



FAMILY FEDERATION
FOR WORLD PEACE AND UNIFICATION **UK**

Newsletter 26.09.2026

MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

Dear brothers and sisters,

On Thursday 24th, the 21-day Spirituality Workshop at Livingstone House concluded. It was a precious time for many, including us. Some attended 21 days, others only for 2 days. Feeling that spring breeze and tasting the sweetness of the original garden in this context can refresh our spirit selves to walk the walk and face life with a peaceful smile.

We are grateful for the CheonBo team and their investment over the past weeks. But also the many local volunteers, especially the diverse kitchen team that made the workshop not only a spiritual but also a culinary journey. We will conclude these internal efforts in the UK with the CheonBo event on Sunday.

It surely will give rise to practical and creative initiatives of care, service and connection. There are hopeful signs like plans to restart RYS-style work in the UK, new home groups and young family meet ups initiated from the grassroots, witnessing and members joining. Thank you to all the action women and men!

In gratitude,
Bogdan & Yoshiko



A BLESSING FOR THE FUTURE






**3rd October
2026**



1 - 5pm

Lunch available from 1pm to 2pm



Haslemere Hall, 2a Haslemere Rd,
Thornton Heath, CR7 7BE

Admission: £10



Interfaith &
Intercultural Blessing



Exemplary Couple
Awards



Musical
Entertainment

Contacts

Lance Gardiner UPF South London upf.southlondon@gmail.com	Adza Mould FFWPU 07852211167	Robin Marsh SG UPF-UK 07956210768
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RSVP to upf.southlondon@gmail.com to reserve your place.

[Read here for more event information](#)



A Pilgrimage of Heart:

Ilmi Baklanov's
Testimony

[Click to read](#)



Invited are: 1st Generation and Jacob Children Candidates (over 18 years of age), as well as Married Couples. Matching Supporters and BFD staff are also welcome to join.

More details and registration coming soon.





British Clergy Leadership Conference

The Sixty-Fourth

Prayers for Peace

Every other Monday

Join Us and Unleash
the Power of Prayer

Monday, 28 Sept, 2026
7.00 to 7.30 am (UK)



Rev Dawnecia Palmer
LU Life Church, Leading



Pastor Russell Gough
BCLC Director, UK

Join via Zoom

Zoom ID: 894 0513 0813
Passcode: 128537

For more info, contact

Pastor Russell Gough 07738 470788, Pastor Isaac Ayani 07956 891435

WEEKLY DEVOTION

North of Thames Morning Prayer

[Mondays 10-10:30 am](#)

North and East Europe Devotion

[Thursdays 6-6:30am](#)

Prayers for Peace

[Every Other Monday 7-7:30am](#)

UK Weekly Devotion

[Fridays 6-6:30am](#)

EUME Weekly Prayer Call

[Wednesdays 7pm](#)

North of Thames Service

[Sundays 10:15am](#)

River South Service

[Sundays 10:30am](#)

Want to share your testimony, experiences, or thoughts?

Get in touch by emailing: comms@ffwpu.org.uk

Your faithful tithes and donations help make all of this possible.

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COMMUNICATIONS

September 16, 2026 | Announcements, Articles | Events, UPF

A Blessing For The Future

Join us on Saturday, 3 October, from 1–5 PM at Haslemere Hall CR7 7BE, for a special programme hosted by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and FFWPU (Family Federation for World Peace and Unification).

RSVP to upf.southlondon@gmail.com to reserve your place.

✦ Highlights include:

- ◆ Blessing Introduction by Rev David Hanna (FFWPU)
- ◆ Interfaith & Intercultural Blessing for Peace
- ◆ Recognition of Exemplary Couples
- ◆ Musical Variety Entertainment

Let's come together to celebrate the role of marriage and family in building a sustainable and peaceful future.

Arrive early from 1:00 PM for lunch and networking.

Entrance Fee: £10 (Bank A/C: 73314065 | Sort Code: 20-47-34 | Ref: UPF+your surname) or cash at the door.

A BLESSING FOR THE FUTURE

UPF-UK

3rd October 2026

1-5pm

Lunch available from 1pm to 2pm

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Thornton Heath, CR7 7BE

Admission: £10

Interfaith & Intercultural Blessing

Exemplary Couple Awards

Musical Entertainment

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An Evening For A Cause: UPF-UK Charity Dinner

Communications | 23 September 2026

Join Universal Peace Federation UK for a special Charity Dinner dedicated to raising money for our youth service projects. Enjoy an elegant evening of good



Young Blessed Couples Getaway

Communications | 16 September 2026

Dear young blessed couples, are you looking for a chance to recharge your couple, enjoy a weekend away together, and connect with other blessed couples?



HJ CheonBo Special 1-Day Event

Comms Team UK | 4 September 2026

Dear brothers and sisters, friends of FFWPU UK, we are happy to share information about the HJ CheonBo 1-day event on Sunday, September 27, 2026.



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09:30 - 17:30

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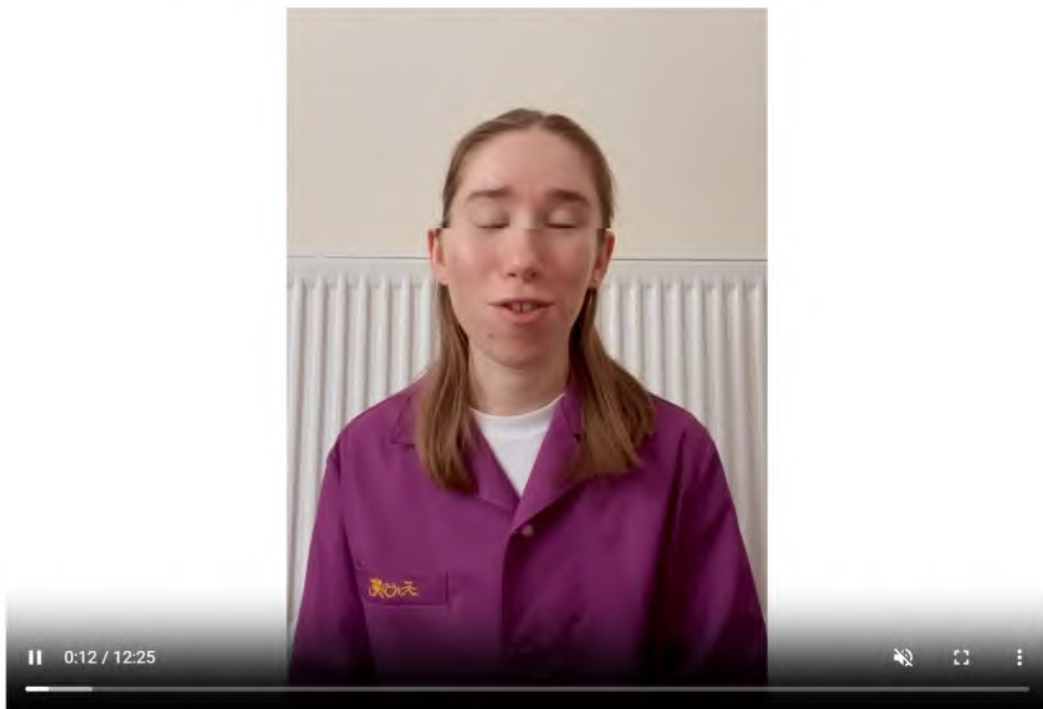
European Member: Europe@ffwpu.org



ILMI BAKLANOV

September 25, 2026 | Articles

A Pilgrimage Of Heart: Ilmi Baklanov's Testimony



This June, I attended the 285th General Workshop for 30 days — my first time in Cheongpyeong. My main goals were to connect with Heavenly Parent's heart, True Parents' heart, and my own heart. Earlier this year, I had woken up with a single word etched into my mind: pilgrimage. I concluded I needed to go on pilgrimage to Cheongpyeong, learn about our Church's origins, and make this trip the foundation of my faith.

I arrived in the evening. After orientation and Chanyang, I went to Cheonshim Won. I was just looking at the huge portraits of the True Family, not really praying. Suddenly streams of tears started flowing down my face, and I couldn't stop them. I

felt Heavenly Parent and True Parents were so happy I was there — that they had been waiting for me to come home. I'm not a very emotional person normally, and I hardly shed tears — maybe twice a year and only when something had really upset or hurt me, so this was very unlike me.



Because it was my first time, I originally planned not to take any responsibility so I could focus on my three goals. But a brother from my community (Allister Gough), the outgoing workshop leader, and a coordinator asked me to consider becoming workshop leader. I declined at first. After reflecting and calling my mum, I agreed — serving as assistant leader most of the time, and workshop leader toward the end. Once I accepted the role, I found myself naturally giving a lot — attending the whole schedule, supporting others, and sacrificing personal time.

A few days in, on a holy ground tour, I asked Heavenly Parent, "How do people go into such deep prayer?" The answer came clearly: "Trust. Trust that everything will be alright and that I am here."

I had a condition to go to the Tree of Blessing every day. One time I lost my footing going down the steps and heard in my mind, "Be humble." I reached the water of life, and I noticed the water fountain output was flickering; with this, I felt the sign was to be careful, but I wasn't sure what to be careful with. In a later conversation, I realised I had been putting a lot of pressure on myself as a leader — trying to be 100% perfect 24/7. Later that day, a lecturer shared, "God has to teach you secretly without Satan noticing. God gives you signs — you have to catch the signs." From this, I knew that the "Be humble" was not from my original mind and that Satan was trying to corrupt my thinking through self-criticism, and God was telling me to be careful of this.

Halfway through the workshop, I hit a spiritual wall. When I prayed, I felt nothing. I tried to work through this, but I couldn't break through it, so I decided to talk to a staff member. He shared that Satan attacks those who are on the 'right' path, especially with the additional responsibility of being assistant workshop leader, a model for the workshop — you are in the prime position Satan wants... I realised I needed to keep attending, stay consistent, and not give in, which gave me the determination to keep investing.

That same evening, during the 1600th Vigil, the International Yeongseong team sang "Waymaker", entirely in English. When they reached the lines "Even when I don't see it, You're working... Even when I don't feel it, You're working," it hit me. It was the answer I needed. I should keep faith that God is working even when I can't feel or see it.

On my last full day, I went to the Tree of Blessing again. In prayer, I felt deep gratitude that I could experience Heavenly Parent and True Parents' love through this opportunity. And as a leader, I had been able to give love to others from a parental position, even when it meant sacrificing my own time. I apologised for the times I failed to recognise that love, and for not always recognising my ancestors who guide and protect me. It was one of the most heartfelt prayers of the whole workshop — my heart was moved to tears multiple times. These first 30 days became the beginning of a much longer journey of my heart.





Midway through the workshop, inspired, I booked a flight back for after my university graduation to officially complete 40 days, knowing I could offer more during this time, but I had no strong idea of what I would do when I came back.

On my last full day of the General workshop, a staff member suggested I apply to the Yeongseong Workshop, which was accepting 21-day trainees. With only two days in London, I ended up answering the application on my plane ride back. My heart poured out the answers, but intellectually I felt nothing, and that discrepancy left me unsure whether attending Yeongseong was the right choice. A staff member suggested I offer 1,000 bows for True Mother and see whether I felt a stronger pull to join. I accepted this bowing condition, with two intentions: to challenge myself and to substantially support True Mother at this crucial time.

While completing the bows alone, I had two spiritual experiences, but doubted them, worried I wanted one so badly it was only imagination. A few days later I learned I'd been accepted into Yeongseong. But again, I doubted this, thinking, "I have been accepted, but I still have a choice whether to accept or not". Unsure about whether to attend Yeongseong, I returned to my two original reasons: to challenge myself and to support True Mother, and committed to joining the 21-day workshop.

I received the cheonshim Robe – purple jacket (additional reflection, which is outlined below) on my first day of YS and during Hyojeong praise at Vigil, we sang "Mother Dear," and the line "I will be your answer" deeply resonated with me – Heaven truly wanted me to grow spiritually, and I wanted to uphold that. The spiritual world needs people to dedicate and offer themselves for the Providence, and whilst singing this, I knew I had the responsibility to be True Mother's answer. She is calling out for members to attend Heaven and to align with her, and I want to stand with her as a filial daughter of True Parents. This became the beginning of my real reasons for attending Yeongseong.

Additional reflection upon receiving the CS Robe: Putting the CS Robe on, I felt the responsibility I now carried and felt closer to True Father and the spirit world. I felt guilty to accept the Cheon Shim Robe, as I wasn't completing the entire 40-day workshop and I hadn't attended the inheritance ceremony to officially receive the robe. I wanted to offer at least some form of devotion to receive the robe, so after Vigil I offered 40 bows in the Cheon Shim Won. I still felt that this wasn't enough, but determined that the devotion I do whilst wearing the robe can pile up to eventually fully accept it. I do not feel worthy to accept the Cheon Shim robe, and writing this now, I am getting emotional. I am so grateful I could receive this, but still I feel like I need to offer more to wear the Cheon Shim Robe.

On the third day, during our Saturday intensive prayer (basically Vigil but for YS and in English, on the weekend – content catered to our group, as a special devotion for True Mother), I had another spiritual experience – True Father standing on stage, praying with us. I understood it as: he and True Mother are one, and he needs us to offer sincere devotion so the spirit world can work. This solidified why I'd been called to attend Yeongseong – Heaven wanted me to level up from the general workshop and knew I could offer more.



During resonance prayers and praise, I began losing my voice, which mattered because I'd always used it to help my heart resonate. With no sound coming out, I struggled all week trying to connect but unable to, and shouting during prayer, never natural for me, was something else to work through. This was frustrating for me, because knowing my time in the workshop was short, I couldn't afford to resonate in heart and only through this connection – I felt that the spiritual world could work to help True Mother. So, unable to resonate, I felt stuck on how to resonate in heart. I was pushing myself so much to connect this way, but was forced to find other ways to connect – which wasn't easy.

Through the workshop, I had assumed that what defined my experience was spiritual encounters and being able to resonate with True Mother's heart, forgetting to listen to my own conscience. With my voice gone, reflecting through conscience became another path. Talking with a staff member, I realised I was protecting my heart, afraid that receiving love fully would be too overwhelming to accept. There's strength in vulnerability, but it leaves you exposed. I remembered something my conscience had told me and forgotten: "Satan lives in comfort. God lives in challenges and growth." A lecture echoed this point – "If you are not challenged, you cannot receive blessings; it is your portion of responsibility."

During our third jeongseong challenge, we offered devotion for three people Heaven is waiting for. Offering 430 calling-out prayers for each, I got so invested in one I stopped watching my counter – until, emotionally, I looked down and it read 443. I felt Heaven lovingly saying, "That's enough now." I desperately wanted this person to align with True Mother and attend her. My reflection whilst seeing True Father on the stage previously was that True Parents are one, and not attending True Mother is not attending True Father. As we should become filial children of True Parents, I feel this strongly in my heart. True Parents are longing for us to return to them. In the CSG, it says God celebrates the prodigal son more than the dutiful first son; such is God's heart (1.2.19) – and with this, I could truly feel Heaven's heart. Our coordinator shared that when you pray for others with tears, you revive your shimjeong and can resonate with Heavenly Parent's heart – I found another way to resonate, even with my voice gone.

I'm grateful for this opportunity to have been able to invest for True Mother at such a crucial time, knowing our devotion goes directly to Heaven, mobilising the spirit world to help her. A mother doesn't want her children to sacrifice themselves for her — she wants them to grow and connect back to her. Through this workshop, I received far more love than expected, and I want to give that love back to True Parents and Heavenly Parent. This has been a pilgrimage of heart.

Coming back home, I worried the fire I had cultivated during the Yeongseong workshop wouldn't last. But that's a limiting mindset — my environment doesn't define me; my willpower does, and I know how much my heart longs to connect with True Mother and share her heart with others. God is with us even when we don't feel it. Thank you so much for supporting me whilst I was away, and for listening to my testimony.

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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COMMUNICATIONS

September 16, 2026 | Announcements, Articles | BFD EUME, Blessing, EUME, Workshop

Save The Date: Matching & Blessing Preparation Workshop

Dear brothers and sisters, Save the date for the **Matching & Blessing Preparation Workshop** (Level 2) in Tirana, Albania!

The programme will explore the meaning of the Blessing, the significance of Restoration, and the importance of preparing well for the Matching and Blessing.

Join us to find out how you can begin this journey, or take your next steps on the path to the Blessing Ceremony.

Invited are: 1st Generation and Jacob Children Candidates (over 18 years of age), as well as Married Couples. Matching Supporters and BFD staff are also welcome to join.

When: 16-18 October, 2026

More details and registration coming soon.

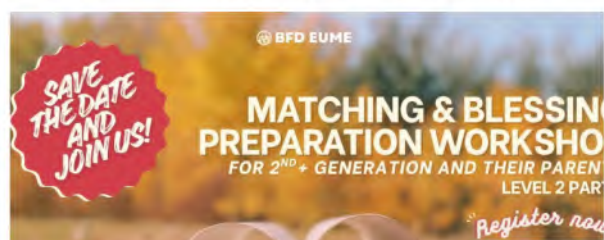
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BFD EUME

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Young Blessed Couples Getaway

Communications | 16 September 2026

Dear young blessed couples, are you looking for a chance to recharge your couple, enjoy a weekend away together, and connect with other blessed couples?



Matching And Blessing Preparation Workshop

Communications | 2 September 2026

You're invited to the next Matching and Blessing Preparation Workshop – Level 2 Part 1 for 2nd+ Generation and their parents! Join us in beautiful



Application For EMPOWER-HTG-EUME 2026-2027

Communications | 18 August 2026

EMPOWER is a missionary and faith-based development program for young adults ages 18-30. Our Vision: To experience and express Heavenly Parent through one's life. Our



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RUSSELL GOUGH

September 25, 2026 | Articles

BCLC Seminar | Faith In Conversation

On Saturday 19th September, members of the BCLC and their minister contacts gathered in the ballroom at 43 Lancaster Gate for another Saturday Seminar to listen to and discuss presentations on the Divine Principle, as received by our True Parents.

The last two seminars were held in the Kent room on the ground floor, which is actually more accessible for some of our senior members, who find it a bit of a challenge to ascend the long and winding stairs to the "upper room". We were, however, able to make use of a full sound audio-visual system, which Joe Cotter masterfully utilised, whilst streaming it all to our Facebook page. Did you manage to watch? The recording will be on it for the next 90 days!

On this occasion it was felt that a more thorough explanation of the 1st chapter should be given to an audience of largely new ministers, so a quick-fire set of 25-minute lectures was given covering all the main topics. We encouraged the ministers to take notes during and ask questions after each session. I felt the content was overall well received, though the questions were few. Was it due to my excellent delivery (I gave all the presentations this time), or was it that the 1st chapter communicates an ideal that seems so apparent and obvious? I think it was the latter, and it only goes to show how such content can offer practical models for any ministry.

Lunch was delicious and lovingly prepared by Mrs Alice Thompson. Our predominantly African-Caribbean guests gave it their all during praise and worship and an extremely vocal unison prayer at the close.

Whilst ferrying some of the ministers back, the conversations continued, and I realised once again how the more controversial revelations of Divine Principle that slipped from my lips began raising an eyebrow or two.

As Director of the BCLC, I continue to realise how lacking my understanding of Christian doctrine is and how entrenched many of the beliefs are. Any success I achieved in the past with witnessing tended to be with non-Christians and "free-thinkers".

It's a learning curve!

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