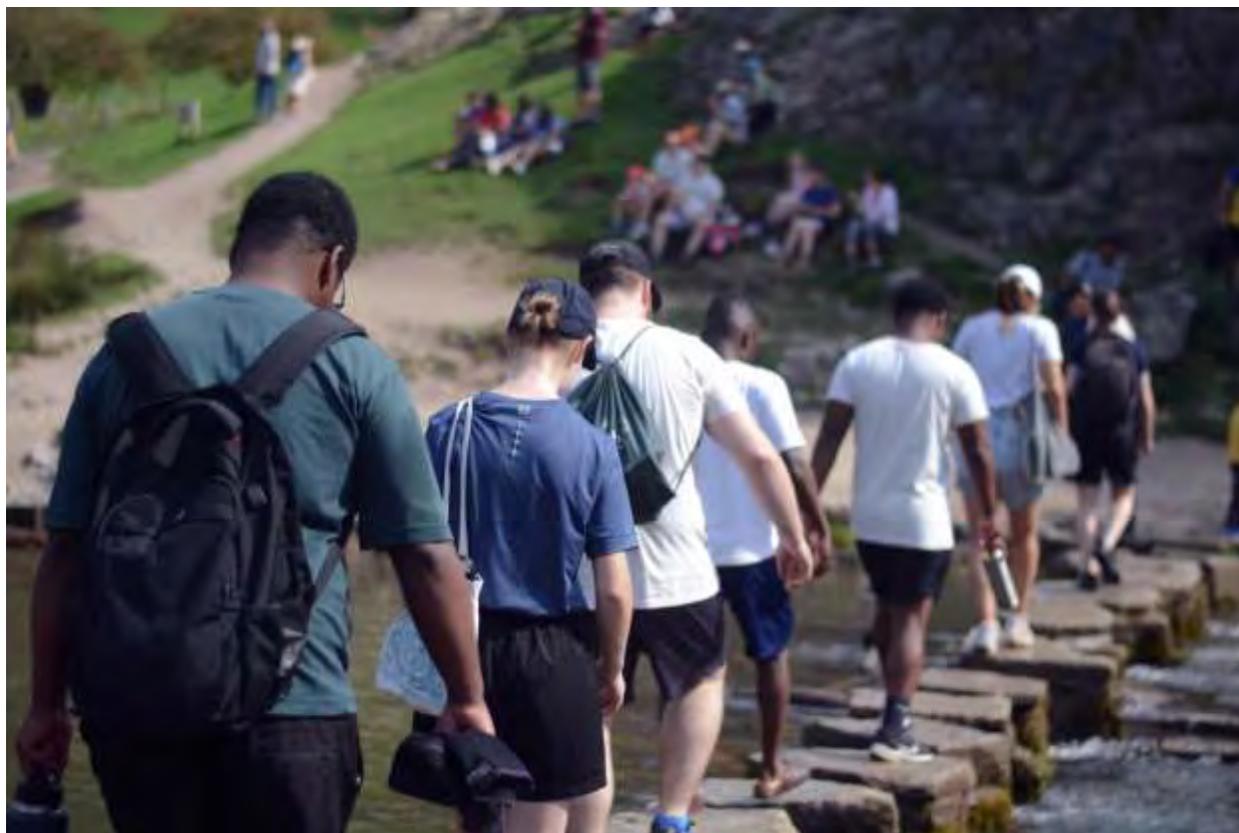


FFWPU UK: The Retreat 2023 - Companions Of Faith

Michael Balcomb
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From the 8th to the 12th of September 2023, 49 adult blessed children gathered again in the beautiful Peak District in the lovely Dovedale House in Ilam. Grace T., one of the four core organisers for the retreat this year, tells us more about it.



Following up on the success of the Companions of Faith workshop held earlier this year in February and the Peak District retreat over the last couple of years, the organising team decided to merge these initiatives. Therefore, this year, "The Retreat 2023: Companions of Faith" was to create a focused space where we could share, reflect and bond together as a UK adult-blessed children community through activities such as hikes, discussions, talks from our elder brothers and sisters and various games and sports in the hot weather.

There was a wide age range from 19 to 37, so we could experience both the energy of those entering their adulthood and the wisdom of those who have entered parenthood. It felt like a safe and warm atmosphere, not only because of the surprisingly hot weather but because of the trust in the group that we gathered together as a spiritual community, not just friends, but companions of faith. Having 8 young 3rd

generation members part of the group was a blessing and inspiration for us striving for the community we want to build for them and the future.



The first full day, we kicked off with introductions from each person to provide an opportunity to learn something brief about the internal state of everyone. As time was short, it was an excellent way to set a foundation for the weekend, allowing us to be honest and open and invite God to be a part of our conversations.

The content reminded us of the importance of taking ownership of our faith daily and going to the roots of the culture that True Father wanted to create. We ended our extended weekend with a time for worship and a classic campfire with songs, marshmallows and a final night of bonding. We are thankful for the time we could spend together, everyone involved in making it happen, and everyone who came. It was a chance to refresh and reflect for another year ahead. We look forward to more opportunities to grow and connect.

"In the way of faith, we need true companions of faith. When they can help each other, love each other, and radiate great beauty, thus becoming a source of pride among those around them, the Will of Heaven will automatically multiply."

Rev. Sun Myung Moon

