

## FFWPU UK at Work: Mentoring Initiatives for Adult Blessed Children

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Our 2024 Annual Report is out! This article highlights our expanding mentoring efforts, leadership investment, and impactful workshops - empowering Blessed Children with education, connection, and spiritual growth.

This year, we successfully maintained and grew our education and mentoring efforts. The network of Blessed Children we are able to support has increased as continued investment into existing relationships has allowed more of our mentees to be more supportive of those younger than them too. There is a natural overlap with leadership for other programmes for second and third generation, and we can see the potential for a positive impact through investing in leadership guidance alongside personal support.

We were able to support three new groups this year through our educational programmes: HARP UK workshop staff, Children's Camp staff, and wider second and third generation community leadership who wanted to improve their pastoral care.

Overall, we are developing a culture of spiritual care and leadership, such that without coordination all of our core staff engage proactively in mentoring meetings and conversations, which help to inform specific and targeted education during our group events. We see our work as a long-term investment into our brothers and sisters, and continue to be present and grow our capacities to care and lead from a place of identity and authenticity, rather than position and obligation.

This is shown through the developing quality and variety of projects we have led over the past few years, to better meet more needs of our community. As well as mentoring throughout, we have held four workshops this year: "Companions of Faith" for ages 18+ in January, mentor training in June, "Changing Gears" for brothers aged 25+, and "Boarding Time" in November for ages 18-21. These workshops provide essential spaces for adult Blessed Children to receive education and connection.

Thank you for your support over this year, we look forward to more progress in 2025. Please read some of the testimonies and takeaways below:

"Refreshed. This experience was soothingly good. A gift and an opportunity to cultivate and refine my inner landscape, both emotional and mental. Companions of Faith is a training ground and such a nourishment for the soul. 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 get rid of my self-centredness and prioritise others? How much do I really involve God in my life..?" - Male, 28



"This was a highly impactful workshop for me. I was aware I needed to make some changes in my life going into it and this workshop helped me better understand the ways in which I am holding myself back in my spiritual life and relationships, and refine my vision regarding how to improve them. I realised that the wrestle between my original and fallen nature is part of my spiritual journey and not something that I should use to accuse myself. I am redetermined to take on the challenges in my life with a champion's mindset, with courage and creativity, to fulfill my responsibilities and ultimately bring God into the centre of my life." - Male, 27

"I hope that I can continue to challenge myself, keep achieving my goals and become a champion." - Female, 20

"Each day, in each lecture I felt as though I was going a layer deeper into understanding myself and how I am responding to my environment. It is very rare that I am that honest with myself, it's like a muscle that I've been training in these three days, and it's because of my older brothers and sisters who are able to share so openly and radically. I

"I enjoyed talking and having meaningful conversations with people who I would not usually talk to, and hearing the different perspectives of the people giving talks. I could take away key points that resonated with me, and plan to make small steps to apply it in my own life. The workshop reaffirmed the importance of investing in my early life which will help to ensure my personal trajectory leads me to a place where I am happy with myself, and therefore have the capacity to extend help to others." - Male, 20

You can read more articles like this by reading our 2024 Annual Report.