



# THE UPPER ROOM REPORT

SUMMER 2018



## DEAR FRIENDS,

with this letter we wish to take you along with us on our recent trip to India and inform you how exciting, touching and interesting our last weeks and months were!

In this letter you will find:

- # Latest updates about „our“ school and college-students
- # The annual Upper Room Camp for young adults in Goa
- # A big Thank-you
- # Where next?
- # Prayer Intentions

Enjoy reading and let us know what you think!

...photo on the cover: Visiting the village Hetman, Arunachal Pradesh, North-East India.

## #UPDATES ABOUT „OUR“ STUDENTS

A total of 8 school students and 5 college students now can pursue an active education thanks to your help!

**We have visited our students in their villages and can happily testify to their joy and progress personally!**

Sijang Lowang (4 years) for example now goes to School, is enrolled for Kindergarten and lives at the Hostel accomodation provided by the religious institution there.



We have managed to reach some after a 11-hour walk to their village! This is exactly why the students have to leave their own villages and seek accomodation in a Hostel close to where their school is.

## A BIG "THANK YOU" FOR SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS!

What we found very moving in these encounters was the understated simplicity and joyful eyes of the people that arrested our attention.

Duggu, a 14-year old who is paralysed from Japanese Encephalitis gave up studying because of his sickness two years ago but can still read. Thanks to Susan Cohen, he burst into laughter with joy when we gifted him ,BIJU' a storybook for children written by her and gifted by her to ,our' Kids.

We also wanted to make a special mention of gratitude to Eva Halo for her gift of Medical Aid in the form of bandages and Tapes.

We could divide them into three packets and distribute them to two villages Hetman and Ranghill in Manmao, Arunachal Pradesh and one to St.Xavier's School Nampong, Arunachal Pradesh).

They were very grateful to your assistance and asked us to thank you for your kindness!



# #CAMP FOR YOUNG ADULTS IN GOA

Our personal summer-highlight and the highpoint for many who were with us on this journey was the Summer camp for young adults held from 11-15 August.

Themed „You are nowHERE at Home“, it comprised a carefully planned diverse programme. The thought-line began from Identity (I AM), the Other (You Are), Living in Awareness (Now Here) and finding one’s spiritual Home (You are now here at home).

We brought the 40 participants from the age group 18-35 closer to this theme in creative ways!

**SPIRITUAL EXPERTS  
A PLATFORM FOR SEEKERS  
HOME FOR YOUR DOUBTS**

**... TO HELP YOU WRITE YOUR OWN FAITH STORY!**

Wim van der Laan (Physiotherapist and Counsellor from Netherlands), Fr. Michael Amaladoss (Jesuit, Author of 34 books and an important facilitator in inter-religious Dialogue) and Sr. Sayuja (Professor and Dean, Faculty of Theology, Mater Dei Institute) led us on this journey with their wisdom and experience.

Marlis Birkner and Ngamlang Homtok, we cannot be grateful enough to you for giving us two heart-touching compositions, "Daddy Darling" and "You are Nowhere at Home". If any of you dear friends, would like to have a copy of the same, please write to us and we'll send it to you free of cost.



# DISTINCT MOMENTS IN THE CAMP PROGRAMME

## WALK OF FAITH

The participants embarked on the ,Emmaus Journey' of the disciples of Jesus after his death and resurrection. The concentration and creativity with which the groups made artistic pieces and honest prayers for each of the 8 stations of this ,Walk of Faith' with Mosaic tiles (thank you Corine van der Laan for teaching us this!) made a lasting impression on us.

## DISCUSSION ROUNDS

Indian participants had the opportunity to learn how to prepare ,Mohnnudeln' an austrian delicacy as part of a workshop while the austrian participants sipped on some heart-warming spiced Indian Chai! It was delightful to watch how the participants got into intensive dialogues with each other and with the speakers sharing joy, questions and doubts. We also encouraged ,official' discussions and questions where the participants were challenged to state their opinions and question them.

## LAST SUPPER

Father Cyril Desbruslais explained the last Supper to us. Many participants had tears in their eyes, as this highly-gifted man ,touched' the feet of each of us- a sign steeped in Indian culture as one of seeking blessing and offering respectful reverence. It stands for the symbol of humility with which Jesus washed the feet of his apostles. Taking a lesson from Cyril we then began touching each others' feet. It was a very Special experience to each participant; not something that can be easily put into words.

## CRAZINESS UNFOLDED

It was unbelievable how much of laughter was exchanged in these days. The participants hunted through Baga beach in search of ,treasures' based on the 10 commandments and performed crazy tasks. A let-your-hair-down-and-have-some-fun session was much necessary in the middle of intensive sessions. Ofcourse a retreat for youngsters can and must include some fun!



# ...FROM THE PARTICIPANTS...



**Diana Ross Fernandes** shared a photo. ...

20 August at 10:56 · 🌐

All we need is clarity of thought.

A little dialogue, discussion and teamwork was the perfect mix to fine tune my thinking and get me back on track. Thank you @TheUpperRoom for reminding me of who I Truly Am

Blessed to be part of The Upper Room

#UpperRoom2018 #IAm

Show Attachment

The Upper Room, Robin Fernandes, Yash Samson and 6 others



**Poilung Mossang** ▶ The Upper Room ...

20 August at 11:54 · 🌐

Am Indeed Nowhere at Home! And am truly going NOWHERE from Home! Thanks #TheUpperRoom the whole team and the lovely people for making me feel at home. Love You People!



**Ashley Reis** shared a photo. ...

22 August at 18:34 · 👥

"To be or not to be"

That was the question. But finding one's trueself amidst Creation, defines who 'You Are'.

The Upper Room 2018 took on a journey to knowing who #IAm. Thanks to each member linked to The Upper Room who made this experience a meaningful one.

Discussions, Sessions, Games and Activities enriched our minds and hearts. Thank you Anson and Georg for your time and dedication into uplifting the experience to a whole new level. Thoroughly enjoyed the week, will miss each one of you.

#Now\_here\_at\_home

#TheUpperRoom\_18

Show Attachment

You, Robin Fernandes, Dominic D'Cunha and 5 others



## OH WOW!

We feel extremely satisfied to have received such feedback. It shows how much all the efforts were worth.



To read more feedback, rate the Upper Room and keep up to date with our activities, follow us on Facebook or Instagram.



To see a video of the camp, subscribe our Youtube Channel!

## #THANK YOU!

What would we do without your continued support, dear Friends?

Many thanks for your gifts that allow us to send students to school and university and encourage young people in matters of life and faith. Thank you for every prayer you whispered for us, for every time you asked about how we were doing and every heartfelt support. They are extremely precious to us.

Special thanks to our beloved Grandma Hilde Gramm for having announced at her family celebration that she would like her guests to offer help to the children of the Upper Room instead of offering gifts to her. She has an incredibly big heart and we are so thankful to her for this generous gesture!



## #PRAYER INTENTIONS

We are very thankful to you for your support. We request you to support us in your prayers for the following intentions:

1. The Retreat House where we were having the retreat for the past two years will be undergoing development. We are looking for a similar, if not better location for our retreat next year.
2. Duggu's mom asked us for prayers so she has the strength to go forward, also each of the families we've met.

We are thinking of you and are looking forward to seeing you again!

Best regards,

**ANSON & GEORG**  
FOUNDERS OF  
THE UPPER ROOM



## #WHERE DOES IT GO FROM HERE?

We have it in our heart to help some more students in the following year. The students who finish their schooling lack opportunity.

To state a sad truth plainly: Many girls turn into unwed mothers from the age of 15 and discontinue their education. Boys give up education and engage in drug abuse exhausting all their options.

With the blessings and support of the Bishop of the Diocese of Miao, we are now working on creating a network of Diocese-run higher institutes of learning in order to find them a vocation they can develop into.

If you know of someone who wishes to help us in any way, you could forward this letter to them.