

2021 Annual Donor Report

THE UPPER ROOM



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





From the Executive Director

"I am the bread of life."

— Gospel of John



Sherry Elliott
Executive Director
of Administration,
Interpretation,
and Development,
The Upper Room

I love reading the Gospel of John. The language is beautiful and poetic ("the word became flesh" and "I am the bread of life"). Plus, John shares a few stories of Jesus' ministry that are not told in the other gospels such as Lazarus' rising and the wedding in Cana.

Turning water into wine is Jesus' first recorded miracle. What I notice in this story is how God invites others to participate in the miracle. First, Mary encourages Jesus to make it happen; and then at Jesus' request, the servants fill the six stone jars with water. The wedding guests certainly witnessed God's power and presence that day.

While I don't presume to know the criteria for declaring a miracle, I believe it to be the transformation of the ordinary into extraordinary through divine intervention.

Transformation is happening at The Upper Room. I see it every day as we adapt and innovate with God's help so that we can respond faithfully to the spiritual needs brought about by the pandemic, church conflict, and global unrest.

The Upper Room daily devotional guide, available in 37 languages and in over 100 countries, continues to be our primary source of helping people create daily life with God. Our publishing coordinators located around the world overcame extraordinary challenges to translate, print, and distribute the devotional guide during the pandemic. Our legacy programs, The Walk to Emmaus and The Academy for Spiritual Formation, held online events for hundreds in search of God and spiritual community and launched new initiatives to help foster this connection. I especially enjoyed our fundraiser, the Emmaus Ministries Virtual Walk and Challenge, where pilgrims walked 20 million steps last October in support of physical and spiritual wellness.

There's something miraculous about the constant, generous giving that donors like you demonstrate even in the most challenging of times. Last year, 9,600 donors gave \$1.45 million dollars to The Upper Room. Another record-breaking year! Your gifts made a significant difference in our ability to offer relevant resources to churches and individuals in the U.S. and to our global community.

Please take a few minutes to read through our annual donor report and see the transformation for yourself. It celebrates you and God's wondrous work through your prayers and gifts. Thank you for having confidence in us.

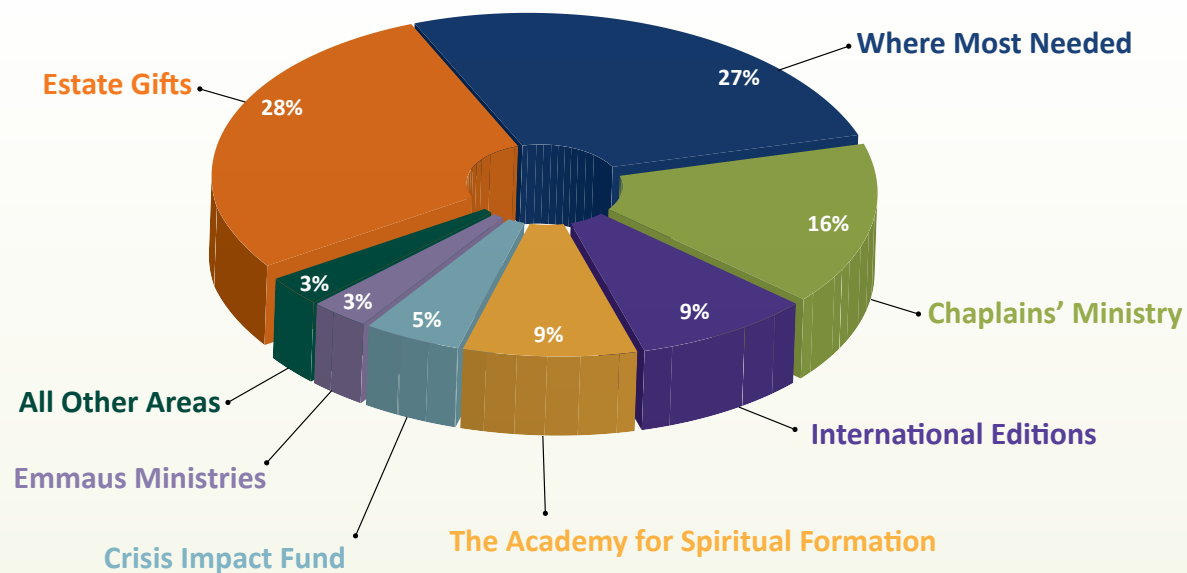
In celebration of the One who turns water to wine,

Sherry Elliott



Donor Revenue for 2021

Total raised in 2021: **\$1,455,471**



100% of every donated dollar goes directly to supporting our ministries. The cost of our fund-raising efforts are covered by our administration budget.



Donor Revenue for 2021

THE UPPER ROOM
CHAPLAINS' MINISTRY

Chaplain's Ministry: \$235,343

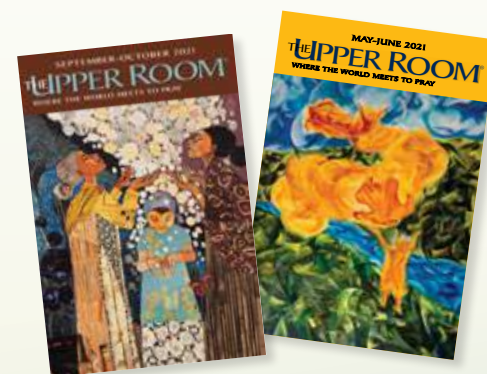
The Chaplains' Ministry Fund provides copies of *The Upper Room* daily devotional for military, VA hospital, and prison chaplains to use in their ministry with the people they serve.

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. Today, The Upper Room distributes more than 250,000 copies of the daily devotional to military, VA hospital, and prison chaplains.



I recently purchased a copy of The Upper Room and enjoyed it so much that I reached out to receive copies for my ministry. Thank you for your generous support of The Upper Room Chaplains' Ministry. We will make the copies available to the men in our correctional facility for their spiritual encouragement, growth, and development within their Christian faith.

—Prison Chaplain, Oklahoma



Donor Revenue for 2021



The Upper Room International Editions: \$128,253

The Upper Room daily devotional is available today in 37 languages and can be found in more than 100 countries. This fund supports our international publishing coordinators in the translation, production, and distribution of many of the language editions. For our global readers, devotional material in their native tongue is often hard to come by and the daily devotional guide is considered a treasured resource.

The Upper Room daily devotional is available in these languages.

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



“When I was six years old, my father started using *Udumahal Mendura*, the Sinhala edition of *The Upper Room*, for our family devotions. Without break, I have continued to read the meditations every day. I am now 60 years old. Following my father’s example, we use *Udumahal Mendura* for our family devotions. Our son and daughter use the devotional with their families, continuing *The Upper Room* chain to the third generation.”

—Givantha Arthasad, back cover artist of *Udumahal Mendura*, Sri Lanka

Donor Revenue for 2021



The Academy
for spiritual formation®

The Academy for Spiritual Formation: **\$134,162**

Rising to the occasion to meet people's spiritual needs during the pandemic, The Academy created and launched several successful online models. Among them were **Spiritual Formation in Today's World: A One-Year Online Offering from The Academy for Spiritual Formation** and three **Day Apart Retreats**. The groundbreaking **Spirituality of Resilience within the Hispanic & Latinx Community**, the first-ever online six-month Spanish language Academy specifically designed for the Latinx community, attracted 49 participants from five countries.

The Academy continued to focus its fundraising endeavors on the operations budget, working on ways to keep the Academy experience available virtually while in-person Academies made plans to resume once it is safe to gather in person again. **The Academy General Fund** raised **\$69,943**.

The Academy Scholarship Fund raised **\$37,813** and supports participants who need assistance to attend a Two-Year Academy or the new one-year online Academy model. Half of all Two-Year Academy participants require scholarship assistance.

The John Mogabgab Leadership Endowment Fund raised **\$26,406**. It supports the recruitment and retainment of the best faculty possible and serves as a permanent fund to generate annual returns to sustain the ministry.



"As a long-time liturgist, I have always thought of symbols or sacred spaces in chapels or temples. But it was during the Academy . . . that I understood nature as a sacred space."

—Juan Gattinoni, Spirituality of Resilience participant, Argentina



Donor Revenue for 2021



Emmaus Ministries: \$49,101

Although a few communities held in-person events, following the safety guidelines of the CDC and Emmaus Ministries, most weekend walks did not take place due to the numerous surges of the COVID variants. Yet the innovation and creativity to develop online offerings continued. Regular international and regional online Gatherings were held. **Day Four Restore**, a one-day retreat model, was designed and tested, launching in January 2022. Likewise, another virtual offering in the Emmaus family, which takes place over three consecutive weekends, was designed in 2021 and will be offered later this year.

Fundraising initiatives focused on the **Fourth Day Fund**, the operations fund. **Emmaus Ministries: Virtual Walk and Challenge**, the first-ever fitness fundraiser for Emmaus, took place October 1-November 12. More than 170 people participated in this challenge that encouraged people to walk the distance between Jerusalem and Emmaus. The virtual walk and challenge raised more than \$9,000. The total amount raised for the **Fourth Day Fund** in 2021 was **\$33,359**.

The GIFT Fund for Emmaus Ministries raised **\$10,413**. This fund supports emerging Emmaus Ministries communities and their regional representatives. **The Walk to Emmaus Fund** raised **\$4,829**, and the **Face to Face Fund** raised **\$500**. Both funds are designated for their respective program ministry.



“Emmaus Ministries starts and supports new communities around the world so that Christians can experience God’s love in new ways and serve as the hands and feet of Christ in the world.”

—Sue Crane, member of the Heart of Carolina community



Donor Revenue for 2021

The Crisis Impact Fund: \$77,740

The Crisis Impact Fund is designed to help The Upper Room respond quickly and with relevance to urgent social needs and other crises. Many of the new virtual programs and events that were offered in 2021 tapped into the Crisis Impact Fund for funding. This fund also supported the in-person **Reset Retreat** in which The Upper Room partnered with Rev. Dr. Ron Bell, providing a setting for spiritual leaders to experience healing while addressing their grief and trauma. In October, the ground-breaking conference—**Resilience: Healing Practices for Body, Mind, and Spirit**—took place. This three-day virtual event offered space for people to find rest and renewal and to explore healthy spiritual practices as they begin to make their way in this new world and to heal.

The Crisis Impact Fund also helped to support the livestreaming of weekly services from The Upper Room Chapel. People worldwide join this time of worship.



“Many times, I have come to discover the importance of developing a greater sense of self as a disciple of Jesus Christ; but the work of ministry never gave me that opportunity. This retreat, this time away . . . has helped me to learn more about myself and that journey of discovery.”

—Rev. Mark Norman, Reset Retreat participant



Donor Revenue for 2021

The Stephen Bryant Prayer and Spiritual Formation Fund: \$11,500

Named after The Upper Room’s former publisher, **The Stephen Bryant Prayer and Spiritual Formation Fund** provides financial support in creating virtual events for pastors and church leaders. These events are designed to support their life with God as leaders in faith communities. In 2021, this fund helped to support the leaders of the ground-breaking conference, **Resilience: Healing Practices for Body, Mind, and Spirit**. This fund will eventually support in-person retreats and will help us to create a library of digital content to support the lifelong journey of spiritual formation for church leaders.



Rev. Stephen Bryant



“The Resilience conference was a fine example of what it means to recognize our citizenship in a global church. We have much to glean from the ways in which past and present communities respond to trauma and benefit from the kind of healing offered in community engaged in worship, facilitation, and conversation. I was honored to be a speaker, and I’m proud to be a part of an organization at the vanguard of international co-ministry (ministry with and amongst the breadth of creation).”

—Rev. Dr. Amy Steele, Executive Director of Program and Dean of The Upper Room Chapel



Donor Revenue for 2021

All Other Areas: **\$32,841**

Includes funding for *The Upper Room* braille edition, the Prayer Center, Youth, Web Ministries, and Africa Upper Room. Of special note, in 2021 there were 435 recipients of our braille edition and an estimated 79,913 prayer requests were posted on the prayer wall.

Where Most Needed: **\$386,028**

Donations 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. Ministries that benefited from this fund because of 2021 generous giving include: Africa Upper Room, The Upper Room Prayer Center, the braille edition, and the operating budgets for Emmaus Ministries and The Academy for Spiritual Formation.



“With the braille edition, I can power down each day and in the stillness discover under my fingers the ever-crisp word of God.”

—Becka deHaan, braille recipient



Donor Revenue for 2021

*You will be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water that won't run dry.*

— Isaiah 58:11b, CEB

Three Legacy Gifts: \$400,503

Over the years, The Upper Room has been blessed by persons who have included The Upper Room in their wills. Naming The Upper Room as a beneficiary in your will is a significant way to invest in the future of this ministry. Many donors consider a bequest as a way to round out a lifetime of giving to The Upper Room.

In 2021, The Upper Room accepted legacy gifts from Edith Deane of Washington, D.C., William and Jean Fishwick of Virginia, and Paul Graves Darnall of Kentucky. The Darnall Estate was the largest estate gift to date ever received by The Upper Room. We give thanks for the life and legacy of Ms. Deane, Mr. and Mrs. Fishwick, and Mr. Darnall.

If you would like to include The Upper Room in your estate planning, please contact Sherry Elliott at selliott@upperroom.org or **615-340-7520**.



Your Impact in 2021

37 languages, in more than **100** countries, reaching **4 million** readers globally.

20% increase in subscriptions to the digital version of the daily devotional.

1.6 million visited The Upper Room website. **47.5 million** social media impressions.

More than **100** people from **10** countries attended The Upper Room's first-ever Worship Service for Asian Leaders.

87 people from **11** countries attended the Tagalog webinar to meet our publishing team from the Philippines.

144 people attended Resilience: Healing Practices for Body, Mind, and Spirit. People came from **six** countries.

500 military, VA hospital, and prison chaplains were supported by The Upper Room Chaplains' Ministry. More than **250,000** copies per year are sent to chaplains.

250 was the average attendance for each of Emmaus Ministries' three international global Gatherings. People came from **21** countries. Simultaneous translation occurred in Korean, Mandarin, and Spanish.

51 people attended *Spiritual Formation in Today's World: A One-Year Online Offering from The Academy for Spiritual Formation*.

49 participants from five different countries attended Academy's *Spirituality of Resilience within the Hispanic & Latinx Community*.

136 people attended one of Academy's three Day Apart retreats. **47** of them were new to The Academy.

The Academy for Spiritual Formation continued to be ranked as a **Feedspot Top 15 Spiritual Podcast** to follow.

4,182 was the average reach for Live from the Chapel and A Moment of Prayer, two weekly services offered via Facebook Live.

90,760 people visited The Upper Room Prayer Wall to post prayers or to pray for others.



Thank you for a great 2021!

Donors gave
\$1,455,471

Total gifts from **9,620** donors.
Average gift: **\$80.32**
Average gift per donor: **\$151.30**

18,122

Donors came from

22
countries

93.64%
of all donations
were \$100 or less

25.39%
of gifts were from
new donors

318
donors are Fellowship Circle
members, people who make
a monthly contribution
to The Upper Room. We
send a special shout-out of
appreciation to you!

3 legacy gifts
totaling
\$400,503



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 The Upper Room development office for more details: fellowship@upperroom.org, **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 Sherry Elliott at selliott@upperroom.org, **877-899-2781 ext. 7520**

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 sent on your behalf.

Make a Gift of Stock

The Upper Room is able to receive your gift of stock via transfer to our Wespath account. For more information, please contact Sherry Elliott at selliott@upperroom.org, **877-899-2781 ext. 7520**

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 at selliott@upperroom.org, **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.

Guiding Principles

- » Honor God's presence that has shaped our past and guides our future.
- » Create content that points to hope in Christ.
- » Offer space to listen for the Spirit to form us.
- » Embrace a spirit of abundance that gives witness to God's generosity.
- » Engage the global community with love and respect.
- » Commit to work that is relevant and accessible for all people.

Contact Us

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615-340-7212

development@UpperRoom.org

To learn more, please visit The Upper Room development website:

www.UpperRoom.org/donor

To make an online gift:

www.UpperRoom.org/gift