolution, and giving constructive feedback. These were explored by experienced speakers who work in these areas daily and draw wisdom from their walk with God.

Participants not only listened to inspiring talks but also engaged through Q&A sessions and discussion groups. The conference also featured fun moments like prize draws and a quiz night.

We're grateful for the positive feedback and the warm, home-like atmosphere at Home of Hope. Looking ahead, we aim to improve logistics and grow our core team.



## Reflections

### Women's Fellowship

**Hetek, 21** Women's Fellowship has been a breath of fresh air — a chance to slow down and focus on what truly matters. There's something beautiful about women gathering to seek God, worship, and give thanks. I believe it brings joy to His heart. After six months of helping organize these gatherings, I've clearly felt God's presence and blessing. Sharing meals, honest conversations, prayer, and Scripture has drawn us closer — to each other and to Him. I'm deeply thankful for the sisters in Christ I get to walk alongside on this journey of knowing our Creator more deeply.

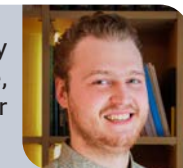


### Young Adults' Fellowship

The Christian Centre Home of Hope provides a welcoming, neutral space where young people from different congregations can grow in faith and learn from one another. Its inclusive, church-independent setting makes everyone feel at home. I've even invited non-Christian friends, sharing the message and values of the faith through open conversations, singing, meals, and meaningful fellowship that's built on a real community.

### Young Adult Conference 'The Juggler'

**Joan-Taaniel, 26** Few young adult events so effectively connect everyday life with deep faith. 'The Juggler' conference was a great space to meet new people, spark ideas, and grow. The focus on 'Communication' brought fresh tools and new clarity, and the speaker line-up was excellent. Overall, the conference was truly uplifting and constructive.



### Pastor Sandy Miller Owatonna, MN

For the past eight years, my husband Steve, our Minnesota church, and I have supported Tartu Academy of Theology and Home of Hope. I first learned about the Academy through a friend and attended a Bible Camp in 2018. Deeply moved by what God is doing in Estonia, I returned in 2019. What struck me most is that we're not bringing Jesus to Estonia—He's already here. We're simply joining His work. This has expanded our view of God's kingdom as truly global. We caught the vision for Home of Hope early, and when I visited in 2019, construction had just begun. Now, in 2024, it's incredible to see that vision realized and impacting lives through the Academy, the radio station, the Pastoral Care Center, and youth ministries. It's a privilege to play even a small part in what God is doing to renew faith in Estonia. I encourage others to invest in this powerful movement.

## Contact Us

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