

2019 Annual Donor Report

THE UPPER ROOM

The Upper Room invites people to
create daily life with God.





From the Executive Director

“Wow! What generosity! ... I am sure the devotionals will help our veterans renew their faith in God.”

— Dr. Larry Kendrick, Lake City, Florida, upon receiving complimentary copies of The Upper Room for pastoral care

Dear Friends,

I remember well my first day on the job at The Upper Room. It was November 17, 1988, and I was the new Associate Marketing Director for Upper Room Books. I loved nothing more than God and a good book, so it was my dream job, a perfect fit. I had no idea what joys and challenges the next 30 something years would bring.

Yet each and every day God shows up at The Upper Room. God’s presence is made real to us through conversations with readers and donors and all those we serve and encounter, so I’m not sure why I was surprised when we had a record-breaking giving year in 2019. We celebrated rewarding moments during every season, including the overwhelming response to our chaplain’s ministry fund. Because of your generosity, we are adding 135 VA hospitals to the list of chaplains who receive complimentary devotional magazines for pastoral care.

As part of our strategic planning, we recently updated our mission statement and gave it a fresh touch:

“The Upper Room invites people to create daily life with God.”

Donors, like you, are necessary partners in accomplishing this mission that helps people and churches grow deeper in love with God and neighbor. We believe that creating daily life with God is at the heart of personal faith formation, which ultimately leads to the transformation of the world. Through prayer, scripture, and other spiritual disciplines, each of us will discover the inspiration needed to make a positive difference in the world.

Please take a few minutes to read and enjoy this 2019 Donor Report. It celebrates you and God’s work in the world. With your encouragement and support, we can promise that The Upper Room will continue to develop new ways to invite people into a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ. Again, thank you, for the positive response, financial support, and encouragement. Together with God, we can transform lives and the world.

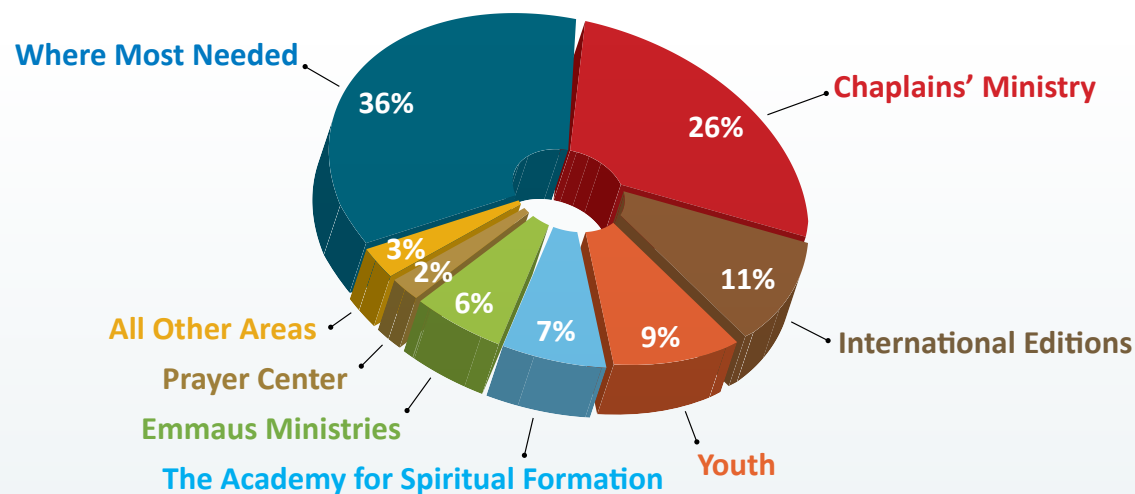
With love and appreciation,



Sherry Elliott
Executive Director
of Administration,
Interpretation,
and Development



Total raised in 2019: **\$840,756**



100% of every donated dollar goes directly to supporting our ministries.

- » Emmaus Ministries
- » The Academy for Spiritual Formation
- » Chaplains' Ministry
- » International Editions
- » Youth
- » Prayer Center
- » Where Most Needed
- » All Other Areas



Donor Revenue for 2019

Chaplains' Ministry: \$220,877

The Chaplains' Ministry Fund provides copies of *The Upper Room* daily devotional for military and prison chaplains to use in their ministry with the people they serve.



Rich in history and connection, the Chaplains' Ministry started in the wake of World War II when staff began to work with military chaplains to provide copies of *The Upper Room* to our armed forces. Over time, the ministry grew to include prison chaplains. Today, The Upper Room distributes more than 270,000 copies of the daily devotional each year to military and prison chaplains and has started to distribute copies to VA hospital chaplains due to donors' generosity.



"Soldiers are lonely and scared and are looking for things not in chaos like the world around them. . . . One of the most pressing spiritual needs of our men and women is to have a sense of rootedness whether at home or in combat, . . . an anchor to hold on to when everything is going to pieces."

— Ret. Colonel Mitchell Lewis, former Army chaplain



The Upper Room helps to "plant the word of God in their lives."

— Richard Sievers, a prison chaplain for more than 23 years



Donor Revenue for 2019

International Editions of *The Upper Room*: \$89,751



The Upper Room daily devotional is available in more than 35 languages and 97 editions and can be found in more than [100 countries](#). This fund supports the work of our publishing partners, primarily with the translation, printing, and distribution of the daily devotional.

For many of our global readers, devotional material in their native tongue is hard to come by and the daily devotional guide is considered a highly valuable resource.



“My wife and I are encouraged to know that we are a part of the universal body of Christ, which not only meditates together but also prays for one another. I pray that the Lord will continue to bless this ministry and everyone who works tirelessly to bring this treasure of meditations to us.”

— Mr. Ruel Masih, reader of *Dhyan Kutir*, the Hindi edition of *The Upper Room*



“*Epiousios Artos* is a source of tremendous encouragement and a unique opportunity for people to be reminded that God has not forsaken them.”

— the Rev. Fotis Romeos, editor of *Epiousios Artos*, the Greek edition of *The Upper Room*



Donor Revenue for 2019

The Academy for Spiritual Formation: \$62,279

The General Fund raised \$23,654. This fund supports the daily operations of The Academy, including program oversight, registration support, and communication needs.

The Scholarship Fund and the **Academy Scholarship Endowment** raised \$30,845 and support participants who attend a Two-Year Academy. Nearly 50% of all participants require scholarship assistance, and these funds help to make the Two-Year Academy more accessible to participants who would not otherwise be able to attend because of financial barriers.

The John Mogabgab Leadership Endowment Fund received \$7,780. It supports the recruitment and retainment of talented faculty of academic astuteness, deep faith, and disciplined spiritual practice and serves as a permanent fund that will generate long-term growth to sustain the ministry.



The Academy
for spiritual formation®



“The Academy teaches a special attentiveness to the presence of God, gently brings people out of their roles and into themselves, and gives them a moment to breathe in Spirit through a rhythm of silence, learning, and prayer in ways that help set life-giving patterns for the rest of their lives.”

— Ben Yousa-Davis, Worship leader of Academy #39 and church planter



Donor Revenue for 2019

Emmaus Ministries: \$50,129

The GIFT Fund for Emmaus Ministries raised \$33,771. This fund goes towards emerging Emmaus Ministries communities and to support our regional representatives. Currently, there are seven: Kenya, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Poland, and Bulgaria.

40 for Emmaus and other general fund donations brought in \$16,358. This revenue supports the daily operations of Emmaus Ministries.



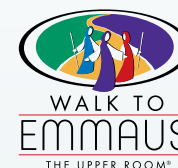
“At all times I was able to experience the presence of the Risen One, in the devotional spaces as well as in times of teaching, meditation, and prayer. The communion with brothers, experienced in the daily sharing of the table and the word, generated deep bonds of brotherhood.”

— Rev. Marcelo Mondini from Argentina, reflecting on his Walk to Emmaus in Bolivia. Marcelo went on to serve on the core team to host the first Walk to Emmaus in Argentina in 2019.

EMMAUS MINISTRIES

The GIFT

40
for
EMMAUS





Donor Revenue for 2019

Youth: \$75,981

The Youth Ministry Fund supports the oversight and development of three spiritual formation programs for youth/young adults: **Discovery Weekend** (led by high schoolers for middle school youth), **Chrysalis** (youth/ young adults), **Journey to the Table** (young adults).



“I got to see the kingdom of God work within all the kids, which showed me how present Christ is throughout our lives and the amount of love and forgiveness that can be found in others.”

—Tatum Keel, Discovery Weekend high school leader

DISCOVERY
WEEKEND
THE UPPER ROOM®



The Prayer Center: \$17,806

For years, the call-in prayer line was the main ministry of the **Prayer Center**. Today, it is the donor-sponsored [Upper Room Prayer Wall](#). Thousands of people each month post prayers on the [online prayer wall](#), and hundreds of volunteers pray for these people each day. We are especially grateful for The United Methodist Men who have sponsored this ministry since the beginning.



“There’s no transformation without prayer.”

—Gil Hanke, General Secretary of the General Commission of United Methodist Men





Donor Revenue for 2019

All Other Areas: \$26,202

Includes funding for the **Braille Ministry**, **Web Ministries**, **The Chapel and Museum**, and **Africa Upper Room**.

Where Most Needed: \$297,731

Donations, including bequests, not given to a particular ministry are placed in the “Where Most Needed” fund. In addition, donors can give to this designation, which serves as a “general fund” for The Upper Room’s ministries. Donations designated as “Where Most Needed” are made available for ministries that need additional funding to accomplish their ministry goals. Oftentimes, this allows a ministry area to become fully funded when it falls short of budget needs. Ministries that benefited from this fund because of 2019 giving include: the Braille Ministry, international editions, Africa Upper Room, the prayer center, and the operating budgets for Emmaus Ministries and The Academy for Spiritual Formation.



“I’m so glad to be a part of a ministry with eternal significance.”

— Rev. Ron Melzer, Fellowship Circle member since 2016

Your Impact in 2019



Two new language editions of *The Upper Room* were produced — Kiswahili and Catalan. The daily devotional is now available in

37 languages,
100+ countries
with a global readership of
4 million.

1.5 million people
reached each month through
The Upper Room website
and social media.

348 military and prison chaplains
supported by The Upper Room
Chaplains' Ministry.

More than **9,000 people**
went on a Walk to Emmaus.

Argentina held its first Walk
to Emmaus; 30 pilgrims attended.

500 people attended a Two-
Year or Short-Term Academy. **50%**
of Academy participants applied for
and received scholarships, thanks
to donor gifts.

197,732 people made
598,731 visits to
The Upper Room Prayer Wall.

2500 students
participated in a Discovery Weekend.

More than **2000 youth** went
on a Chrysalis Flight.

Over **800 young adults**
found community in Journey to
the Table.

The Upper Room daily devotional is available in these languages:

Armenian	Italian
Batak/Indonesian	Japanese
British sign language	Kannada
Bulgarian	Kiswahili
Burmese	Korean
Catalan	Malayalam
Chinese	Nepali
Dutch	Norwegian
English	Odia
Estonian	Polish
French	Portuguese
Greek	Russian
Gujarati	Sinhala
Hindi	Spanish
Hungarian	Swedish
Iban/English	Tamil
Ilokano	Telugu
Indonesian	Thai
	Urdu



Thank you for a great 2019!

Donors gave
\$840,756

Total gifts from 8,740 donors.
Average gift: \$56.07
Average gift per donor: \$96.20

14,994

179

Number of donors who are Fellowship Circle members, people who make a monthly contribution to The Upper Room. We send a special shout-out to you!

94%

of all donations were \$100 or less

30%

of all gifts were from new donors

27

Number of countries where our donors live



Two estate gifts were received. Ms. Joy Love Johnston, longtime friend and donor of The Upper Room, left an estate gift to the general fund. The Nancy Hood Trust gave a gift to The Academy for Spiritual Formation. Nancy was a graduate of Academy #9 in Wisconsin.

Nancy Hood (left) and Ms. Joy Love Johnston (right)



Join us!

Ways to Become More Involved

Join the Fellowship Circle

The Fellowship Circle is a giving circle of friends, who make monthly contributions to The Upper Room. By selecting “recurring gift” on the donation form, you can set up an ongoing monthly gift of any amount and to any fund by using your bank account or credit or debit card. Contact Amy Skerratt, Donor Relations Manager, for more details. **877-899-2781 ext. 7212**



Be a Legacy Giver

Planned giving, bequests, or endowments can make an impact for generations to come. For more information, please contact Amy Skerratt, Donor Relations Manager. **877-899-2781 ext. 7212**

Give a Tribute Gift

Any gift may be made in honor of or in memory of a loved one. If you provide us with the contact information, a tribute card can be mailed on your behalf.

Can Your Donation Be Matched?

Many companies match donations to The Upper Room when given by their employee. Please check with the Human Resources department at your employment to see if your company matches charitable contributions.

Make an In-kind Gift

If you are interested in donating an in-kind gift that is mission-aligned with our ministry, please contact Sherry Elliott, Executive Director of Administration, Interpretation, and Development. **877-899-2781 ext. 7520**

The Upper Room's EIN# is 62-0475840.



Who We Are

Mission Statement

The Upper Room invites people to create daily life with God.

Vision

To foster an international community of people and congregations who are seeking God, building a vision of new life in Christ, nurturing one another by sharing experiences of God's love and guidance, and encouraging one another in Christian action to transform the world.

Core Scriptural Values

- » The Great Commandment – *Matthew 22:37*
- » The Great Commitment – *Matthew 16:24*
- » The Great Requirement – *Micah 6:8*
- » The Great Commission – *Matthew 28:19-20*
- » The Great Redemption – *John 3:16*

Contact Us

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UpperRoom.org/gift