

FFWPU UK: HARP Youth Reignite Their Fire Of Faith Together

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From the 23rd to the 30th of August, HARP youth from across the UK, Europe and America joined the HARP UK Summer Workshop in Cleeve House. Read below a testimony from Alma G. who co-directed the workshop.



This year, the HARP UK Summer workshop, under the motto of "Reignite! Feeding My Fire of Faith", had a number of youth joining for their first time or travelling from Europe and even America. We had a great start full of energy and enthusiasm from the participants - in particular during the worship sessions where the atmosphere built could be seen and felt by everyone. Throughout the workshop there were many lessons to be learnt through different lectures and different activities led by our guest lecturers (Matthew H., Ruth J., Elliot Y. and Garry R.) and our staff members. They also had the chance to hear morning inspirations every day after Hoon Dok Hae. Different topics and themes touched upon were

reflecting on the relationship between fire and faith; how to strengthen and nurture a life of faith encouraging the participants to become passionate about their faith while reminding them that having faith is not the end goal; we reflected upon our relationship with God and our parents (parent-child relationship) and how God is the source of our fire which we are inheriting from our parents. Everyone who participated on the workshop was encouraged to reach out and find out more from their parents about their journeys, how their fire started and how it was for them back in the early days, developing their relationship and understanding of each other.



Participants also had the opportunity to challenge themselves to discover and strengthen their faith in God, themselves and their community as well as live for the sake of others during the very well planned and executed Challenge Day that was put together by our talented sports coordinators, Allister G., Oliver A. and Paulo S. The activities included classics like the Trust Fall and Praying , while also incorporating unique trials such as an Escape Room, a challenge about facing your fears and one about pulling a sled loaded with weight.



Challenge Day was then completed with all the participants working together to build a campfire from which we smoothly transitioned into the Korean BBQ dinner put together by our amazing cooks, auntie Yukie K., Sarah M., Rachel K. and Isaac Y. The teams all had time for fellowship, music and food together outdoors. During the workshop, alongside Challenge Day, each day we had morning stretches and a sports session which was enjoyed by all from participants to staff. We believe it is important to nurture and care The workshop was graced with great weather and even the rain at the end of Challenge Day could not dampen anyone's spirits.

Following Challenge Day, we had Purity Day - the theme of the day being "Pillar of Fire". The main focus was to understand what should be the guiding light in our life and what it means to be a man/woman of integrity. We were delighted to welcome back Ruth J. to the HARP community. Ruth

gave an amazing lecture on purity in the context of striving for integrity, which included a demonstration of how the Three Great Blessings lead to happiness. On the topic of Matching/Blessing, she dropped the nugget of wisdom that we should aim to be the kind of person that we'd like to be Blessed with, and we should acknowledge that receiving the Blessing will not resolve all of our problems. Ruth also explored the parent-child relationship between God and us mentioning that "The role of a parent is to infuse the idea of God into their child." Elliot Y. introduced the 4 Position Foundation to our younger participants. He showed them how it can be a framework for success and a tool for pruning. The purity education was split off into smaller groups, giving the participants the opportunity to open up and ask any questions that they had on their minds.



The day was concluded with a moving activity in which everyone had the chance to show their appreciation for a number of things - friendship, trust, support, kindness and wisdom, among many - to those in the room by tapping their head. It was an emotional activity for everyone involved and it showed how much we all care for each other - I would like to encourage the parents of the participants to ask about the "Tap Someone Who" activity and the participants' experiences. Personally, as I was hosting and guiding the activity, I found it the hardest not being able to join in showing my appreciation towards those in the room and having to stand near the microphone. Upon later reflection, and inspired by Wiktorina G.'s morning inspiration, I could come to the conclusion that our hearts are like jars - they can either be open or closed to God's presence and love. Being in the position of an observer in that activity, not being able to engage, I could feel the same frustration and struggle God must have in not being able to be with us. Wanting to give so much love to all of us but we're not ready or "open" to receive it. We need to learn to open the lid of our hearts to receive God's warmth, guidance and love.

Going through the number of different activities and content throughout the workshop, prayer night was set beautifully giving everyone a time to sit down for 21 minutes and prayer, building that relationship with God. To end it nicely, participants had hot chocolate around the fire while singing worship songs and ending the night with the song "I see fire". To end the workshop, we had an entertaining family night with performances and skits created by participants on the day and a Hungarian group dance.

This was a successful summer workshop full of joy, challenges and growth, warmth, lessons given and received and I even dare to say, filled with God's presence and protection. Thank you to all the staff members, team leaders and everyone who put a lot of hard work, effort, sleepless nights, long brainstorming sessions, hard conversations and so much more love into this workshop. It would not have been possible without that and everyone who participated. We, HARP UK, truly appreciate all the support and help we have received from volunteers, participants and parents. I look forward to the next workshops and what we'll be able to accomplish.

In the meantime, keep an eye out for the photos and videos coming out soon!