

FFWPU UK: Our UK Community at Work: Youth Ministry

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March 4, 2025



Our 2024 Annual Report is out! This article highlights inspiring youth workshops at Livingstone House, showcasing growth, faith, and community. Read, reflect, and celebrate their journey!

2024 was filled with many memories and precious moments. Here are some of the highlights! To start 2024 with purpose, the younger generations took part of a Senior HARP UK workshop at our beloved Livingstone House. The staff team was made up of a dedicated group of young adults, creating an inspiring and mature environment. This workshop, designed for members aged 14 to 18, was guided by the motto "My Oath: Clear. Centred. Transcendent."

The workshop aimed to deepen participants' commitments by making sincere promises with God as their witness. This theme encouraged everyone to reflect on the previous year and look ahead with renewed dedication. The workshop was impactful for both staff and participants. 2024 started on a reflective note with a worship session led by the band, bringing everyone together in music and connection with God.

Alma G.

In August, a group of 32 youth, participants and staff, gathered at Livingstone House for the Junior Workshop. Tailored for ages 11 to 15, this workshop welcomed 9 first-time attendees. The motto, "Going for God. Going for Gold," inspired by the 2024 Olympics, encouraged participants to strive for gold standards in their lives. The focus was on exploring their golden potential and recognising their inherent, God-given value as children of God. The workshop emphasised the importance of understanding the spiritual dimension of the world and nurturing the inner self.

The content was structured around the Divine Principle, covering topics such as the principles of creation, our identity as spiritual beings, God's ideal of creating the world, the Four Great Realms of Heart, the

human fall and the Four Fallen Natures. The importance of a lifestyle of purity was highlighted and the lies told by society about family and marriage were discussed. All these ideas of the ideal were connected with the reality of the world and discussed how to practice growing and living lives of faith at home.

The workshop was led by a fantastic staff team who created a culture that was free, safe, and bright. The content was tailored to cater to the range of ages, and team leaders and extended staff shared testimonies related to the day's themes. The content and culture of this workshop could support participants in nurturing the goodness within themselves, the gold inside each of us, and, in turn, to multiply goodness in our community and the world.

In December, Livingstone House once again hosted the HARP UK Senior Winter Workshop which was attended by participants from UK and across Europe, aged 14 to 18. Notably, there was a significant group from Ireland, both staff and participants, reuniting the British Isles. We were very grateful to have this unique group gather together and to experience the closing of 2024 and the start of 2025. The motto for this workshop was: "Look in. Stand strong. STEP UP."

Dr. David H. taught a condensed version of the Divine Principle and Yebuny H. explored the importance of leading a purity lifestyle and what blocks us from being free to express the God inside each one of us. The workshop and the staff team were significantly supported by both Yebuny and Patrick H. There was also time for a fun and bonding team building afternoon. Challenge day was a restoration course, completing challenges related to various significant Biblical figures as a whole workshop, to better understand the stories of restoration.

As 2024 was coming to a close, brothers and sisters had the opportunity to experience brotherhood and sisterhood separately and share their reflections of the year. Through goal setting, the workshop reflected on steps each want to take in 2025 and what they felt God was calling them to do. The year ended with a worship session and fireworks, to offer 2024 and celebrate the start of 2025 with God.

"Overall, our hopes for the workshop with the motto was to encourage us all to reflect and take our personal lives of faith more seriously as growing blessed children by first looking in. We believe amongst the various reflection and sharing activities, in pairs, in teams and across the workshop, that there could be moments that each person could connect to their original mind and listen to their conscience and what God is asking us to look deeper into. Too often in society we are looking out for what we want to take, but there is so much we can benefit from by pausing and looking in with honest self reflection of where we are currently standing and what steps we are already taking, the good and the bad. We hope that by going through this experience together as a part of the community, we can be encouraged and inspired by each other to stand strong with our beliefs and high ideals. We are striving to succeed in the blessing lifestyle and following True Parents by raising our own personal standards despite the difficulties of our surrounding environments. It could be portrayed in the content that our journey of spiritual growth and maturation is one where we are called to step up constantly, to step up closer to being like God, in restoring our past mistakes, in deepening the relationships in our lives or growing in perspective of how God is working and how we want to work with Him. We hope for everyone that we can stay strong to step up to 2025 with becoming closer to God and closer to our true self, the God in us. We are grateful for all the participants that came and invested into the workshop as well as all the parents and elders supporting them on their continued journey. We are also grateful to the staff that could offer their time and grow themselves in stepping up to take care of the spiritual lives of our younger brothers and sisters. We hope to enjoy more joyful and serious experiences together again. Well done everyone and let's create a beautiful 2025 for God."

God Bless,
Pyong Chan D. and Grace T., Workshop Directors