

## FFWPU UK: Young Members In the European Missionary Program in Lebanon

Michael Balcomb

April 26, 2023



We hear from one of our young members taking part in the European Missionary Program in Lebanon. As part of this program, our youth is volunteering, witnessing and taking part in service projects.

It is amazing how each week our schedule manages to become more and more packed, but we are enjoying the challenge, welcoming new guests and making many conditions to help lay a good foundation here in Lebanon. The first three weeks were an orientation period with a lot of content and also some volunteering projects, such as preparing clothes to send to refugees in Syria with a local NGO called Mission Village. We also got to visit families who Mr. and Mrs. Park have been supporting since the Beirut explosion. It was really beautiful to get to meet people who don't have much materially and have gone through a lot of suffering, but still had such a strong faith in God and a heart of giving.

One of our team conditions is to go clean the Beirut Holy Ground every Monday, and each time we go, we manage to fill many bags with rubbish from the area, and the last few weeks passersby and new YSP contacts have been joining us to help in the efforts. It is really beautiful to see how the area is gradually becoming more and more clean and beautiful, we have also started to see more tourists walking down to the area.

We are now in our fourth week of witnessing and it has been a very meaningful experience. I have been able to have many amazing conversations with people and now have a greater understanding of both what life is like for people in Lebanon (and resultantly, how lucky we are in the UK) and also how a faith in

God is very ingrained in the people and society. Prior to witnessing, we did Divine Principle lecture practice to help us prepare for witnessing, and I gave a talk on Chapter 1 of the Divine Principle at our weekly Principles of Peace introduction event last Wednesday. We were able to have more than 10 guests attend online and in-person. We are also doing a team condition of 40 minutes of Divine Principle study per day to help lay a good foundation for witnessing, with many people also doing additional conditions for their contacts, such as 1 day fasts, intermittent fasts and more. In the third week of lead up to witnessing, I did a 21 day 12/12 intermittent fasting condition and I have also done a 1 day fast for one of my contacts, with many others doing similar conditions. It is amazing to see how dedicated all the EMP (EUME Missionary Program) participants are.

I also have one guest called Hamza, who was able to take part in the first day of the 7-day Divine Principle workshop that is currently being held here. He seemed really touched by the content so we hope to keep investing in him. He was the only guest from the EMP (EUME Missionary Program) team to attend the 7-day workshop so far, but we are all investing into contacts to bring to an upcoming 2 day Divine Principle workshop which will be held next weekend, which is able to fit people's busy schedules better.

We have also really enjoyed investing ourselves into the YSP events which we hold every Friday. Last Friday was our best one yet, it was a Japanese culture event and 26 participants attended. We had to bring chairs from our apartment to fit everyone inside the centre! But the atmosphere was really amazing. One of my contacts also recommended our event to a university friend who needed to film a cultural event for a project so they came with a whole camera set up and recorded the event as well, and interviewed some members of the teams and guests. It really did feel victorious! - Sophia N.

