

## FFWPU UK Pastors' Retreat Fosters Reflection, Renewal, and Connection

Michael Balcomb  
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UK pastors gathered for a retreat, sharing experiences, studying Father's teachings, and strengthening bonds. Surrounded by nature, they found renewal, clarity, and inspiration for their mission.

The retreat provided a much-needed opportunity for pastors to step away from their daily responsibilities and reconnect with their mission. Through heartfelt discussions, shared reflections, and time spent in nature, participants found renewed clarity, inspiration, and a deeper sense of unity.



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Eunjoo Y.

As I began my public mission in the UK, I had the opportunity to attend a pastoral retreat for the first time. It was a valuable experience to engage in discussions with other pastors and hear their thoughts. During this time, I was able to understand them better and realized that, since we are in the same position,

we should grow closer.

I hope that in the future, we will continue to have opportunities to share our thoughts and enjoy good meals together. I also appreciated the time spent in nature - each day, we walked and had meaningful conversations, feeling warmly embraced by our natural surroundings.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Balcomb and Fumiko Balcomb for organizing and leading the entire program. Thank you.



MaryAnn M.

Before coming, I asked if we could rename it from "Retreat." I really felt uncomfortable with that word. At the start, I was hoping to move the tougher sessions earlier, thinking it would just build tension waiting for them. I didn't feel at peace. But surprisingly, as we spent more time together, a sense of peace naturally came, and I gained more clarity, which was good.

I am still processing everything. But even if I had traveled all this way just to pay more attention to Father's Cheon Jeong Gung speech, where he outlined the seven duties of citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, that alone would have been worth it. I deeply appreciated how Uncle Mike shared stories about Father with us as he walked us through the speech. I almost felt like I was there.



Ala Z.

This retreat was a refreshing experience after a long and challenging year. I am deeply grateful for the precious opportunity to spend quality time with Dr. and Mrs. Balcomb and my fellow mission companions as we sought better ways to serve our UK community.

Together, we prayed and worshipped, cried and laughed, and shared our hearts and hopes. The farmhouse chosen for the retreat was cozy and inviting, secluded from the hustle and bustle of daily life, making it feel like home. Being surrounded by my brothers and sisters in faith rejuvenated me, making me feel both younger and stronger.

This retreat also gave me the chance to pause, reflect, and let go of my worries about falling short in my mission. I particularly appreciated delving deeper into Father's Cheon Jeong Gung speech from 2006 - it felt fresh and practical. I look forward to studying and reflecting on it further with my family.

I am truly thankful for this opportunity to recharge and reconnect. Kamsahamnida!



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Ruth H.

I really appreciated the valuable time together - to listen, to share, to be re-energised, and to hear about other regions.

Thank you.

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I am so happy we had a face to face retreat. It is so good to meet up again in person and get to share and know each other better. It has pretty much been the only reason I have gone to meetings for years.

The time walking and around the tables was good too. I like the way that Mike creates an open space inviting people to say what they think and taking an interest and listening respectfully to each person. It was fun too listening to Fumiko's take on the CBR. So nice to have such honesty and diversity of views and humour too.

The house was nice - I love those kinds of properties - but it would have been nicer if it had been nearer. But I am glad I went by train in the end - meant I could go to church in South London where I haven't been able to go for a couple of years and see old friends and some of the young people I have taught. Will we find someone as good as Mike and Fumiko to be next national leaders? I doubt it and it has been a real

privilege to have had them for the past 5 years.

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I didn't plan my trip to Tincleton till the last moment. I am not a pastor but want to contribute through working with BFD. I love the community and know leadership has to be in difficult conversations.

I was surprised to hear i was invited to a retreat for rebalancing and renewal not to typical leaders' meeting.

The environment God provided and the safety I felt being there made it possible to better understand the leadership, the pastors as brothers and sisters. That was my intention and that time spent together has proved precious. It has allowed me to come to value their unique traits and their contribution to the community.

I loved studying true father's words in a group.

The most precious part was that Mike gave us not only his time and energy but the chance to express our dreams. I missed the part when the discussion of how we would like things to be in the future. But I hope Mike and Fumiko will keep the conversation going in each region. I am grateful to them and to you all for learning experience.