

## FFWPU UK: Successful Matching And Blessing Workshop Held In Glanow, Poland

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### Successful Matching And Blessing Workshop Held In Glanów, Poland

From the 17th to 19th November, a Matching and Blessing Workshop was held by BFD EUME in Glanów Poland, with a large congregation of participants from the UK, both in person and online.

#### Betty R. Our BFD Leader wrote about the weekend-

A few weekends ago I was lucky to be able to attend the Level 2 Matching and Blessing Preparation Workshop in Poland run by the BFD EUME team lead by Marea T.. It's a workshop to learn about the tradition of 'parents matching' and Blessing in the HPHC, as taught by True Parents, and it was open to blessed children who are second generation and beyond who are 17 years old and older. It was about how to prepare and develop oneself to have a great marriage and partnership in the future, and how to support your grown-up children to develop to their full potential as mature adults and to understand True Parents guidance on the role and responsibility parents play in suggesting a match for them.



As soon as we arrived the atmosphere was really friendly and welcoming. It was great to meet the candidates and their parents and to 'put faces to the names' of the BFD staff and matching supporters. It was quite a large gathering of 90 workshop participants, however the small group discussions around tables after every talk, and plenty of opportunity to connect or take some time out during breaks and mealtimes made it more personal. The workshop was delivered online and in person, so about 16 participants from the UK managed to attend altogether. The workshop was very well organised and presented with interactive talks and testimonies followed by reflection, group discussion and Q and As. I

really enjoyed it and I felt so moved by some of the conversations in our discussion group where some couples shared about what the blessing meant to them.

Some of the most meaningful moments for me were listening to stories of meeting True Parents in person. I was touched by the testimony to True Father's loving character from Armando L.'s talk on God's lineage. The testimony of True Father's matching from Mike and Fumiko B. was so good to see an example where True Fathers was open minded and sensitive to freedom of choice in choosing their match which emphasised the importance of knowing what you are looking for in a future partner and the heart that True Father had when matching was that as a father and he would choose the best person for them.



Dr B. witnessed to True Father as the determined man and spoke about the conversation of the meaning of the tradition of the filial son that he had with True Mother when she had just become a widow. The Q and As were not shy at asking hard questions about witnessing and original sin, and the answers brought some fascinating perspective. It was rousing to be reminded of True Mother's message to love God, fulfil his dream and don't leave anyone behind and see the perspective of God's providence of True Parents as the mission to save the world and that they really need everybody's help.

Yun-ah J.'s talk on a lifestyle of purity was an important look at the difference between God's vision for romantic love and the Blessing vs Hollywood's vision. It was a beautiful inspiration that the blessing is a roadmap to solving the problems of the world and how we change the world for the better. The matching testimonies from parents and couples gave a realistic and honest look at how to match our ideals to our reality. The guidance on internal and practical preparation for matching helped to see how the heart of the guidance for members from True Parents and the BFD is to provide a framework so that each person putting their name forward for matching has undergone a similar background of knowledge of the divine principle, a personal life of faith and spirituality and teachings of True Parents and the FFWPU and HCPC, including self-knowledge and awareness, maturity and personal development and readiness and commitment.

Overall it was a special time for individuals and families to take time out of their schedules to reflect on their personal vision for their lives and consider God's vision for marriage, family and community as taught in the education from True Parents through the Divine principle and guidance. I'm looking forward meet up with all the candidates and parents for a catch up about their reflections in the Level 2 Part 2.

#### **Here are some testimonies from the participants-**

"The matching and blessing workshop held in Poland was comforting, informative and a great way to get communication going between parents and children. It was amazing to see members from various nations join both online and in person and to also receive lectures online and in person. I particularly enjoyed Uncle Armando's talk on God's Lineage and how we have a duty to honour our own parents and our ancestors. I also enjoyed the Bogdan and Yoshiko's matching testimony it was honest and humorous but still highlighted the necessity of having resilience and trust in the process. The company of other people was amazing it was great to reflect and discuss with a wide range of candidates, matched couples and

parents. Each with a unique and endearing experience that I could learn much from."

"The workshop was a really good experience for me. I found the location a good place to reflect, especially for prayer in the evening. The practical content of the workshop was also very useful for me and helped me to understand the intricacies of the matching and blessing process a lot better. I am very grateful that I was able to go and be part of the beautiful environment that was created and to hear the beautiful stories shared."

"I would like to express my gratitude for the exceptional organisation, the engaging and humorous yet insightful lectures and testimonies. Having participated in multiple M and B workshops, I found this one to be particularly beneficial. It offered me a renewed understanding of the Blessing and Matching concepts, provided opportunities to hear fresh testimonies, and facilitated interactions with members from across Europe. I strongly recommend this workshop to all BCs embarking on the matching process, regardless of whether it is a requirement by BFD. Attending this workshop is advisable as it helps align one's actions and lifestyle with the principles of Matching and Blessing. My heartfelt thanks go out to the staff members and all the participants who contributed to the success of this workshop."

"The matching and blessing workshop in Glanow was a really great experience. I attended with my parents and it was a really nice to be there with them. For many years, they just listened to my workshop experiences, but now we have shared some of them together. I think the workshop was really well organized for its length, everything that needed to be said was said. I personally would have appreciated more spiritual guidance, but I understand that all the practical stuff and Q and A was also necessary. Something that really stood out to me was Uncle Armando's thoughts during his talk. He said: "Give God lots of stories so He can tell the angels about you and your accomplishments." A really nice insight to think about. The workshop also acted as a catalyst for my parents and I - through the workshop we were able to share more of our thoughts and visions for the future. And of course, I met many brothers and sisters. We spent time reflecting, sharing and also playing calcetto. The workshop had both a vertical and a horizontal aspect. I'm really glad I participated. It was really short, as every workshop is."

"When I decided to participate in the Blessing and Matching Workshop, I initially had no specific expectations. However, the workshop pleasantly surprised me in so many ways, leaving me with a profound sense of gratitude and fulfilment. The entire event lasted three days filled with engaging and inspiring talks, great discussions, and an incredible atmosphere created by our dedicated BFD staff. The speakers and their presentations were well-prepared, addressing various aspects of the matching and blessing process. Some talks were focused on the background of matching and blessing, while others focused on practical aspects. This approach allowed me to gain foundational knowledge and a deeper understanding of the importance of blessing and matching. The day concluded with two inspiring testimonies, one from the perspective of parents (the Zimmermans) and another from a candidate (the Pammers). Personally, I highly recommend this workshop to anyone seeking a deeper understanding of matching and blessing, as well as an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions with second-generation participants on relevant and interesting topics. I feel genuinely grateful and blessed to have participated in such an enriching event, and I thoroughly enjoyed my time there!"