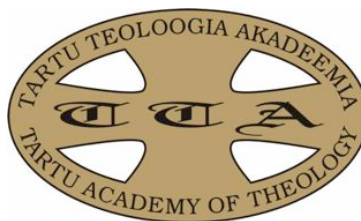


Tartu Academy of Theology

Tartu, Estonia
Newsletter, December 2014



Partnering
with
East
European
Missions
Network



Pastors Bob Nordvall, Siimon Haamer, Eenok Haamer and Nelli Vahter after the worship service with Estonians at the chapel of St. Paul Seminary. October 19th, 2014.

*Today your Savior is
born in the city of
David. He is Christ the
Lord.*

Luke 2:11

Eenok and Siimon Haamer's trip to the United States

Eenok and Siimon Haamer stayed as TAT's representatives in the US from October 2nd until 22nd by the invitation of the East European Missions Network. Pastor Bob Nordvall, who has been TAT's advocate in the US since 2006, took care of us day and night.

Our travel plan was tight, and within three weeks, we drove more than 2,000 miles! Right at the beginning of the journey, we spent a weekend at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Excelsior. Mt. Calvary's congregation fund paid last year's scholarships for three of our students. Now we had a chance to see those people, who have thought about us with love, face to face. We pray the relationships that have been formed will continue to grow and deepen.

October 5-8, we participated in the LCMC

Annual Gathering in Des Moines which was made possible for us with support from Bethany Lutheran Church of McCallsburg. As it was already our third time participating in this event (we have been there in 2007 and 2012), and as most of the congregations who support our mission work come from this denomination, we saw many old friends and we were also delighted to meet new people. We have found many similarities between LCMC and TAT, and it has been a great joy for us to see this church grow.

After that we had a long journey in Bob's car up to Bismarck, to visit one of TAT's pillar in the States, Charity Lutheran Church. The members of this congregation have been our faithful partners for more than 8 years. We felt as if we were welcomed home. Arlan and Linda Okerson opened

their home to host us.

Then we drove back to Minneapolis. There our good friends Paul and Elaine Gunderson arranged several meetings with TAT's friends. Also we went to give thanks to Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley. This congregation has financed several our projects throughout the years. The last one was reprinting the Estonian version of Harri Haamer's book *We Shall Live In Heaven*. The book was published on December 5th, 2014. We spent our last Sunday in St. John's Lutheran Church, Howard Lake. We hope that the fellowship we shared there is a good testimony to the future of our joint mission work.

A nice surprise was meeting with Estonians who have lived decades in the States and sharing a very meaningful afternoon with them when we took part in their worship

service on October 19th. It was our privilege to share God's Word with them and bring greetings from Estonia.

As our return flight was delayed for two days due to the Lufthansa's pilot strike, we were given some extra time and had a chance to visit Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Afton to thank them for their friendship that has lasted for years.

We experienced a very warm welcome and interest towards our work, and we are glad that we have found so many people and congregations from the States who want to support the mission work among the Estonian people.

Siimon Haamer
Dean



CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Our deficit of the current year's budget has decreased a bit during last two months, but was still in the beginning of December \$ -46,657 USD.

Quick financial update of TAT

Total budget of 2014	\$ 187,300
Income January-September of 2014	\$ 124,192
Budget of January-September of 2014	\$ 170,849
Balance on December 10th of 2014	\$ -46,657

We have received some relief, but still TAT is not able to function normally and future is very unstable. We would be very grateful if you could help us to bring our budget back to balance!

May God reward according to His mercy all those who donate us!

East European Missions Network

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Web: www.eemn.org Email: TAT@eemn.org

Donate

Mail a check to EEMN office, specifying in the memo portion or on an attached sheet of paper the designation of your donation to Tartu Academy of Theology. All contributions are tax deductible.

OUR DONORS IN 2014

In our last month of the year, we are publishing the names of all the people and organizations who have supported TAT during 2014 until the end of November. Many people have donated through offerings and their churches thus we don't know names of all of them. We cannot repay your love, but God's resources are endless. However, you can say with confidence that you participate in the mission work among Estonian people. **God bless you!**

Charles & Emily Anderson	Harold & Darline Knutson
JC & Susan Balcom	Arne & Mirjam Lagus
David & Sandy Becker	Audrey Liudahl
Duane & Darlene Bentz	William & Sigrid Ludwig
Marlene Bohrer	Larry & Patricia Lysengen
Linda Cruz	Richard & Janet Mahlow
Daniel & Penny Daehlin	Richard & Carol McKinven
Laverne & Bettie Doenier	Dan & Shirley Midura
Mark & Barb Dordahl	Michael & Siri Myhrom
Michael Dwyer	Roland C Myrom
Janice Dyr Dahl	Robert & Pamela Nelson
Dede Elliot	William S Nersesian
Judy Erickstad	Bob Nordvall
Agu & Tiina-Kaia Ets	Arlan & Linda Okerson
Brian & Barbara Felt	Gen Olson
Bonnie Fix	Mary Ann Ostlund
David & Victoria Fisher	Stanley & Linda Paulson
David & Anne Gran	Keith & Linda Perhus
Richard & Nancy Gulbranson	Raija ja Lippo Rantanen
Paul & Elaine Gunderson	Donna Rasmusson
Marcia Halvorson	James Rasmusson
Orlando & Herdis Hash	Jim & Barbara Rasmusson
Rolf & Evangeline Heng	Earl & Judy Reeder
C & I Hoper	Dawn Reynolds
Patti Ivey	Donald & Mavis Richman
Carol Jacobson	Perry & Judy Ritland
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Robert & Linda Johnson	Greg & Neysa Schettler
Marja Jämsen	Laverne Severseike
Tanel Kaur	Ted & Maie Tammearu
Eric & Leah Knutson	Mary Jo Thompson

American Association of Lutheran Churches
Association Free Lutheran Bible School, Plymouth
Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, Plymouth
Bethany Free Lutheran Church, Sebeka
Bethany Lutheran Church, McCallsburg
Bethel Lutheran Church, Holdrege
Calvary Lutheran Church, St. Paul
Charity Lutheran Church, Bismarck
Christ The King Lutheran, Dodge City
Faith Lutheran Church, Harvey
First Lutheran Church, Washburn
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, San Jose
Light of Christ Lutheran, Williston
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church Foundation, Excelsior
Ringkøbing Y's Men's Club, Denmark
Salol First Lutheran Church
Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church, Parker
St. John's Lutheran Church, Howard Lake
St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Garfield
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hondo
TAT Endowment Fund of Charity Lutheran Church, Bismarck
The Grace Foundation, Destin
Western Washington Church of the Deaf, Federal Way
Zion Free Lutheran Church, Wadena

Jeffrey & Debra Uline
David & Susan Von Fruke
Steven J Wadle
Dennis & Kathy Walsh
Kathy Wermager
Sheryl Westerhold
Loyd & Helen Witte



Always smiling and joyful pastor Scott.

Partners in Global Mission

As many TAT supporters know Pastor Bob and Karen Nordvall initiated Charity Lutheran Church's (Bismarck, North Dakota) connection with TAT in 2006 when the two of them went to Estonia on Pastor Bob's sabbatical. Bob and Karen came back with a vision of how we as a church community could partner with TAT. We at Charity seek to emphasize to our church family the imperative call to spread the gospel locally, regionally, nationally and globally. Since 2006 we truly see this connection with TAT as a global partnership to reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Since 2007 seven people from Charity have had the privilege of traveling to Estonia and participating in Bible-based English camps. Several of the participants have made return trips. Currently teams of 10, made up of people from all over the United States, travel to Estonia each year in August to the city of Tartu. Five days are spent sharing testimonies and helping the people with conversational English using Bible stories. All have found a warm welcome and much encouragement from the people of Estonia as they share their stories. Time is also spent visiting and touring the country and learning the history of a people to whom freedom is relatively new. It is not always easy for Christian people in a country that is not predominantly Christian.

Many people from Charity also participate in the ministry of Tartu Academy of Theology through much needed and appreciated financial contributions. Over the eight years of partnership Charity and friends of Charity have given over \$500,000. It is a privilege to be used by God in a ministry that reaches out to Eastern Europeans with the Word of God and the grace of Christ.

There is a blessings that goes out to each and every one who participates in this ministry and it is not by chance that God has opened these doors but with great purpose. Many have met Eenok Haamer, the founder of the academy, and Siimon, his son and dean of the academy, as they have traveled in the United States and visited with us here at Charity on two occasions. Their story and mission touches our hearts and helps us to grow in Christ. Truly we are one Body united in purpose and mission to reach many with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Scott Bauman

Senior Pastor, Charity Lutheran Church, Bismarck

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