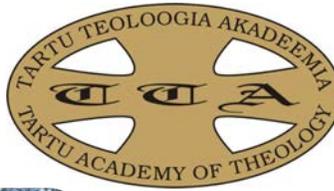


Tartu Academy of Theology

Tartu, Estonia

Newsletter, March 2016



Partnering
with
**East
European
Missions
Network**



**Christ showed us His
endless love by giving
His life to wash away our
sins and lighten our path
of life like the sun in
Easter morning.
CHRIST IS RISEN!**

*I am the resurrection and
the life. Whoever believes
in me, though he die, yet
shall he live, and everyone
who lives and believes in me
shall never die.*

John 11:25-26

Important Milestones in our Journey

By the grace of God, this new year has allowed us to follow the same way that each educational institution must take in Estonia. In order to meet the requirements established by the state, we are in the process of accreditation again, and this time it is an institutional accreditation. During the year 2015 we had to carry out a thorough self-analysis, and put it all together in an appropriate report. On March 1 and 2, a Committee composed of foreign experts paid us a visit, wishing to ascertain whether the content of the report reflects the actual situation. The Committee held conversations with the Academy and Seminary management, administrators, faculty members, students, alumni and employers, and perused all kinds of documents.

The experts had a very positive attitude towards us and we hope that this is reflected

in their final report, which will be ready in May. In June, however, the final decision will be made whether we will be given accreditation for seven years, which is the maximum term, or for a shorter term. That means we shall have reached another important milestone, and shall also have obtained a remarkable quality mark, which will certainly enhance the credibility of our Academy and Seminary in the eyes of our future students.

We also have reached an important milestone in applying the process of the professional standard of a pastoral care giver and counselor as well as chaplain, and the first national professional certificates have been issued to pastoral care givers and counselors and chaplains. The professional certificate provides especially pastoral care givers and counselors with a

better possibility of finding a job, and also the employer can be sure that the employee is competent in his/her field.

The above-mentioned developments will increase more and more our status in the system of higher education in Estonia and expand more and more our possibilities to be in the service of our society, and through our students and alumni be the heralds of God's love and mercy for our country and nation.

Siimon Haamer
Dean



CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

In the end of 2015, our deficit was \$4,218 USD. The deficit dropped significantly during December. We are thankful for our supporters who made great donations during the end of the year.

Today we are almost finishing first quarter of 2016, and our deficit has increased a bit and is at the moment \$14,311 USD. The TAT Matching Program is continuing, and we hope it will have positive impact for our fiscal year of 2016, too. Please consider becoming a part of this program with us! More information about TAT Matching Program is available on our webpage and you can find it by clicking [here](#) or typing into your web browser address line <http://teoloogia.ee/wb/pages/en/extras/newsletters.php>.

Thank you, as always, for your kind support, encouragement, and faithful prayers. May God reward all of you according to His mercy!

Quick financial update of TAT:

Total budget for 2016	\$ 208,850
Income during Jan.1st – March 30th of 2016	\$ 37,497
Budget for Jan. 1st – March 30th of 2016	\$ 51,808
Balance on March 30th of 2016	\$ -14,311

East European Missions Network

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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.**

STUDENT VOICES: MONIKA

My way with the Lord began in 1990 in a small Christian fellowship in rural area. I married in 1995, and our family is blessed with three



wonderful children. For a number of years we have served in various churches in Estonia as a family band, singing and proclaiming the Word of God. In 2015 my husband and I, we established the Christian Missionary Congregation of Hiiumaa on one of the small islands of Estonia. But during all these years, God has put into my heart the desire to work specially with people who are in desperation and trouble.

In the autumn of 2014, I felt the urge to make changes in my life and could take the chance to begin my studies at Tartu Academy of Theology, where was organized an annual basic training course in Pastoral Care and Counseling. This was the answer to my prayers: for many years I had asked God to engage me more in the work of His kingdom. At the end of the training, I realized that this was just the first step in this journey. In the autumn of 2015, I entered Tartu Academy of Theology as a student of undergraduate program in Pastoral Care and Counseling to learn more and get to know the depths of the mysteries of God, and with His help prepare myself to work in the field of pastoral care and counselling.

Now I'm a first year student and the first semester, which proved to be very successful, is behind me. More than the great amount of theoretical knowledge that I have acquired in such a short time, I appreciate the people with whom I have come in contact there, and the relationships that have formed during this period. I admire the faculty members, whom I have had an opportunity to meet, and their extremely high competence in delivering their subject in the manner which incites students to learn more and more. I am very grateful to God that He has guided me to this school, and I believe that He also helps me later, after my graduation, to find a job as a pastoral care giver and counselor in my hometown. With God's help I am looking forward to reach these people, this small community on my home island, among whom I have been living all these years. I love them all and wish to be in their service as a pastoral care giver and counselor.

Partners in Global Mission

The best theological education available does not itself make us men and women of God. But being men and women who seek to honor God in all that we do, we should be willing to get the best training that is available. The Lord has led the St. Luke's congregation to financially support TAT since we first met Siimon and Enoch at an LCMC convention. The need for pastors in Estonia was presented to us and the Holy Spirit placed on our hearts the need to give our support. We live in a highly complex world and pastors must have an education that will prepare them to minister in this world with all of its complexity. Study and understanding of the Bible, theology, and spiritual formation are the practical tools to prepare men and women for leadership roles in Christian ministry. Only too often is the cost of education preventative. My wife and I are both educators and have felt the need to help those who have the heart for ministry, but not the finances to do so.

Sunday after Sunday, pastors are leading people in worship—people who have had to become highly proficient in their work as technicians, surgeons, teachers, accountants and mechanics. To effectively communicate the gospel, pastors need a comparable level of proficiency in their vocation.

When God issues the call to serve Him in ordained ministry, a biblical and theological preparation is needed to pursue that call. "Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned him, and to which God has called him." 1 Corinthians 7:17 It is of great importance to train pastors, missionaries, church planters, and counselors for the many opportunities of service to the Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit we go forth into the world to fulfill our calling as the people of God and the body of Christ.

Christ has sent us into the world, not alone, but as members of His church. We at St. Luke's share the privilege of being in mission together with the Church in Estonia. The same Spirit who empowers us for ministry is the One who immersed us into the church at the moment of our conversion (1 Cor. 12:13) so that we might engage in our mission as the sent people of God. We hold you fondly in our hearts and in our prayers!

Anne and Pastor David Gran,
St. Luke's Church
Garfield MN



October of 2012 in the St. Luke's Church: Anne & David Gran are in the middle with Siimon, Eenok & Eha Haamer on their right and with Bob Nordvall on their left side.

Tartu Academy of Theology

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