

## FFWPU UK: Welcome Ala To FFWPU UK As The New Children's Ministry Officer

Michael Balcomb  
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Join us in extending a warm welcome to Ala Z., who has assumed the position of Children's Ministry Officer within our FFWPU-UK team.

Q: How does it feel to become our Children's Ministry Officer?

Ala: It feels good as it adds more meaning and purposefulness to my daily life to help Heavenly Parent and my community. It's also exciting as I like learning with children.

Q: Why did you decide to become our Children's Ministry Officer?

Ala: It came naturally as I was doing different activities with and for children in the past 10 years. Some of them was running a club for Russian speaking children in Maidstone, homeschooling my three children for seven years before my fourth child was born in 2021, teaching in Sunday school and Youth Ministry in the Bromley community, doing a 2-year Writing for Children course, managing currently active children's art contest on behalf of the WFWP UK Artist For Peace project since 2020, etc. Like me, many parents and Sunday School teachers noticed that for a long time Children's Ministry was neglected in the UK. I feel a call to bring an impact in this area.

Q: What can you bring to our community?

Ala: Despite my experience I still need to learn a lot and there is lots to do for children in our national community. I teach children in Maidstone once a month and work closely with Dr. Balcomb and other Sunday School teachers, as well as networking with young families across the country to find the best way how to improve our teaching curriculum and the way it is delivered. For example, out of the five communities in the UK, only two of them have regular Sunday

school lessons and dedicated volunteering staff. To address this, I will start teaching online once a month from September so all the children who don't have access to our spiritual education can learn about our Heavenly Parent and True Parent's values and traditions. Furthermore, we are working hard on updating teaching materials and creating new books for children. One of my hobbies is writing and I wrote a few educational children's books that hopefully will be published by the end of this year on Amazon. Another project we are working on is to create a colouring book with True Parents' and Holy Ground images. There are many other exciting plans and events that are developing as part of the Children's Ministry, so I am hopeful that young families and their children in our UK communities will be inspired to come and invite their friends.

Q: Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

Ala: I joined the Unification Movement [Now Family Federation for World Peace and Unification] in 1996 in Moldova and after hearing a 7-day Divine Principle workshop, I knew that Heavenly Parent wants me to be blessed in marriage by True Parents. I was happily blessed with my husband Vadim Zubovskis in 1997 in Moscow. He is from Latvia, but we settled in Moldova to start our family in 2005. We moved to the UK in 2009 and we have four children. My last mission there was managing Blessed Family Department. In the UK, I was busy mainly with raising our young family. In 2018, I served as a Bromley pastor and from 2017 I am an active member of the Women's Federation UK. My passion is to write for children and to continue my education by becoming a Montessori teacher.

Q: What are your goals moving forward in this role?

Ala: My goal is simple - as True Parents teach us, I strive to love all children as my own. I have been praying and thinking about children's education for many years, especially I became concerned while homeschooling my children. From memoirs of our founders, I realised that the key words of their teaching are God-centred family and peace, as it is reflected in the name of our organisation. So one of my first suggestions in this role is to rename our Sunday School to Peace School to properly reflect an inclusive and embracing spirit of our community where families from all faith and walks of life learning to create happy and peaceful families and to raise peace-loving global citizens, inspired by True Parents' vision. As I said before, there is lots to do and we have big goals and plans. However, it requires dedication and hard work not just from me, but a teamwork of teachers, parents, volunteers, and community pastors all united with our national directors, Dr. and Mrs. Balcomb, centred on Heavenly Parent and True Parents. We want to facilitate continuous training for our teachers to deliver quality spiritual and character education with motherly love to all children coming to our activities in the Peace School. I believe that our Peace School can be a fantastic gateway for new families to join our communities across the country. With seasonal exciting family events, weekly in person and monthly online lessons for children and inspiring books and teaching materials based on True Parents' family and peace values, I think we can offer a lot to modern families. Our first upcoming national family event is scheduled for Saturday, 21st October 2023 in the Livingstone House. It will be a Harvest Festival to celebrate everything God is giving us through mother nature. Look out for more information about this event in the upcoming national newsletters. Please reserve the date to come with your children (up to 15 years old) and invite your friends too.

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