

DELHI HOUSE

Delhi House Society | Newsletter December 2017



Dear friends and supporters of Delhi House

Delhi House Society is a Christian humanitarian development organization that has been faithfully working with the poorest of the poor in Delhi for more than two decades. It has been awarded the Mother Teresa Award for Social Justice for being a modern-day Good Samaritan. Our approach to community development is to create 'community hubs' that act as a nexus point for people to come together, collaborate and create community-led solutions to the challenges they face. I joined this modern-day Good Samaritan ministry in 2010. God spoke to me on January 1, 1997 about some bible verses in Isaiah 58 and I wrote this in my diary, but forgot about it over the next 13 years. I took my theology exam and later, my wife and I both completed a Master's Degree in Social Work, even though we had no immediate intention to work in that field. For 7 years now, I have had the opportunity to work at the Sewa Ashram/ Delhi House, working with a community based on Isaiah 58.

I never imagined that I would serve in a ministry with such underprivileged people, showing Godly love and care. I remember the Samaritan in the story, particularly

in the context of the time and culture, was extravagant in his display of compassion and kindness. Shocking. Excessive. Unheard of. The story sets an example for how to take a risk and serve strangers, but there are countless ways we can, in our own communities, help people improve their lives.

Sometimes, serving others is a small act of compassion and kindness. Other times, it's a sacrificial investment that changes someone's life and even our own in the process. Many times, both giving and receiving kindness can be uncomfortable. It's awkward and it can push us out of our comfort zone. If you're looking for a way to serve, you can start small.

Pray for us and be inspired to become a Good Samaritan. Help put a big smile on the face of a stranger.

May our good God bless you.

Keshav Dutt Pandey



Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood... if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday... You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings. Isaiah 58: 7-12

In 2007, twelve years after the tender beginnings on the streets of Delhi – Ton Snellaert left the Sewa Ashram and Delhi House. Twelve intensive years and an enormous measure of hope, energy, faith, commitment and love. There were ups and downs – saved lives, bliss and dramas – until the day when Ton's energy reserves were depleted and it was time to move on. Today, ten years later, Ton lives in Appeldoorn, Netherlands and the circle closes. We are pleased that he has shared some thoughts for this newsletter with us.

THE SEWA ASHRAM – Thoughts of Ton Snellaert

A farewell at the place where it all began

Ten years ago, at the onset of autumn, morning air, slightly crisp, I waved once more, but also for the very last time, at the family and patients of Sewa Ashram community who were all gathered by the gate. Some kids, shouting Jai Guuruji, Jai Tonbabaji, ran alongside the car waving and shouting my name till I was out of sight, merging into Delhi's traffic. On our way to the airport, I had to stop and visit, one more time, the countless destitute sheltering under the fly-over at the Yamuna Bazaar-crossing, "the Yamuna Bridge". The exact spot where it all started. In the year 1995, passing by in a car, atop this very same bridge, the sight of a stripped bare, beaten-up young guy, tangled-up midst the careless passing vehicles made me experience his pain and abandonment as my own. The driver just shrugged his shoulders and drove on. At night, in the hotel, I read the words of God as spoken through Isaiah and it was this scripture which became the blueprint of Sewa Ashram/Delhi House. These words and the living words of Jesus have sustained the lively community of Sewa Ashram thus far. Moreover, the community has indeed become that well-watered garden, a spring whose waters never fail.

The Sewa Ashram continues to evolve

Under the expert leadership of Keshav and his team, the community has been reshaped, inward and outward, still

being inspired by those same words from Isaiah, which also led Keshav to this work. Sewa Ashram is as relevant as ever. At its humble beginnings, Sewa Ashram was situated in a rural landscape. The small farmers were evicted, trees stripped bare and eventually cut down to feed the fires of so many poor households. When grass and shrubs were grazed barren and the last remnants of nature destroyed, concrete came in its place. Where once flocks of waterfowl landed to feed, wading through rice-paddies in the wake of a buffalo heading out for a bath, where at evening the boys went out for a rowdy game of cricket, where you could see the enormous red sun disappear beyond a pastoral landscape, there now arises a whole new city with buildings so high a poor man might disappear altogether, dwarfed by the grandiosity around him. Will this new city be a "heartless" city? Sewa Ashram and Jesus Christ who dwells within, may be just the heart which this, yet soulless, new city needs.

Reunion on the smartphone

How great my surprise and how great a privilege then, to be called unexpectedly by a bunch of young men living and serving at Sewa Ashram. Since they all carry smart-phones, it was a video-call, and there I was, after ten years, facing a troupe of eager looking, broad-smiling, healthy and bright faces, calling Baba, Baba, and laughing a lot. I have known many of these young men



and women since they were children. I won't start with names, there are too many, I might leave one out, but be assured, all are treasured in my heart. Beyond each smile lies a tragic story of broken families, poverty, homelessness and illness. It has been a privilege to offer them a home, health, education and family. They in turn, have served the community of the poor at the Ashram, as the word "Sewa" implies. How wonderful to witness this personal transformation, how each one of them became the person they were intended to be, and how, in fact, it are these young people who are the very backbone of Sewa Ashram, repairer of broken walls, restorer of streets with dwellings.

My personal journey – a return home

It is only now, in retrospect, that I see myself feeling lost after the plane had lifted from the Indira Gandhi Airport ten years ago. As soon as the rubber left the tarmac, I flew, and high and lonely was my soaring; a circling over mountains and through forests, looking for a home, a place to settle, alone, alone. To be found, I had to be lost, to return, there needed to be a place to return to. The forest became my home, loneliness and suffering my cell. Now however, after a lengthy process of "re-integration" in a world of which I was estranged (my eyes see only beauty and suffering), I have been found and welcomed as the prodigal son I was, into the arms of the "Steiger/ No Longer Music" family which I once joined in 1993. It is a privilege to be servant of the servants. I will soon be

the gardener at the Steiger International center in Krogis. But more than this, I will no longer be alone, but part of a vibrant Christian Artists community.

The way David and Jodie Pierce and their sons welcomed me into their family has been nothing short of a revelation. The story of the return of the prodigal son was enacted before my very eyes. The love and compassion in their eyes, the way they looked at me, is only to be compared with the way God looks at us. May this be a testimony of the unconditional love the Father has for each one of us. Nothing can separate you from the love of God.

I thank all the friends and supporters of Sewa Ashram/ Delhi House, especially the supporters of the first hour, that have continued their gifts to Sewa Ashram. May the year 2018 be a year of peace, a year of an even deeper revelation about God's immeasurable love, a year of proclamation of the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.



ton.snellaert@gmail.com
www.steiger.org/kroegis
www.facebook.com/antonius.snellaert

Alumni reunion with Ton and Gaby in Essen



The relationship between Delhi House India and Germany was never just about financing the work in Delhi through donations, but also about relationships and friendships.

In the last 20 years, a small international „Delhi House Community“ has grown – people who have been volunteers in Delhi for a short or long time. This time in Delhi was an im-

portant and formative life experience for everyone – once again we were able to see this very impressively at this year's alumni meeting in Essen. At first we visited the mining museum in Essen, and then we visited Kathleen and Markus for a delicious Indian dinner. After a report on new developments and future planning for our work, there was a moving and impressive round of exchanges in which everyone reported personally on what the time in Sewa Ashram meant to them. A special highlight and a special joy was that Ton and Gaby, who founded the work in Delhi about 20 years ago, were able to participate.

Christoph Burkhardt

Treatment with **DIGNITY** and **QUALITY** – in the new clinic building of the Sewa Ashram



New clinic from the outside

The first small clinic in Narela

When we bought the land in Narela in 2001, the first building we built was our small clinic. A very simple brick building with a small treatment room, an anteroom with 2 intensive care beds and a patient room for 10 beds. At that time it was a great opportunity to take the men off the streets, treat them and house them. It was a big step forward compared to the first rescue center on the edge of Old Delhi. In the meantime 16 years have passed and the Ashram has developed in a wonderful way.

**"These people have landed on the street,
but when they come to us,
they should feel the **dignity** and **love**
that God feels for them."**



In front of the old clinic

Buildings also reflect values



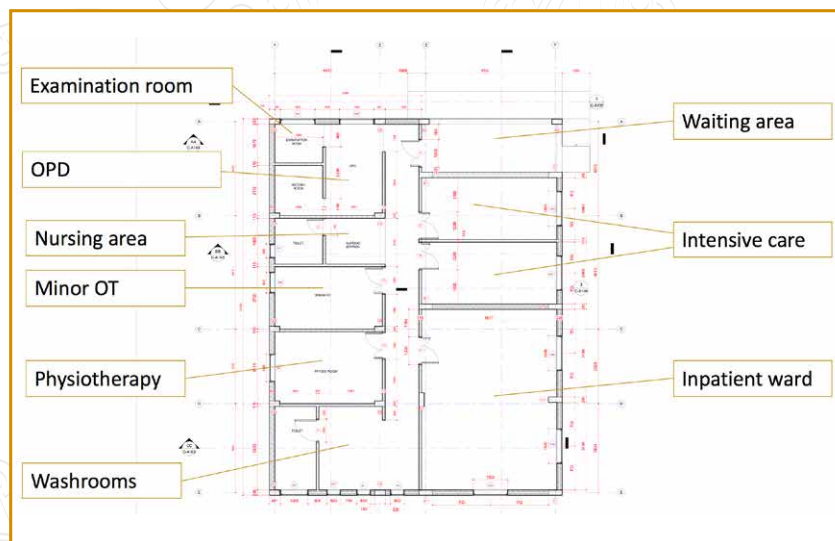
Patient room of the old clinic

For us in the work of Delhi House, the aspect that God does not make any difference in the dignity of the person – whether poor, rich, man, woman, no matter what caste – each person carries the dignity of being shaped by God's image. For us, this is a core value that should also be reflected in our buildings. We also want to treat the poorest of the poor with this dignity and respect and treat them with great esteem and good quality. Sometimes we have heard the phrase: "They come from the street and are supposed to be happy to have a roof over their heads at all!" "Yes," we say, "these people have landed on the street, but when they come to us, they should feel the dignity and love that God feels for them," so we want to treat them with enough space in a functional and good room. After our small clinic (created according to the usual slum construction method)

had to be supported in some places with steel girders, it was already clear for a long time that we wanted to build a clinic, a treatment building, after the construction of the beautiful new bed houses for the patients since 2013.

"A dream has come true!"

The new clinic was inaugurated in July 2017 and our visiting physician, Dr. Ashish, welcomed Christoph and me in October with the words: „A dream has come true!“ Dr. Ashish has so far conducted his patient interviews at the bench outside the old clinic. Now he has a room in which the patients and he are shielded,



Patient room and new clinic

a couch for examinations and a wardrobe for all patient files and more. Our clinic team with Lalita, Bipul, Narinder and Rajpal is enthusiastic about their new workplace. The floor plan shows how we can now use the building. Once again, many of our employees have helped to build it, so that it has also become THEIR building. And all this in an impressive quality for a fraction of the money that would otherwise have to be spent on such buildings. The clinic has a gross floor area of 205 sqm and cost us about 42.000€, which we were able to finance by earmarked special donations. We are very grateful for that. Now we have completed the new building of the rehabilitation clinic of the Ashram and with the 2 bed houses and the new clinic we have great facilities.

With the surrounding area changing into the suburbs of Delhi with the construction of 20-storey residential buildings, we have the vision to apply for a clinic license for outpatient treatment in the future. We want to offer health services for the new inhabitants around us and thus help to finance the work for the poorest of the poor.

Dirk Walliser



View from the roof of the clinic



ART WORKSHOP at the Learning Center and Sewa Ashram

Perhaps it is as old as the first cave painting itself, the question: What is art actually? The „Art for Change Foundation“, which was founded in Delhi in 2010, provides a very concrete answer. Here, art is seen as a means of positively changing society through beauty and truth. Art for Change regularly hosts art workshops at the Sewa Ashram and the Learning Center.

Shalen has been working at Art for Change for 7 years and told me the following about the content, origin and objectives of the workshops: „I can't say exactly when we started working at the Sewa Ashram and the Learning Center. The founder of our organization had friends at the Sewa Ashram, a close relationship with some of the patients, and the first meetings were rather spontaneous. In parallel with the further development of our organisation, the whole thing gained structure and regularity. In the meantime, we are doing it in such a way that we have a series of meetings, for example, every Tuesday for a month, as is currently the case. This is then repeated every 3 months because we are active in 4 different places. Dividing them into series and more frequent meetings within a shorter period of time helps a lot to establish a closer relationship with patients and children.

In the case of the Sewa Ashram, we are currently doing the following: We choose a major main topic, a basic question, in this case: How is our life influenced? We deal with them in smaller steps, i. e. several individual meetings. This week the task was to tell something good about yourself and write down who influenced

you positively in life. Next week it will be about negative influences, for example the things that put you in the situation of being accepted into the Sewa Ashram. In this way it should be made clear that a life always combines a balance between the good and the bad, just as a painting only comes to life through contrasts, through light and darkness. You don't have to be ashamed of it or try to hide or suppress it. The only way to deal with the dark side of life and the past is confrontation and processing. Afterwards it is important to let go and relax. After the conversation part comes the part where we simply paint whatever comes to mind. Some people are amazed at what was hidden in his subconscious mind.

The work in the Learning Center with the children does not go so deep. Here the focus is on fun, relaxation, without the pressure of a concrete task, but the freedom to choose your own theme and to carry it out and implement it. In this way, the focus is on the individual value

and personality of each child. We hope that this will strengthen their self-confidence.“

And with success. The children proudly present their paintings and explain in detail what they were thinking. The adults also take courageous steps in the rounds of talks and applaud each other after presenting their letter. I have the impression that these small steps make a lot of difference and that the goal of making positive changes through art is achieved.

Sarah Just & Jonas Amborn



The men of the Ashram present their drawings

FIGURES and STATISTICS

Our work is about people in need in Delhi. In the background, however, it also requires quite an extensive set of figures to ensure that we can pay all invoices and wages and that all donations are also used for the work area for which they were intended.

Over the last two years, we have been working to improve these processes and increase transparency. We have made good progress in this respect. In the following, we have presented the annual financial statements including a year-on-year comparison.

Annual Financial Statement	1.4.2015 – 31.3.2016	1.4.2016 – 31.3.2017
Delhi House Society India	INR	INR
Donations from Germany	7.183.231	6.572.749
Donations from Switzerland	–	1.578.221
Donations from Australia	652.309	939.934
Donations from New Zealand	891.862	916.188
Donations from USA	1.316.547	297.070
Donations from India	421.594	275.957
Interest on fixed-term deposits	522.199	399.847
Interest on current accounts	2.1893	8.715
Total income	11.009.635	10.988.681
Total expenditure	-10.807.474	-11.381.511
Operating result	202.161	-392.830
construction investments included in the result (*)		399.421
Operating result excluding construction investments		6.591
not included in the result of construction investments		1.836.169
Total construction investments		2.235.590
Newly created reserves		–
Reserves released		1.829.578
Remaining reserves		3.920.091

(*) According to Indian accounting principles, certain construction costs are included in the annual result, but most of them are capitalised in the balance sheet instead.

What do all these numbers mean?

Here are the most important points:

- Overall, donations have been stable over the past two financial years
- The earmarked donations are largely used for the projects for which the donors have earmarked them. An exception is the Learning Center Old Delhi. Here we have used the significant surplus of earmarked donations for the Learning Center Narela with the donor's consent. All project deficits are covered by non-earmarked donations.
- The ongoing operation of our projects ("Operating profit excluding construction investments") was covered by regular donations in the last two years, while the construction projects were financed from the earmarked reserves available for this purpose.

STATISTICS (APRIL 2016 – MARCH 2017)

- **124** admitted patients at the Sewa Ashram
- **58** former patients are cared for in Life Groups
- **104** slum children are cared for in 3 learning centers (**49** of which with target school entry (non-formal education) and **55** of which in remedial education)
- **30** slum children pass school entrance examination
- **44** adults in sewing, English and read/write courses
- **10** teenagers (orphans) in foster families
- **8** young adults (orphans) in vocational training
- **29** indian employees in Delhi or **26.5** full-time equivalent

What are our challenges for the future?

- With the reserves for construction projects, we were able to complete all three new buildings for the medical part of the Sewa Ashram. Here we have invested approx. 125 lakhs (€ 167.000). For the next construction phase, the Community Center & Learning Center on the future public part of the Sewa Ashram, we expect further cost of 135 lakhs (€ 180.000). Approximately 37.5 lakhs (€ 50.000) euros of these reserves and a further 49 lakhs (€65'000) are already financed by pledges of donations. This results in a remaining financing gap of approximately 49 lakhs (€ 65.000).
- So far, the ongoing operation could be covered by the current donations. However, due to the sharp rise in wage costs in India as a result of legal requirements, this will only work in the future if we can increase our current donations by about 10%.

Christoph Burkhardt

Revenues and expenses of the Delhi House Society India by projects

1.4.16 – 31.1.17	Revenues	Expenses	Projekts-hortfall/overlap
Project	INR	INR	INR
Non-earmarked(*)	3.916.161	(*)	3.916.161
Sewa Ashram	3.815.877	-7.161.867	-3.345.990
CP-1	939.912	-1.275.849	-335.937
CP-2	492.957	-691.155	-198.198
LC(*) Narela	65.719	-927.967	-862.248
LC(*) Old Delhi	1.209.417	-857.182	352.235
LC(*) Bawana	548.638	-451.223	97.415
Transition House	–	-16.269	-16.269
Total	10.988.681	-11.381.511	-392.830

(*) LC = Learning Center

Non-earmarked = Donations without allocation to a project and interest income. Expenditure unallocated to a project was allocated to the projects in proportion to the project effort.

Delhi House Society exists to see the lives of the poor transformed: physically, socially, economically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. We thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to care for our brothers and sisters in India. For more details on how you can partner with us please visit our website www.delhihouse.org

US DONORS: Checks payable to: 'Sunnyside Fellowship' c/o Dr. Mark Grussendorf 5505 Heritage Hills Cir Fredericksburg, VA 22407-0104. Please note your check: 'Sewa Ashram'. Please contact markgrussendorf@hotmail.com regarding receipt for income tax deduction.

NEW ZEALAND DONORS: Cheques payable to: Cry for the World Foundation, 29 Kahira Crescent Papamoa, Tauranga 3118 NZ, Bank account details for direct deposits at ANZ: Account Name: Cry for the World Foundation, Account Number: 01 0819 0374190 30 Branch: 37 Rotherham St, Riccarton, Christchurch. Please contact vickiathol@gmail.com regarding receipt for income tax deduction.

AUSTRALIAN DONORS: Checks payable to: 'Opportunity International Australia' Level 4, 220 George Street Sydney NSW 2000, Please mark your donation "Sewa Ashram". Please contact raymond@mihubb.com regarding receipt for income tax deduction.

EUROPEAN DONORS: Please use the following information for wire transfer: Recipient: Delhi House e.V., Waldsaum 33, D-45134 Essen, Germany IBAN: DE97 6601007506145097 50 BIC: PBNKDEFF (Postbank Karlsruhe). Please contact office@delhihouse.de regarding receipt for income tax deduction.

SWISS DONORS: Recipient: Verein JayaHo, 3000 Bern. Account: PC 30-515590-9. Please note the donation usage „Delhi House“. To receive a receipt in German language for income tax deduction, send an email to office@delhihouse.de with your address details.