

Tartu Academy of Theology

Tartu Academy of Theology, or simply TAT, is a Strategic Ministry Partner of East European Missions Network. The Academy is located in the Estonian city of Tartu.

TAT was founded in the Autumn of 1992 with the financial support of a group of American pastors who had visited Estonia earlier that year. TAT worked as an independent Christian college until 2013 when it merged with the **Theological Institute of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church** (Seminary). It is now a separate department within the Seminary, maintaining the TAT name and identity. As the result of the merger, a single strong Christian college was created to prepare Lutheran pastors, as well as to train Christian lay leaders and specialists to serve as Pastoral Care Givers and Counselors, Christian Youth Workers, Chaplains, Christian Family Therapists, etc.

Additionally, the merger has provided for better stewardship of gifts, as the two institutions now share both professors and administrative costs, resulting in a more fruitful preparation of pastoral students and church workers at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Already we are experiencing exciting results as enrollments increase and successful accreditation has been achieved.



Graduation class of 17, June 2016.

History Pastor Eenok Haamer,

founder of TAT and a pastor's son, grew up during the Soviet occupation, where he witnessed firsthand the suffering of the Estonian people at the hands of the Soviet Army. But even as the Soviets hunted Eenok and tried to wipe out Christianity in the nation, he began to have a vision for the future. God showed him that once their fervently prayed-for freedom would return, there would be a great need to educate Estonian men and women so that they would be able to carry on God's work and clearly communicate the principles of the Bible.



Tartu Academy of Theology Estonia

Mission

- * To build up the Christian Community in Estonia.
- * To offer Bible-based education.
- * To value each student's personal relationship with God.
- * To train students in applying theological knowledge in practical experience.

Key Facts

- * First-year student enrollment increases to 36 in fall of 2016.
- * Student base grows to 136 (demographically equivalent to a U.S. college of 32,000 students).
- * Merger with Lutheran Seminary provides for better and stronger stewardship of gifts.

Estonia

- * Located in Eastern Europe
- * Bordered by Russia on the East
- * Population of 1.3 million
- * Area 17,000 sq miles
- * Only 20% of the population identifies as being "religious"
- * The largest denomination is Lutheran with 2,2% of the population (29,000 members)
- * Suffered for 50 years under Soviet occupation during which time Christians were persecuted
- * Regained independence in 1991



Impact on Society

Graduates of TAT are working in a wide range of fields:

- * Teaching religion and ethics in the public schools
- * Serving as Ministers in the Estonian Lutheran Church and other denominations
- * Engaged in Pastoral counseling and chaplaincy in hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, Defense Forces etc
- * Teaching Sunday school in local congregations
- * Serving as Youth workers in churches, community organizations and local government programs
- * Working as Writers and producers in Christian and public media

Today

TAT and the Seminary have:

- * 136 students
- * Full accreditation
- * Undergraduate programs in theology:
 - * Ministry
 - * Chaplaincy (hospital, prison, army, police)
 - * Pastoral Care and Counseling
- * Graduate program with two curriculums in theology
 - * Master of Theology
 - * Ministry and Chaplaincy
 - * Pastoral Care and Counseling
 - * Diaconal work
 - * Master studies in Christian Culture
- * One year internship for pastors before ordination
- * Continuing education opportunities for about 400 participant each year in the following areas:
 - * Christian Youth Work
 - * Christian Media
 - * Church Musician
 - * Pastoral Care and Counseling
 - * Chaplaincy
 - * Family Therapy
 - * Diaconal Work
 - * Administration of Congregation
 - * English Bible Camps

Vision for Development

- * Our own facility for current needs and expansion
- * 200 students
- * Graduate programs in English for other East European students

Challenges We Face Today

- * 80% of the population profess no religious belief.
- * Only 2.2% of the population are members of Lutheran Church which is biggest church in Estonia.
- * Church membership declines annually.
- * Tuition fees cover only 20% of TAT's budget. Because of very low salaries students are unable to afford higher fees.
- * Classroom space is inadequate to meet current needs.



Students Say

Heidy – TAT did not only provide the education but also the community who prayed together and taught me to rely on God. As time went by, I found myself getting deeper and deeper into care of soul, where I discovered the whole new world: kingdom of God revealed.



Tiit – Eenok Haamer's inspiring memories of bygone times, and deep, unwavering faith in Jesus Christ have made the Academy both an educational institution as well as a kind of church.



TAT Matching Funds Program

We are blessed by **donors who have pledged \$40,000** for each of the next 2 years in a Match Fund base for TAT.

Will you join with us as a MATCHING PARTNER! It is our opportunity, with new gift money, to produce \$70,000 annually. (The annual budget for TAT is around \$180,000.)

No gift is too small! \$10, 20, 50, 100, ____ All gifts are welcome!

Please pray about partnering with TAT as a prayer and financial Matching Partner!

Gifts can be made out to "Charity Lutheran Church – TAT Match Partner", and sent to:

Charity Lutheran
120 Aspen Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58503.

We are thankful for Charity, who since 2006, and as one of the main supporters of TAT, manages the account.

God is blessing this project and bringing increased stability to the ministry of training Kingdom workers in Estonia, the vision first given to its founder, Pastor Eenok Haamer.

To Donate

Gifts may be made through:

East European Missions Network (EEMN)
2111 Golf Course Rd, Suite C
Rio Rancho, NM 87124.

Make checks payable to EEMN designating TAT in the memo portion.

All contributions are tax deductible.

You can find alternative electronic giving choices at www.eemn.org/support.

More Information About TAT

Go to www.eemn.org and click on Estonia under 'Partners'!

Contact **Bob Nordvall** (U.S.)

email: pastorbob@eemn.org

cell: 701-391-0182

Contact **Siimon Haamer** (Estonia)

email: siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee

Skype: siimon7



Partners in U.S.

East European Missions Network (EEMN) has worked in close partnership with TAT since our beginnings in 1992. Their support, together with the faith and vision of the leaders of TAT, has brought others from the USA to assist in prayer, teaching, and finances.

Bob and Patti Nordvall

(married April 2016)

continue

through EEMN

to serve as ambassadors

for TAT and the Estonian Church,

leading short term mission teams

and partnering

with pastors and church workers in Estonia.

Together Bob and Patti

visit congregations in the USA

bringing encouragement, inspiration,

and support for missions while

sharing Eenok Haamer's vision for TAT

and the building up of the Estonian Church.



Leadership Today

The school established by

Pastor Eenok Haamer

as the result of a vision from God

and the inheritance of his father

is being carried forward today

by Eenok's youngest son,

Pastor Siimon Haamer,

who serves as Dean of TAT.

One of the first graduates

of TAT in 1998, Siimon continues

to expand the work begun by

his father. Eenok continues to

serve as the spiritual leader

of the school, as well as to

teach various courses.



Pastor Ove Sander,

Rector of the joint school,

studied at the American Free

Lutheran Seminary,

located in Medicine Lake,

Minneapolis.



He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6