Our Generous Supporters in 2018

Last year was unique in our history. Our vision of a center for Christian organizations in Estonia seems to be on its way to becoming a reality. This has inspired the development of new and influential future perspectives for our development. You can read about HOME of HOPE in this newsletter and in detail on our website, www.tatest.org. In addition to this major project, our current daily activities must continue. We are blessed by all of you, our donors and supporters.

In this special issue of our newsletter, we are publishing the names of people and organizations who have supported TAT and our HOME of HOPE project during 2018. Some people have donated anonymously and many through collections, so we may not know all of the names, but we are deeply grateful for all of you.

We hope you will also be our partner in 2019 and thereinafter. If you were not able to give last year, we invite you to pray about a gift in this crucial year of 2019. Your gifts and prayers are definitely helping to profoundly change the future of one nation.

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. (2 Corinthians 9:11) We are so grateful for your generosity! God bless you!

Paul & Bobbi Knudson  
Eric & Leah Knudson  
Harold & Darline Knudson  
Chad & Laura Kourajian  
Anne & Mirjam Lagus  
John & Kristin Lagus  
David & Barbara Lee  
Robert & Gloria Lee  
Karl & Lora Lemmerman  
Arnold & Nancy Lenzo  
Curtis & Mary Levang  
Audrey Liudahl  
Kent & Laura Lodge  
William & Sigrid Ludvig  
Valdie & Elaine Magstadt  
Richard & Linda Mahlow  
Siim Maripuu  
Scott & Lori McClary  
Ross McGlasson  
Bob & Kathy McLain  
Ken & Jacki Meimann  
Dan & Shirley Midura  
Steve & Sandy Miller  
Macel Monythe  
Kristiina Mõttus  
Thomas & Renée Nefe  
Bob & Pam Nelson  
William Nersesian  
Don & Kathy Nordquist  
Bob & Patti Nordvall  
Gen Olson  
Mary Ann Ostlund  
Carol Palin  
Donna Paulson  
James & Linda Perhus  
Keith & Linda Perhus  
Thomas & Ruth Perin  
Paulus & Gladys Pilgrim  
Dona Rasmusson  
Jim & Barbara Rasmusson  
Randy & Lori Reifsneider  
Perry & Rudy Ritland  
Bill & Carolyn Quehl  
Dennis & Kathy Sandmann  
All anonymous donors

Waldemar Alt  
Doug & Mary Anderson  
Charles & Emily Anderson  
John & Joan Anderson  
Mari-Ann Bartlett  
Carl Berquist  
Ken Birst  
Duane & Marlene Bohrer  
Daniel & Karen Christ  
James & Gwen Cosgrove  
Paul & Marlys Coughlin  
Linda Cruz  
Steven & Susan Davidson  
Lauri Desir  
Steven & Jane Ekholm  
Jim & DeDe Elliot  
Edwin Engebretson  
Agu & Tiina Kaia Ets  
Brian & Barbara Felt  
David & Victoria Fisher  
Bonnie Fix  
Wilbert & Alvina Fueller  
Ken & Connie Geiger  
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Paul & Elaine Gunderson  
James Hackney  
Marcia Halvorson  
Nathan & Ruth Hanson  
Orlando & Herdis Hash  
Mot & Pam Hedges  
Mark & Pam Hendrick  
Kelly Henning  
Andrew Hershey  
John Huebner  
Thomas & Sandra Hunt  
Jon Michelle Ingvaldsen  
Marion Johnson  
Georgia Kingsbury  
Peeter Kivestu  
Alice Klement  
American Association of Lutheran Churches  
Amazing Grays of Charity Luth., Bismarck ND  
Augustana District of LCMC  
Bethany Lutheran Church, McCallsburg IA  
Bethel Lutheran Church, Holdrege NE  
Bible Alive Ministries  
Charity Lutheran Church, Bismarck ND  
Christ The King Lutheran Church, Dodge City KS  
East European Missions Network  
Estonian Evangelical Luth. Church, New York NY  
Faith Lutheran Church, Harvey ND  
Faith Lutheran Church, Hutchinson MN  
First Lutheran Church WOW, Hope MN  
First Lutheran Church, Hope MN  
First Lutheran Church, Washburn ND  
First United Lutheran Church, Roseau MN  
Georgia Fellowship of LCMC  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, San Jose CA  
Hope Lutheran Church, Quincy IL  
InFaith Community Foundation, Minneapolis MN  
Light of Christ Lutheran Church, Williston ND  
Mount Calvary Luth. Church Found, Excelsior MN  
Reformation Lutheran Church, Fortson GA  
Richland Lutheran Church, Richland WA  
Ringkøbing Y’s Men Club, Denmark  
Sacred Word Lutheran Church, Moberidge SD  
Salem Lutheran Church Women, Roland IA  
Shalom Community Luth. Church, Starbuck MN  
Shepherd of The Hills Luth. Ch., San Antonio TX  
Shepherd of The Valley Luth. Church, Atton MN  
Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church, Parker CO  
St. Johns Women of the Word, Starbuck MN  
St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Garfield MN  
St. John’s Evangelical Luth. Church, Gillett WI  
St. John’s Lutheran Church, Howard Lake MN  
St. John’s Lutheran Church, Springfield MN  
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hondo TX  
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Taylor TX  
Thrive Financial for Lutherans, Minneapolis MN  
Trinity Lutheran Church W.O.W., Stonewall TX  
Western Washington Luth. Church, Seattle WA

Because of the HOME of HOPE project our income for general operating expenses has clearly decreased. We ended 2018 with a deficit of $20,476 USD. Last autumn we downsized our activities and budget with $35,000 in order to manage financially. We are looking trustfully forward in this new year.

Quick current financial update of TAT:

| Total budget for 2019 | $245,739 |
| Income during Jan. 1–March 22 | $40,001 |
| Budget for Jan. 1–March 22 | $54,084 |
| Balance on March 22 | $-14,083 |

Summary of the 2018 Financial Report

| Income | $190,406 |
| Expenses | $210,882 |
| Balance on Dec. 31, 2018 | $-20,476 |
HOME of HOPE Snapshots—Small Size, Big Impact

HOME of HOPE will significantly impact the Estonian people. We don’t see our activities taking place just inside the facility, but we see the facility as creator of net that will be spread across Estonia and beyond our borders. Our aim is to reach out to the society in many different ways.

Vocational Bible School

In addition to our regular bachelor and master degree study programs we’ll establish Vocational Bible School in co-operation with St Paul Lutheran Church, located just across the street. Bible studies will take place in the evening or morning once or twice per week and will have an interdenominational approach. We welcome non-religious people as well of course. In Estonia people who are not affiliated with any church are often hesitant to attend events and studies that take place in the church. We don’t give the expectation to participants that they need to make long time commitments and since we are not a church, this opens a door for people to freely participate.

Christian Radio Station

The radio station broadcasts 24/7 all over Estonia and to a large part of Russia. Every Sunday there are 6 services from various churches on the air. According to feedback, non-Christians are also listening because this is the only Estonia wide radio station producing and broadcasting programs that nurture people’s hearts.

Pastoral Care Center

Estonian people are very much in need of spiritual help but many of them don’t know where to find it. Often they are hesitant to go to church because they are afraid that their minds will be messed up there. This was the goal of Soviet authorities during 50 years of occupation. Now people want to make their own decisions for their lives. Clear evidence of spiritual need is evident in the huge popularity of self-help literature, new age philosophies and different kinds of spiritual practices. We need places that support people in their spiritual struggles outside of Church buildings. The Pastoral Care Center will be offering that opportunity and, at the same time, provide a coordination center for Estonia’s wide network of pastoral care givers. There are already 60 people from across Estonia who have joined with this network and are ready to start working among their local communities. They are TAT alumni or participants of our continuing education training courses.

Pastor Siimon Haamer is sharing a story that demonstrates the need for these efforts.

Not long ago, I ordered a taxi. Sitting in the car, I heard praise music. The radio channel that was playing was the same Christian Radio Station that is becoming part of HOME of Hope. I asked, “Do you listen to Family Radio?” He said that this is the only radio station where he can listen to programs that nurture his soul. He confessed that he is not Christian and not baptised. He has had difficulties in his life lately – marriage broken a year ago and mother died two weeks ago – and he is in need of spiritual support. I asked why he is not going to church. Church seemed too formal for him and he didn’t want to belong to any particular Church. Also, he was waiting for a sign, a conviction that now is the right time to go to church or to take some kind of step. At the same time he confessed that he is believing that so called god is existing, and he also prays.

We recently conducted a year training course for spiritual mentors for Lutheran Church pastors. Today we are building up the mentoring system in the Estonian Lutheran Church. In Estonia, pastors often feel alone and abandoned and they need support. Unfortunately many of them won’t take any action to find a spiritual mentor. That’s why we need to offer opportunities for them. As it’s very difficult to get those who have pastored 10-15 years or more, we are concentrating our main focus on young pastors who have recently graduated from the seminary or are still studying. This brings a new attitude into the church and changes a pastor’s mindset little by little, building a healthier body of pastors. It’s a long time process.

The Second Fundraising Banquet

The second TAT and Seminary banquet in Estonia will take place on March 21st, 2019. Our goal is to reach at least $10,000 USD. We are looking for matching partners for this event to make it more successful and to encourage Estonian people to give. Last May, $17,150 was given as matching funds for the first fundraising banquet and the total income of the banquet was $42,750. If you would like to partner with us, please send your donation through Charity Lutheran Church in Bismarck, ND, before April 10th, with the designation on the memo line “TAT Fundraising Match”. Please let Siimon Haamer know about your gift by sending an email to siimon.haamer@teoloogia.ee.

CALL TO ACTION

I hope you are convinced that HOME of HOPE will have significant impact in Estonia. Those rooms that you see on these pictures are waiting to be completed and then filled with God’s people and activities that will make a huge difference for the future of Estonia.

Please help us to realise all of this and much more!

Checks

Charity Lutheran Church (Tax deductible.)
120 Aspen Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58503, U.S.

Giving Electronically

To give electronically through Charity Lutheran Church (Tax deductible) go to www.charitylutheran.org/give and follow the steps.

We have also opportunity to borrow money for shorter period of time (2-3 years) if we won’t be able to raise full amount before June 30th. This would enable us to extend fundraising campaign period for 2-3 years if this is needed.

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Pastor Bob Nordvall, TAT representative in US, EEMN
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Cell: 701 391-0182