

Blessing Send Off Day 2017 - UK Blessed Family Dept's Pre-Blessing Education

Mary Seno
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On 12th April 2017, the fourth Blessing Send Off Day was held at Lancaster Gate. The Blessing Send Off Day is an event introduced by Hyanghee Kim, and has been implemented by the Blessed Family Department as a pre-blessing educational event for couples who are already matched, and will be attending the next Blessing ceremony.

By attending the event, the couples can gain valuable, knowledgeable and insightful information from talks and testimonies provided by elder blessed first and second generation members and couples, on topics covering The Blessing, Married Life and Living as a Married Couple. Anonymous question and answer sessions are also provided for those who would like to ask anonymous questions, however participants can also ask questions throughout the talks and testimonies that are given. The event concludes with the couples receiving gifts from the Blessed Family Department, to support them on their blessing and married life journey.

3 representatives of the 11 couples from the UK that will be attending the upcoming blessing in 2017, were present at the event. The event was audio recorded to ensure that copies of the event are sent to all the UK participants of the blessing this year, so that even though some were not present at the Blessing Send Off Day, they could still feel very much connected to the event and its proceedings by listening to the recording in their own time. Alongside the recording, gifts were also sent out to the couples that could not attend the event. Two couples in Scotland will also be embraced through a send-off event organised by Pastor Robert Török and his wife Oksana.

The talks began with Ashley Crosthwaite who spoke about the 5 Love Languages and the true value of living for another. William Haines then spoke to the participants about the Blessing vows and their profound meaning; for example, resolving and learning from mistakes and about giving time in our lives for fellowship with family and with God. The third talk was by Susan Crosthwaite who spoke about support that is available for couples after they receive The Blessing. Susan mentioned that the Prepare/Enrich program is very important for newly blessed couples, and should be done within the first 2 years of marriage to future proof good relational habits and build deeper understanding of each other. Susan also presented the couples with a list of questions they can use as a resource, "Helpful Questions for Courting and Engaged Couples to ask each other" which has been highly recommended by elder couples.

Testimonies were given by second generation blessed and married couples Christabel and Robert Haines, and Betty and Ando Roderigues. Both talked about their blessing and married life experiences, good and bad, and finally gave some invaluable insight into how best to make your spouse happy, so the newly blessed couples can truly have a stronger and more peaceful, heavenly union.

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