

FFWPU UK: Our Youth, Our Champions Of Faith

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This past weekend, a group of Young Adults joined together to strengthen their faith and adopt the Champion of Faith mindset. See below a report from Carmel M.!

Companions of Faith - Champions of Faith

We gathered in Blaxhall for the second time to welcome 43 brothers and sisters to reflect, worship and grow together. From 31st January to 4th Feb, we created a deep learning community experience through significant education, thoughtful conversations, singing together for God and exploring the beautiful Suffolk countryside.

We challenged ourselves to approach each activity with honesty and focus on spiritual growth, rather than trying to impress those around us or emphasise personal development. We have been cultivating this space for God, and therefore took time to reflect on our selfishness and our original nature, for the pursuit of growing true love in our lives, families, communities and personalities.

Our core organising team: Patrick and Yebuny H., Insun T., Josh M., Miwa S., Alvit B., Carmel M., Sam S., Pyongchan D. and Grace T. all shared talks with the group on concepts and experiences related to the theme, Champions of Faith. As well as our senior guests: David and Kyung-Ja H. and Astrid K., plus our workshop parents Adza and Nittaya M.

We delved a lot into the Divine Principle which created a very good foundation to be challenged and reflect. Key themes that arose from the education and conversations were honesty, recognising and responding to sin, making peace with and honouring our parents, wrestling against our fallen nature and selfishness, making spiritual goals, emerging as a champion and standing for something rather than giving into victimhood, discerning goodness by examining our motivation direction and purpose, re-centring God at all times and inheriting our True Parents' faith. There is a lot to write as the education was so rich! There still is plenty to reflect on and use to align our year ahead to God, as His champions.

It is special to have this space in our UK community to freely live and express our relationships with our Heavenly Parent, and healthily challenge ourselves to grow and do better.

Many thanks to our rotating kitchen team, with Head Chefs Nittaya M. and Anthony M., plus kitchen team Adza M., Cindy VDS., Aaron M. and Jan A. We were treated to a variety of cuisines from pineapple bowls to couscous salads, as well as a couple of special desserts and fun breakfasts. We are grateful to

have been so well taken care of.

I am very excited for what's to come for all who attended and invested, and how we can keep nurturing love and growth with our next steps as an adult BC community.

To get to this place where it has been possible to reach the depth and sincerity of relationship with each other as brothers and sisters, and with God in a collective sense, has taken years of thoughtful investment. We are looking forward to investing more and creating accomplishments at even greater heights.



See below a few participant reflection excerpts:

"Champions flock together and share the same spirit, mindset, character and purpose. Together we unearth a more genuine rapport with ourselves. We uplift each other to higher standards and greater level of consciousness and awareness that God is our source and without Him our lives are meaningless and without direction. This workshop atmosphere gave me a space to pause and ponder the questions that often I take for granted or avoid. Like how much more am I willing to rid of my self-centredness and prioritise others? How much do I really involve God in my life..?"

"It was refreshing that so many of us could come together and share honestly - it gave me hope that we're all in this together and that I'm not the only one facing these struggles. I really valued the honesty of this environment and how everyone, especially the staff team, could invest in creating that. I feel that this was a necessary layer of spiritual foundation to have for the coming year."

"I think a big realisation for me was to humble myself under my parents. They did their best, have given me so much and provided me with life. I had this mindset of "I will do what they didn't", but actually, I think I will be humbled when I am blessed and have children. While I want to do better than them, I realised there was this layer of arrogance to it. Being able to speak with different people here has been extremely helpful and I feel this workshop was well timed for me. Going home, I want to be strong and prioritise what is important and find stability and structure in that. I want to keep God in my thoughts and in my actions at home."

"I'm taking away the idea of 'stopping the engine'. In emotionally challenging situations, taking the time to sit with the feeling (not necessarily IN the feeling) and understanding what it is trying to tell me, rather than continuing to drive with brute force. I felt consistently that this workshop was responsive to the things I shared with staff, I felt so grateful for that attentive care. And it has given me a push, one month in to the year, to invest that much harder towards the goals I've set for myself, in particular some difficult conversations I want to have. Dishonesty is in the silence. When you take the time to stop the engine, once you restart you are able to move at an

accelerated pace."

"The wrestling image/metaphor for me was very insightful and brought a different perspective to how we perceive our feelings/desires etc. That what you're feeling is justified because "That's how I am, that's how I feel" when in reality there's two sides. Fallen and original nature that battles inside you. Wrestling with that, between what is ultimately good and what is not is a much more common reality than I first thought. It's in the daily efforts. Decision making in the small things and in the big things. Such as wrestling if you see the dishes piled up to wash them or not or as big as making a decision that might affect a lot of people."

