

JOIN THE PERSECUTION PILGRIMAGE IN ESTONIA!

- **Dates:**
June 5–13, 2026
- **Location:**
Estonia
- **Group size:**
Limited to 15 people
- **Registration deadline:**
February 28, 2026

The Persecution Pilgrimage in Estonia invites you to follow in the footsteps of believers who risked everything to remain faithful under Soviet occupation. We will guide you through the journey of one Christian family and their country. You'll hear firsthand stories of persecution, and witness how the Gospel endured against all odds.

Guided by **Pastor Siimon Haamer**, you'll visit the actual hiding places of his father, **Pastor Eenok Haamer** — a powerful testimony of trust in God through years of fear and hardship.

This pilgrimage offers a meaningful way to strengthen your faith, reflect on God's faithfulness, and better understand the courage it takes to follow Christ in difficult times.

To see our full program and register, scan the QR code:
 or visit us at: tatest.org/visit



18 NEW GRADUATES & 21 NEW STUDENTS IN ACADEMIC STUDIES



New Students – September 2025

This year has been a time of both fulfillment and new beginnings for **Tartu Academy of Theology** and the **Lutheran Church Seminary**.

In June, we celebrated **18 new graduates** — 7 Bachelor's, 5 Master's, and 6 Church Music students — who completed years of study and formation to serve the church and their communities. We give thanks for their dedication and pray that God will bless and guide them as they continue their ministries.

On September 10, we began the new academic year with a joyful opening service and ceremony, where Bishop Ove Sander, the Rector of the Seminary, preached, and Archbishop Urmas Viilma welcomed all the students.

This fall, **21 new students** began their studies — 16 in the Bachelor's program and 5 in the Master's — most preparing for pastoral ministry or pastoral care. In total, **127 students** are enrolled in our joint program with the Seminary. Considering Estonia's population, that's proportionally equivalent to a U.S. college with over 30,000 theology students — a remarkable testimony to God's work in this small nation.

We pray that God would grant them wisdom and endurance, as the path to becoming a pastor is quite long—especially for Bachelor's students. After completing the three-year BA program, they must continue with a two-year MA program, followed by an additional year of pastoral training, including an internship.

TAT ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET 2025

Budget Total **\$392,325**

\$254,779 **\$58,351** **\$137,546**

RAISED
YTD 11/10/2025

BEHIND
YTD Target

TO GO

HOME OF HOPE MORTGAGE PAYOFF

Mortgage Total **\$2,262,889**

\$1,808,241 **\$454,648**

RAISED
11/10/2025

TO GO
01/31/2027

FINANCIAL SITUATION

Thank you for your prayers and support!

At the moment, we're still significantly behind our budget—by \$58,351. The good news is that over the past three months, income has been fairly stable. The challenge is that income during the second quarter of this year was unexpectedly low.

We kindly ask for your help in covering this deficit.

Regular gifts throughout the year help us maintain stable funding. With **online giving through Charity Lutheran Church**, it's easy to set up recurring monthly donations.



Our mission has been active for 33 years. Let's continue this work together for generations to come.

TO GIVE, scan QR or go to: tatest.org/give

SEEKING GOD'S LOVE — Adult Bible Camp at Home of Hope



Adult Bible Camp Participants – August 2025

From **August 7–18**, six short-term missionaries from the United States joined us at Home of Hope to lead a week-long Bible camp for adults. The theme, “Seeking God’s Love,” focused on Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, inviting participants to see each teaching as an expression of God’s love rather than a list of commands.

During their visit, the team also learned about Estonia’s Christian history, including the story of Pastor Eenok Haamer and his years in hiding during the Soviet occupation. In addition to their work at the camp, they served in local congregations and participated in a men’s fellowship morning.

The week was a time of shared faith, learning, and encouragement. We are deeply grateful for the fellowship we experienced through Christ and for the dedication of our American partners — **Bob Nordvall, Sue Balcom, Nancy Jensen, Brandon Bauman, Sara Gmitro, and Valeri Schuberg** — who served with joy and love.

BIBLE SCHOOL GRADUATION & ENROLLMENT 2025

This year marked the **fifth year of the Home of Hope Bible School**, and we are so thankful for all that God has done! In the **2024/2025 class, 45 students** completed the course with dedication and joy. We give heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this year possible — our teachers, intercessors, supporters, and of course, every participant.

From small and humble beginnings in autumn 2020, the Bible School has grown far beyond what we could have imagined. On **September 22**, we celebrated the start of the sixth year and gave thanks for this great miracle of growth. This new school year begins with **50 new students**, eager to deepen their understanding of God’s Word.

Since its founding, **350 people have taken part in the Bible School program**. Half of the students attend online, while the other half gather every Monday evening at Home of Hope for teaching and fellowship. The Bible School offers a wonderful opportunity for those who do not wish to pursue a degree but still want to strengthen their biblical knowledge and faith.



Graduates of the Bible School 2024/25 – June 2025



Bible School 2025/26 Students – September 2025

Each evening’s program includes a one-hour introduction to a book of the Bible, followed by a deeper study based on the Gospels of Luke and Acts — explored chapter by chapter. Between sessions, students enjoy a 30-minute coffee break, a valuable time of fellowship and encouragement.

This year’s group includes several **young adults and youth**, as well as **six participants who are not members of any church**. We pray that each of them will become good seed for the continued proclamation of God’s Word in Estonia. Our hope is that the Bible School will equip them to take responsibility in their home congregations and communities — leading small Bible study groups and sharing God’s truth with others.

MEET ANNELI FROM NORWAY – Intern For a Year

Hi all! I’m very excited to be part of the team at the Tartu Academy of Theology and Home of Hope!

I’m participating in the **UCREW (“Young Crew”) Christian exchange program, hosted by the Norwegian Mission Society**. It allows young adults to spend a year abroad serving in Christian ministries. In Norway, I worked as an apprentice in media production, focusing on content creation, so **my main tasks at TAT involve media work**. I joined to use my skills for a good cause and grow in my faith, hoping to broaden my perspective through new languages, cultures, and people. **I also assist with other projects and youth ministry at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church.**

Although I’m here for only ten months, I believe it will be a meaningful season of learning and spiritual growth. I’m looking forward to getting to know the Estonian people better and I feel thankful to be part of the work at Home of Hope.



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VISIT US!