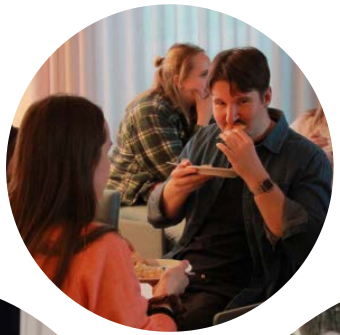
TARTU ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY

2025 ANNUAL REPORT













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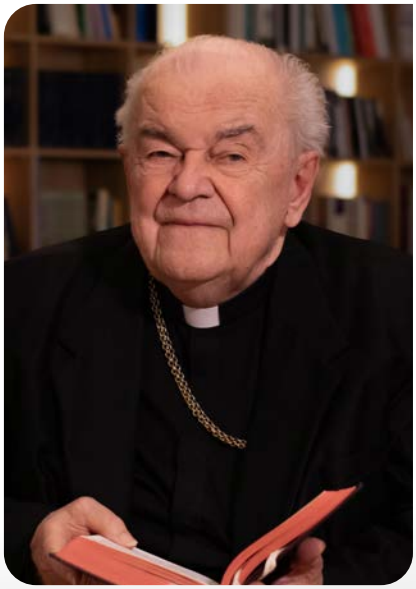
IN MEMORIAM – Pastor Eenok Haamer (1935–2025)



On February 27, 2025, God called Pastor Eenok Haamer, the founder of the Tartu Academy of Theology, into eternity. Despite his advanced age, he never retired, serving faithfully Estonian Lutheran Chruch as a pastor for over 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 to many. He prayed for revival in Estonia and believed that the endurance of the Estonian people depended not on cultural or political strength, but on spiritual renewal rooted in God's grace.

The Tartu Academy of Theology was born out of this vision. Founding and leading the Academy as its rector for several decades can be considered Eenok's life's work. The Home of Hope Christian Outreach Center stands as a continuation of this legacy, and we remain committed to carrying forward the mission he entrusted to us.

You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.
Psalm 16:11

MINISTRY OVERVIEW 2025

Word from TAT President Pastor Siimon Haamer

We are so thankful for prayers, encouragement, financial support and interest in what God is doing here in Estonia.

In October, the Tartu Academy of Theology celebrated 33 years of ministry. Founded under the leadership of my father, Pastor Eenok Haamer, it began just one year after Estonia regained independence from 50 years of atheistic Soviet rule. Today we continue to see the deep impact this era left on Estonian society, and much work still remains to be done.



We are filled with gratitude and joy as we look back on all that God has done! Please take a moment to read the newsletter attached to this letter—it's full of encouraging updates and good news.

God's blessings with you all,

Pastor Siimon Haamer
President of Tartu Academy of Theology
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For more information visit us at:

- tatest.org
- youtube.com/@simonvsgoliath
- facebook.com/simonvsgoliath

Tartu Academy of Theology – Governance Structure

Management Board

- Pastor Siimon Haamer, President
- Pastor Andrus Mõttus, Member
- Mattias Haamer, Member

General Assembly*

- Tiiu Nigola, Founding Member
- Aivar Sarapik, Founding Member
- Ingmar Kurg, Founding Member
- Heikki Ots, Auditor
- Siimon Haamer
- Andrus Mõttus
- Mattias Haamer

**In Estonian non-profit law, the General Assembly functions as the highest governing authority, similar to the role exercised by the Board of Directors in most U.S. nonprofit organizations. According to Estonian law, all Management Board members must also be members of the General Assembly.*

MINISTRY OVERVIEW 2025

Life at Home of Hope

~1,000 Visitors at Home of Hope

~3,200 Volunteer Hours in 2025

1.5–2M Sq. Miles Radio Broadcast Area

Home of Hope is a Christian center established and owned by Tartu Academy of Theology as part of its outreach mission. Created by TAT as a ministry hub, it extends the Academy's vision beyond academic work into lived community, prayer, and service.

Life at Home of Hope is shaped by shared rhythms of faith, prayer, and service that extend beyond formal programs. Daily community life offers opportunities for spiritual growth, mutual care, and hospitality, creating a place where people can belong, serve, and deepen their faith together.

Key expressions of community life include:

- Men's ministry
- Estonian Evangelical University Students gatherings
- Regular prayer services in the Chapel
- Moravian Church prayer services

A Christian radio station also operates from Home of Hope, extending this life of faith far beyond our physical location. Broadcasting 24 hours a day, the station proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ to listeners across Estonia and Russia, covering a broadcast area of approximately 1.5–2 million square miles.

In addition, Home of Hope serves the wider community through **the rental of its rooms and facilities**, providing space for gatherings, meetings, and initiatives that align with our values.

Theological Education: Training Christian Leaders

127 BA & MA students enrolled

18 students graduated

21 students admitted

Theological education is the heartbeat of our mission. In partnership with the Lutheran Church Seminary, we prepare the next generation of spiritual leaders to serve across Estonia. Through our Bachelor's and Master's degree programs, we train:

- **Pastors & Chaplains** (for prisons, military, police, and hospitals)
- **Pastoral Caregivers**
- **Diaconal Workers**
- **Christian Youth Workers**
- **Church Musicians**

Bible School: Laying the Foundation for Growth

51 Students in 2025

50% online

350+ Participants since 2020

28 Participants at Bible Camp

Our Bible School is a "spiritual greenhouse" for those who desire deeper engagement with God's Word without pursuing a formal degree. Through Scripture study and practical application, participants of all ages—from youth to seniors—grow in their faith and strengthen the life of their local congregations.

- **Strategic Reach:** Participants can join either in person or online. In 2025, attendance was evenly divided between on-site and online participants, enabling us to reach believers across Estonia, including remote areas.
- **Empowering the Laity:** We equip students to lead small Bible study groups and take greater spiritual responsibility in their home congregations.
- **Adult Bible Camp:** From August 11–15, we hosted an adult Bible camp focused on study, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. Six short-term missionaries from the United States traveled to Estonia to help us conduct the camp.

MINISTRY OVERVIEW 2025

Pastoral Care Center – Healing a Nation

60 Pastoral Caregivers Nationwide

The Pastoral Care Center at Home of Hope is a vital bridge between the church and the secular world. In a nation where mental and emotional exhaustion are at critical levels, we offer a professional yet deeply compassionate sanctuary for everyone—regardless of their faith or background.

- **Reaching Beyond the Church:** Many who seek our help have no church affiliation. For them, our center is a safe place to find healing and a first encounter with the message of God's grace and love.
- **A Growing Network:** We coordinate a nationwide network of trained caregivers, ensuring that spiritual and emotional support is accessible in hospitals, nursing homes, and communities across Estonia.

74 Participants in Supervision & Training

- **Commitment to Quality:** We don't just provide care; we invest in it. Through regular supervision and advanced training, we ensure our caregivers are equipped to handle the most difficult life situations with wisdom and grace.

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

~100 Participants in Youth Events

We are dedicated to creating a safe and welcoming environment where young people can explore their faith, identity, and purpose. Our ministry focuses on building community and supporting young adults with a strong spiritual foundation as they navigate life's challenges.

Through **the young adult conference The Juggler**, we offered focused teaching and space for participants to reflect together, ask difficult questions, and form meaningful connections with peers. The conference was created to support young adults who often remain connected to the church but struggle to stay actively involved while balancing studies, work, family responsibilities, and personal well-being. Since 2022, The Juggler has been held annually, each year addressing themes relevant to this life stage; in 2025, the focus was on communication and building healthy relationships.

78 Participants at the Juggler

In addition to the conference, we hosted **a young adult fellowship on the third Wednesday of each month.** These regular gatherings provided a consistent space for discussion, prayer, and mutual support. The year concluded with a Christmas celebration that brought together participants from across the year and allowed us to thank the volunteers and all those who helped sustain the fellowship.

Social Media Outreach

~2,000 People reached via Social Media

Our mission extends beyond physical spaces through digital media, using social platforms to share the Gospel in clear and accessible ways. A central part of this outreach is the **One Minute Bible Study** series—short, Scripture-based reflections designed for everyday digital life that invite engagement with God's Word.

In 2025, we focused on preparing **Cast the Net, a digital outreach initiative** launching in early 2026. The project follows the Media to Movement (MTM) approach, combining targeted social media content with personal, two-way conversations and intentional connection to local church communities. Research suggests that at any given time approximately 2.5% of people are open to reconsidering their faith, and this initiative seeks to engage those whom God is drawing.

As part of this preparation, we conducted a 24-hour test campaign in the fall. The content reached a significant online audience, and **more than 50 individuals contacted us directly**, along with additional engagement through comments and reactions—an encouraging confirmation as we move toward the 2026 launch.

MINISTRY OVERVIEW 2025

International Partnership & Mission

6 short-term missionaries from USA

Our ministry is strengthened by deep-rooted international friendships that bring shared prayer and hands-on service to Home of Hope.

- **Global Service:** In 2025, 6 short-term missionaries from the U.S. joined us to lead our yearly Bible camp and its teaching activities, encouraging both participants and local leaders.
- **Intern Anneli:** We are excited to host Anneli, our intern from the Norwegian Mission Society (UCREW), who joined us in September 2025. During her 10-month stay, she is elevating our media production and digital outreach while supporting local youth work.

10 months International Intership

Impact to Society & Church Life in Estonia



<u>Strengthening Local Partnerships and Generosity</u>

On October 1, **Tartu Academy of Theology became a member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Estonia**, marking an important step in building stronger relationships with Estonian business leaders. Through this engagement, we seek to encourage a culture of generosity and responsible philanthropy by sharing insights from American giving practices and long-term mission support models.

In addition, we submitted a proposal to the Economic Effectiveness Council of the Estonian Government advocating for **legislative changes to increase tax-deductible corporate donations to nonprofit organizations**. We believe that strengthening this framework would enhance corporate social responsibility, support civil society, and create more sustainable opportunities for local partnership in ministry and charitable work.



<u>Building Local Support through Fundraising</u>

In March, we hosted our **Fundraising Gala Dinner** at the Home of Hope Christian Outreach Center. The event brought together business and community leaders to introduce our mission and raise funds for our daily activities, with a special **focus on pastoral care ministry**. In a highly secular context, this initiative reflects our commitment to cultivating long-term local engagement and support.



<u>Leadership within the Estonian Lutheran Church</u>

Mattias Haamer, Assistant to the President of TAT, serves on a voluntary basis also as a member of the board of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (EELC), becoming the **youngest board member in the history of the Estonian Lutheran Church**. In this role, he is responsible for children and youth work at the national level.

In 2025, he led the **First EELC Youth Assembly**, gathering representatives from 42 congregations to reflect on Lutheran identity and encourage greater youth participation in church life nationwide.

<u>Cooperation and Christian Network</u>

Our cooperation with the church newspaper Eesti Kirik, which relocated next door to Home of Hope, has strengthened collaboration among Christian organizations in our area. We share facilities and technical resources, while receiving communication support and increased visibility for our events.



Additionally, the technical equipment developed at Home of Hope is regularly made available for a variety of Christian initiatives and church events, including youth gatherings at the nearby St. Paul's Church—strengthening practical cooperation within the wider local church community.

2025 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

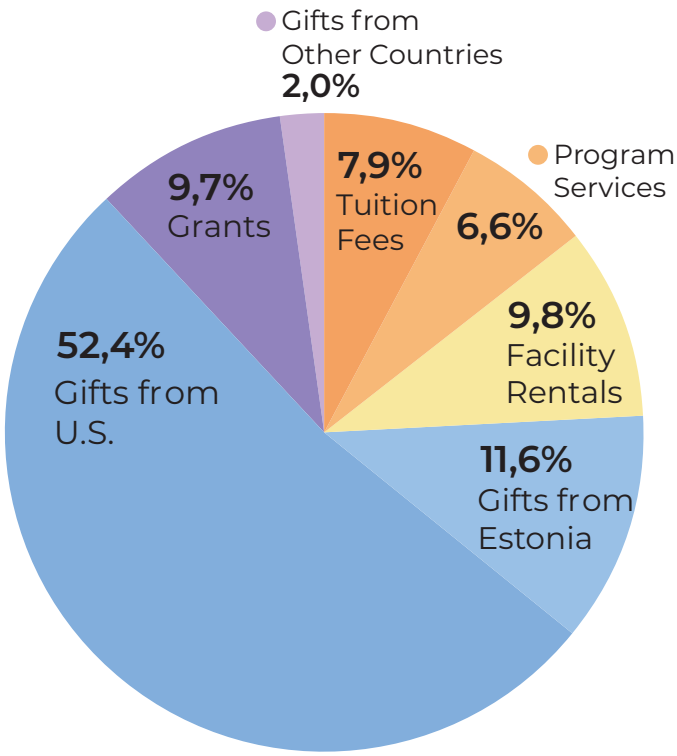
ACTUAL INCOME

Gifts & Grants		
Gifts from Estonia (incl. Fundraising Gala Dinner)	$	45,182
Gifts from U.S.	$	203,276
Gifts from Other Countries	$	7,836
Grants	$	37,650
Subtotal – Contributions & Grants	**$**	**293,944**

Program Service & Facility Rentals		
Tuition Fees	$	30,703
Bible School Participation Fees	$	11,643
The Juggler Conference Participation Fees	$	805
Continuing Education Training Fees	$	2,983
Pastoral Care Center Activities	$	5,819
Scholarships	$	3,000
Sales of Books & Cards	$	1,543
Facility Rentals	$	38,062
Subtotal – Program Service & Facility Rentals	**$**	**94,558**

TOTAL INCOME	**$**	**388,502**

DONATIONS DESIGNATED FOR HOME OF HOPE MORTGAGE PAYMENTS	**$**	**223,846**



2025 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENSES (BY FUNCTION)

Program Services		
Programs (Bible School, The Juggler, Youth Work, Pastoral Care, Gala Dinner & Other Ministries)	$	45,854
Continuing Education Trainings	$	1,246
Scholarships	$	3,000
Publishing Activities	$	967
Funds Allocated to Pastoral Training Run Jointly with the Lutheran Seminary (BA & MA Programs)	$	88,085
Total Program Services	**$**	**139,152**

Management & General		
Accounting Services	$	6,784
Office Supplies, Communications & Software	$	9,646
Mailings	$	4,372
Insurance & Security Services	$	2,006
Advertising & Promotion	$	3,258
Property Maintenance & Utilities (Home of Hope Facilities)	$	22,196
Equipment	$	3,638
Travel & Accommodation	$	3,874
Staff Salaries	$	192,566
Other	$	1,761
Total Management & General	**$**	**250,101**

TOTAL EXPENSES	**$**	**389,253**
Change in Net Assets	**$**	**-752**

HOME OF HOPE MORTGAGE PAYMENTS 2025	**$**	**223,846**

