

FFWPU UK: The Road To Peace Is Wide Open

Michael and Fumiko Balcomb

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A message of greeting from our National Director couple, Dr. Michael and Fumiko B., which can be found in the pages of the Annual Report 2024.

As we turn the page on another year, we are delighted to present our Annual Report for 2023. This report is a testament to our journey over the past year, encapsulating our triumphs, the challenges we overcame and the memories we made together. As you flip through these pages, we hope you'll feel the same sense of pride and excitement for the future that we do. We can't wait to see where our journey takes us next, and we're so grateful to have you with us. Here's to another great year together!

Looking back on 2023 we can't help again thinking how very blessed the United Kingdom really is. While so many other nations in our Europe and Middle East region had to cope with unimaginable natural and human disasters, here in the UK we were largely spared. We all read the news of major earthquakes in Turkey, Syria, and Morocco, devastating floods in Libya, and drought and wildfires elsewhere. War continued to rage between Ukraine and Russia all year long, and in October the terrible conflict between Israel and Hamas flared up in Palestine.

We did our best to help, in concert with various European partners including the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Our members donated thousands of pounds to buy generators and batteries for the Ukraine, tents, clothing, medicine and food to Syria and Morocco, and helped rebuild schools in Turkey. Thank

you to everyone who gave so generously.

In the pages of this Annual Report, each of our communities around the country have shared a few highlights of their local efforts to build that world of lasting peace. Further afield, we conducted two amazing pilgrimages to Korea, the homeland of our faith and our volunteers went out to serve all over the world. Several of our young volunteers share their reflections and personal testimony of transformation. There are also updates from our Children's, Marriage and Family and Youth Education ministries, details of some new publications and websites and a look back at our Annual Gathering and Worship service, always a highlight of the year. We are also pleased to share a brief financial report which shows that FFWPU-UK is in a very healthy position.

On behalf of the Trustees and all the leadership team, Fumiko and I would like to thank all our pastors, staff and volunteers for their great efforts. We also want to appreciate those working with us in professional capacities, and our valued partners from other faith communities and non-profit organizations. And of course we'd particularly like to thank all of our many supporters for their generous and consistent donations.

Looking forward, 2024 promises to be a year of continuous development. We will complete our institutional transition from a Charitable Trust to a Charitable Incorporated Organization. Although our purposes and goals will not change, the new structure will be far more future proof and will prevent a lot of unnecessary paperwork each time we add a new Trustee. I'd like to thank our former Board Chair, Timothy R., for his outstanding work in shepherding our charity through this important change.

This Spring, we will welcome a new missionary team from the Sun Moon University in Korea. These young men and women are coming to the UK on a two year assignment to spread the new gospel of the Divine Principle and to help grow and transform our local communities. We look forward to welcoming them and working side by side with them to bring many more people into our Heavenly Parent's holy community.

Summer 2024 will see the completion of a major renovation of our Cleeve House workshop and retreat centre under the management of Simon and Chieko Cooper. They've brought back much of the former glory of this Victorian treasure through tasteful and inspired decoration, whilst at the same time overseeing an innovative new heating system. Combining solar power and heat pump technology this will greatly reduce our carbon footprint - and of course our energy costs as well!

Our Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Mother of Peace is scheduled to visit Europe in the Spring and we very much hope she will include a visit to Cleeve House on her itinerary. It was at Cleeve House back in 1978 that Father and Mother Moon made a major investment in our arts and cultural ministry by founding the European branch of the Go World Brass band. He bought dozens of instruments, uniforms and lessons for the musicians, and even a fleet of vans to help them bring their music and their message to the country. Happy memories indeed.

Thank you once again for the privilege and opportunity to serve with you this year.