



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

Newsletter 03.10.2026

MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

Dear brothers and sisters,

October marks liberation, new beginnings and blessings in our movement, including Father's releases from Heungnam and Seodemun prisons and the blessings of 1970, 1982, 1988, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2020. Congratulations to all blessed couples!

True Mother's hospital stay has been extended to 20 October. Her main-case appeal hearing begins on 13 October. ([See Dr Balcomb's message here for details.](#))

International Headquarters has announced new leadership roles for Shinchul and Shinheung Moon. Let us pray for them and support them meaningfully when opportunities arise. ([Read official memo here.](#))

In EUME, Dr Michael and Fumiko Balcomb will step down after nine years leading our movement here. FFWPU EUME has begun a structured nomination and selection process for the next continental director. ([Watch the announcement in this week's EUME prayer call.](#))

The real magic happens when we move beyond our own family or community to be there for others. This newsletter highlights four inspiring stories from our communities worth celebrating!

We hope you enjoy the read and take encouragement and strength from our wonderful brothers and sisters into your next week.

In gratitude,
Bogdan and Yoshiko



43 LANCASTER
GATE, W2 3NA



SUNDAY
18 OCTOBER 2026
9:30am - 8:30pm

1 DAY Principles of Peace SEMINAR



EXPLORE

- Purpose of Life
- Love & Relationships
- Understanding Ourselves
- Human Potential

£20 PER PERSON
Lunch included

Register here



Principles of Peace is a one-day seminar where we'll explore some of life's biggest questions - who are we, what are we here for, and what does it really mean to love and be loved?

For more information [Click here](#)

[Click to Register](#)

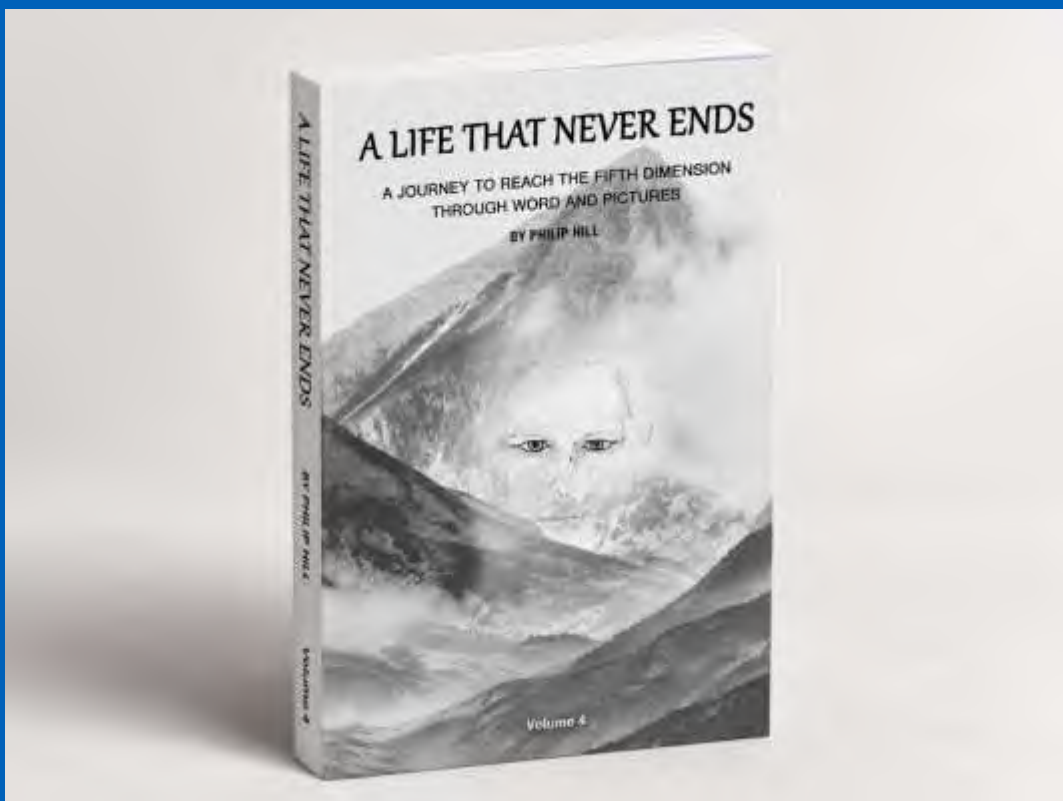


9/11: Watford Bridge of Peace

Click to read



BOOK RECOMMENDATION



The **fourth book and final book in the series**, titled *A Life That Never Ends – A Journey to Reach the Fifth Dimension Through Word and Pictures*.

The spirit world is all around us. It influences our lives in ways we may not always recognise, bringing guidance and inspiration, but sometimes also influences that can affect us in less positive ways.

In this fascinating book, Philip Hill explores the unseen world and its connection with our everyday lives. Drawing on his unique ability to perceive spiritual influences, he reveals how they may affect our thoughts, emotions and wellbeing—and what we can do to understand and overcome those influences.

The book is available to buy from Amazon:
www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0HJWRQ6HE

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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Heavenly Parent's Holy Community Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

324-275 Misari-ro, Seorak-myeon, Gapyeong-gun, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea 12461

Tel: +82- 31-8078-2565 Fax: +82-31- 8078-2599 E-mail: ffwpuihq@ffwpu.org Homepage: www.familyfedihq.org

Ref. No. HPHCIHQ 2026-001

To: Continental Directors, Vice Continental Directors, Regional Directors, Vice Regional Directors
Cc: Heads of Providential Organizations, Personnel-in-charge in Continental and Regional Headquarters
From: Heavenly Parent's Holy Community Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International Headquarters
Date: 8.19 by the Heavenly Calendar in the 14th Year of Cheon Il Guk (September 29, 2026)
Re.: Establishment of the International Headquarters; and Appointment of the Director-General of the International Headquarters and the President of the Cheonshim Cultural Center

May the great blessing and love of Heavenly Parent and True Parents always accompany you.

Through the presentation of the Rings of Heaven's Blessing at the Cheon Won Gung Entrance Ceremony, Missionaries Moon Shin-chul and Moon Shin-heung received Heaven's seal and were thereby invested in front of Heavenly Parent as the Inheritors of Heaven's Love and Blessing. Since then, they have devoted themselves day and night to safeguarding True Mother's well-being amid her present difficulties and to ensuring that the Family Federation community continues to move forward unwaveringly in accordance with Heaven's Will.

On the foundation of these efforts, True Parents have bestowed the great blessing of appointing the Inheritors of Heaven's Love and Blessing Moon Shin-chul and Moon Shin-heung to leadership positions in central providential organizations, so that members throughout the world can unite more closely centering on Heavenly Parent and our community can be reborn in greater vigor.

Upholding True Parents' will, we therefore announce the following organizational restructuring and personnel appointments. As this marks a significant new beginning in which members of the third generation of the True Family assume official missions within central providential organizations, we ask for the sincere prayers and devotion of leaders and members throughout the world.

1. Organizational Restructuring

- A. A new International Headquarters shall be established as the highest institution of Heavenly Parent's Holy Community Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.
- B. The Cheonshim Cultural Center will be reorganized as the central organization overseeing the development of God-centered culture within Heavenly Parent's Holy Community.
- C. The Cheonshim Cultural Center will operate under the direction of the Director-General of the International Headquarters

2. Personnel Appointments

Name	Details	Date of Taking Effect
MOON, Shin-chul (문신출)	Appointed as: Director-General, Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International Headquarters	HC 8.19 Cheon Il Guk Year 14 September 29, 2026
MOON, Shin-heung (문신흥)	Appointed as: President, Cheonshim Cultural Center	HC 8.19 Cheon Il Guk Year 14 September 29, 2026

Heavenly Parent's Holy Community
Family Federation for World Peace and Unification





Heavenly Parent's Holy Community

Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

United Kingdom Headquarters
43 Lancaster Gate, London W2 3NA, UK
+447770069303 / ukdirector@ffwpu.org.uk

Europe and the Middle East Regional Headquarters
Stegstrasse 40, 60594 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
+49-176-82695358 / president@ffwpu-eu.org

London, October 1 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A Month of Liberation, Blessing, and New Beginnings

October is truly a special month in the history of God's providence. A glance at our calendar shows that this month we celebrate no fewer than **seven** Holy Blessing ceremonies officiated by our True Parents over the years. On October 14, we observe the anniversary of True Father's liberation from Heungnam Prison back in 1950. This coming Sunday, October 4—the Day of Victory of Heaven—marks the victory of the Washington Monument Rally in 1976 and the anniversary of True Father's release from Seodaemun Prison in Seoul in 1955.

As you have heard, True Mother's appeal case will begin on October 13, and one of the first matters the court will consider is her application for bail while the appeal proceeds. The presiding judges are Judge Kim Moo-shin, Judge Lee Woo-hee, and Judge Yoo Dong-gyun. This is the same panel (from Division 13) that already granted True Mother's latest application to extend the suspension of her detention until October 20. Let us all pray that one more liberation can be celebrated this October.

New Leadership and Appointments

Just a couple of days ago, we were surprised and delighted to receive the news of the appointment of Shinchul Moon as the director of the new international headquarters, and his brother, Shin-heung, to lead the Cultural Association. Both of these are vital roles. Father and Mother often commented that the restoration of the world will happen through culture, art, and music, rather than politics, theology, and religion. We pray that God grants them both wisdom and deep insight, and we will work hard to support them in their success.

Transition in Europe

Last night on the weekly prayer you will have heard the announcement by Dieter Schmidt and Yujin Colleter that we have begun the formal search process for the next Continental Director. Since True Mother assigned Fumiko and me here in 2017, we have been serving in this role for more than nine years. With the establishment of third-generation leadership on the world level, it is now time to “pass the flame” to a new generation here in Europe.

We particularly want to thank our Vice Presidents' team—representing every region—for offering to guide the search: Yujin & Montlang Colleter, Andrei & Diana Esanu, Mickey & Nicole LaHogue, and Sarah & George Ahmed, and Manjola & Gabor Vasmatics. Let's pray for God to guide this process.

Once again, thank you all for your devotion, dedication, and particularly for your continuous prayer and support. Together, we will finish this year in victory!

Sincerely

Michael & Fumiko Balcomb, *Continental Director, FFWPU Heavenly Europe & the Middle East*



Announcements

4th October 2026

Matching & Blessing Preparation WS Level 2

Dates: 16 Oct – 18 Oct

Location: Tirana, Albania

For: 1st Gen and Jacob Children
Candidates over 18 years of age, as well
as Married Couples.
Matching Supporters and BFD staff.



For more information
[visit their website](#) or
scan the QR code.



Principles of Peace

A one-day seminar to explore some of life's biggest questions.

Date: 18 Oct

Time: 9am – 8:30pm.

Location: 43 Lancaster Gate, London.
W2 3NA.

For more information
[visit our website](#) or
scan the QR code.

A poster for a seminar. The background is a blue sky with clouds and a green field. At the top left, it says '43 LANCASTER GATE, W2 3NA'. At the top right, it says 'SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 2026 9:30am - 8:30pm'. In the center, the title '1 DAY Principles of Peace SEMINAR' is written in white. Below the title is a circular photo of a group of people. At the bottom left, under the heading 'EXPLORE', are the topics: 'Purpose of Life', 'Love & Relationships', 'Understanding Ourselves', and 'Human Potential'. At the bottom right, it says '£20 PER PERSON Lunch included' and 'Register here' with a QR code and a curved arrow pointing to it.

43 LANCASTER GATE, W2 3NA

LONDON

SUNDAY
18 OCTOBER 2026
9:30am - 8:30pm

1 DAY
Principles
of Peace
SEMINAR

EXPLORE

Purpose of Life
Love & Relationships
Understanding Ourselves
Human Potential

£20 PER PERSON
Lunch included

Register here

UPF Charity Dinner

A charity dinner dedicated to raising money for our youth service projects. Enjoy good food, great company and inspiring purpose.

Date: 30 Oct

Time: 6:30pm to 9pm.

Location: Holiday Inn, 65-67 Clarendon Rd, Watford, WD17 1DS.

For more information
[visit their website](#) or
scan the QR code.



The flyer is for a charity dinner organized by the Universal Peace Federation-UK. It features a dark blue header with the organization's logo and name. The main title 'Charity DINNER' is in a large, elegant font. Below this, a circular badge states the dinner ticket price is £35. To the right, a fork and knife icon indicates that the ticket includes a 2-course meal with hot, cold, and vegetarian options. A highlight section mentions a performance by Nicky Fisher. A banner below states the dinner is dedicated to raising money for youth service projects. The bottom section provides details about the date (October 30th), location (Watford Holiday Inn), and a note about limited tables. It also includes the charity number, preferred payment method (bank transfer), account number, sort code, and IBAN.


UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION-UK

Charity DINNER

DINNER TICKET PRICE
£35

 **TICKET INCLUDES**
2 COURSE MEAL
Hot, Cold and Vegetarian option

 **HIGHLIGHT:**
PERFORMANCE BY *Nicky Fisher*

 **CHARITY DINNER DEDICATED TO**
RAISING MONEY FOR OUR
YOUTH SERVICE PROJECTS

 **OCTOBER 30TH**
FROM 6:30PM

 **AT WATFORD HOLIDAY INN**
very near to
watford Junction station,
WD17 1DS

 **LIMITED TABLES**
AVAILABLE,
KINDLY REGISTER
SOONEST

 **Holiday Inn**
AN IHG® HOTEL

UPF - UK CHARITY NUMBER 1185412

 **PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD: BANK TRANSFER**
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Young Blessed Couples Getaway

A chance to recharge, enjoy a weekend away together, and connect with other Blessed couples.

Dates: 27 Nov – 29 Nov

Location: Altavilla in Alba, Italy

For: All EUME young Blessed couples (blessed in 2021 or later)

For more information
[visit our website](#) or
scan the QR code.



Upcoming Dates

67th True Children's Day
– 9 Nov 2026



Keep Updated!

Visit our website for all announcements & news:

<https://familyfedcommunity.org.uk/news/>



Join us on FFWPU UK News WhatsApp.

Please ask your pastor for the invite link.

Subscribe to the FFWPU UK Newsletter.

Please ask your pastor or scan the QR code to subscribe.





Have a Blessed week!



HAN-SUN NKUMU

October 2, 2026 | Articles, Members' Spotlight

Members' Spotlight | Peter Kong: A Seed Planted Thirty Years Ago

Some experiences stay with us long after the work is finished. We remember the people, the conversations, the feeling of belonging somewhere we had only just arrived. For Peter Kong, a service project in Birmingham nearly thirty years ago has remained one of those experiences. Today, it still shapes what he hopes to create in Wales.

Peter lives in Barry with his wife, Sufang, and their sixteen year old son, Michael. He and Sufang were Blessed in Korea in February 2000. He speaks warmly of their life in the seaside town, the countryside and coastline around them, and how easily he has built relationships locally.



Within FEWDILUK, he particularly enjoys supporting young people and young adults. He helps organise badminton

mainly in his 30s, he particularly enjoys supporting young people and young adults. He helps organise badminton, football and pickleball, as well as local service projects. Each offers a reason to come together, and an opportunity for friendships to grow.

"For me, these activities are not just about having fun or completing a job. They are a way of bringing people together, building friendships and creating opportunities to serve the wider community."

That understanding of service took shape through Religious Youth Service (RYS), which Peter joined in Birmingham in 1996 and 1997. During the 1996 project in Saltley, young people from around twenty nations and different religious backgrounds spent approximately twelve days working together. His group restored an abandoned tree nursery. Others helped turn an old bus garage into a recycling centre or worked on a nature trail and picnic area.

There was practical work to be done, but what Peter remembers most is the life they shared around it.

"We worked together, ate together, learned together, laughed together and sometimes struggled together. Although we came from very different backgrounds, those differences seemed to matter less. We became like one family."

He remembers the atmosphere created by coordinator David Earle and the rest of the staff. He remembers how understanding grew as they worked alongside one another. Even now, the mention of RYS is, in his words, "music to my ears".



"I think RYS planted a seed inside me. Nearly thirty years later, that seed is still there and is one of the main reasons I organise service projects in Wales today."

For years, Peter wanted to recreate something of that experience. His first local project took place on 25 February 2023, beginning with a simple idea: bring a few people together and find something useful they could do for their community.

On 19 September 2026, that work brought the group to Cosmeston Lakes Country Park. Under the guidance of park ranger Sharon, they cleared vegetation around a wooden bridge and information signs that had become difficult to see. Light rain gave way to sunshine. By the time they finished, the bridge entrance and signs were clearer and more welcoming for visitors.

As they worked, conversation came naturally. For Peter, that time together was as valuable as the task itself. The group stayed to chat after finishing, then continued their time together over a meal.

These are the moments Peter returns to when reflecting on the day: time to talk without forcing a conversation, and the pleasure of seeing what a few people have managed to do together.



"The work brings us together, but often it is the conversations and relationships that you remember afterwards."

Participants also learn about the places they help care for. Rangers explain how vegetation can overwhelm young trees and why particular tasks matter. The work becomes easier to understand when people can see its purpose.

Over time, the projects have helped Peter build a good relationship with the park team. He reports encouraging local recognition, including from the local MP, and has spoken with Sharon about organising a larger project. He hopes to bring young people from across the UK, and perhaps Europe, to Wales for service, environmental education, activities and sightseeing.

That hope feels like something moving: an experience that gave him so much might now become something he can offer others.





For members who would like to begin in their own communities, Peter's advice is simple.

"You don't need fifty people or a huge project. Find a local park, nature reserve, community organisation or charity and simply ask, 'Is there something we could help you with?'"

A few people can be enough. So can a small task. Peter knows from experience that it is difficult to predict what will stay with someone afterwards.

"You may begin by wanting to change a small part of your local environment, but along the way you may find that the experience also changes something inside you."

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MIWA SHAW

October 2, 2026 | Articles | Youth

Children's Summer Camp 2026

From 3rd to 8th August 2026, 24 children (age 7-12) gathered at Livingstone House for our Summer Camp, supported by 6 Team Leaders (age 15-18) and 14 staff members.

This year's camp theme was:

Do Re Mi Familia

Inspired by the camp movie **Coco**, the theme of the camp made us use music, family and faith as a way of exploring who we are, where we come from and how we can build loving relationships with those around us.

Throughout the week, our programme combined study sessions, games, creative activities, sports, prayer and plenty of opportunities simply to enjoy being together.

Our study programme explored themes including **lineage, love and harmony, teamwork and unity, creativity and offering, and remembrance**. Through stories, discussions and practical activities, the children were encouraged to think about their families, their relationships with others and their own potential to make a positive contribution.

Family and remembrance were particularly important themes throughout the camp. Inspired by **Coco** and traditions surrounding the Day of the Dead, the children created family-inspired crafts, including picture frames, ofrendas, Memory Envelopes and Legacy Boxes. These activities gave them opportunities to appreciate the people and traditions that have shaped them and to think about what they can pass on to others.

Of course, Summer Camp would not be complete without plenty of games and adventure. The children enjoyed outdoor team games, Skeleton Ball, Capture the Flag, water sports, a water slide and our traditional Predator evening. We also took the whole camp out for a day of **Combat Laser Quest**, where teamwork, strategy and encouragement were essential.





Creativity and self-expression were another important part of the week. The children worked on crafts (family pictures and the ofrendas) and team projects, culminating in our **Family Night**, where each team presented a skit alongside individual performances, music, karaoke and plenty of laughter.

Alongside all the activity, we made space for **prayer and reflection**. Our Prayer Night gave the children an opportunity to slow down, open their hearts to God and spend some quiet time praying within their teams. These quieter moments helped balance the energy of the camp and gave space for the children to reflect on the themes we had been exploring as well as open their hearts to God.

Many arrived knowing only a few people, but through games, shared meals, team challenges, study, new friendships quickly developed. The children were encouraged to support one another, communicate, work as a team and recognise the unique contribution each person could make.

Our Team Leaders played an important role in this. Having experienced Summer Camp themselves previously, they were able to act as role models and bridges between the children and staff, bringing energy, encouragement and a sense of continuity to the camp.



The final day, "Re Re Remember Me", was a chance to reflect on the week, play some final games and celebrate everything the children had achieved.

We finished with our graduation ceremony, joined by parents and family members. It was a special moment to celebrate the children and recognise the friendships, memories and experiences they had created together.

After graduation, everyone was invited to stay for a picnic in the garden of Livingstone House. With beautiful weather and a home-cooked paella prepared for everyone, we were able to finish the week in a relaxed family atmosphere, sharing food and conversation together.

The camp would not be possible without the dedication of the people who give their time and energy to make it happen.

We are grateful to our 14 staff members and 6 Team Leaders for everything they contributed throughout the week: from preparing and delivering activities and study sessions, to cooking, organising logistics, caring for the children and creating the atmosphere that made the camp so special.

We are also grateful to all the parents, families and members of our wider church community who supported the camp through their encouragement, practical help and prayers.

We would like to give a special thank you to NoT for their generous grant towards our camp outing, which enabled the children to enjoy an amazing day of Laser Tag. We are also very grateful to the Head Office for their grant towards the accommodation costs at Livingstone House, which helped make the camp possible.

We would like to also thank the Livingstone House team for welcoming us back and for being so helpful and supportive throughout the week. Their cooperation and care made a real difference and helped us create a warm and enjoyable environment for the children.

Most importantly, we are grateful for the opportunity to spend this week with the children. We hope that they return home with new friendships, happy memories and a deeper appreciation of their families, their community and their relationships.

with new friendships, happy memories and a deeper appreciation of their families, their community and their relationship with God.

Do Re Mi Familia reminded us that, just like music, life is richer when different people bring their unique gifts together in harmony.

God bless,

Miwa Shaw, Achan Mould, Saoirse Mould & Paulo Stout

Children's Summer Camp Coordinators

Children's Reflections:

Prayer night was..."Peaceful and the hot chocolate was yummy"

The Family Night was... "Very funny"

"Next time more than 1 or maybe 2?"

"I think my team worked really hard"

Games & Activities... "In sports I learned that working together is important"

"My new favourite game is Matanage and Skeleton Ball"

"I loved stretches because I grew my confidence leading one of them"

Outing..."Shot gun"

"I enjoyed the Laser tag A LOT!"

"It was so fun memories"

The teams..."I made friends"

"Team Leaders really help you progress and learn more"

Food was... "AMAZING!"

"PANCAKES!!!"

"FOOD WAS REALLY TASTY!"

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Principles Of Peace

Communications | 30 September 2026

1-Day Seminar What makes a truly peaceful and fulfilling life?

Principles of Peace is a one-day seminar where we'll explore some of life's biggest questions –



Members' Spotlight | From Bolton To Switzerland

Comms Team UK | 21 August 2026

For 21 days, missionaries from Bolton travelled to Switzerland to take part in a fundraising project to support their mission work in the UK. What





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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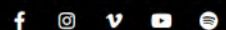
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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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COMMUNICATIONS

September 30, 2026 | Announcements, Articles | Events, Young Adults, Youth

Principles Of Peace

1-Day Seminar

What makes a truly peaceful and fulfilling life?

Principles of Peace is a one-day seminar where we'll explore some of life's biggest questions – who are we, what are we here for, and what does it really mean to love and be loved?

Through engaging talks, games and reflection, we'll explore these ideas, discuss what they mean to us and how we can apply these to our own lives.

Date: Sunday 18th October

Time: 9am – 8:30pm

Location: 43 Lancaster Gate, London. W2 3NA

Food and refreshments provided.

£20 per person.

To sign up please [click here](#).





EXPLORE

Purpose of Life
Love & Relationships
Understanding Ourselves
Human Potential

£20 PER PERSON
Lunch included

Register here




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OTHER ARTICLES YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN



Children's Summer Camp 2026

Miwa Shaw | 2 October 2026

Music, family and faith brought 24 children together at Livingstone House for a summer camp filled with creativity, adventure and new friendships.



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?



+44 (0)20 7723 0721



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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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1-Day Principles of Peace seminar

A meaningful weekend exploring purpose, direction, and how shared content—loved by a community and forming the foundation of one's life—can be applied to daily living.

What to expect:

- * Reflect on purpose and life direction
- * Explore practical universal principles
- * Games, great food, and meaningful discussions
- * Step back from routine and gain clarity

Everyone is welcome, whether curious or seeking a fresh perspective.



18th October 2026

* 9:30 am- 8:30 pm

43 Lancaster Gate, London. W2 3NA (Full address and travel details will be shared after registration.)



Not shared



* Indicates required question

First Name *

Your answer



Last Name *

Your answer

Email *

Your answer

Country *

Your answer

Gender *

☐

Male

☐

Female

Date of Birth *

Date

mm/dd/yyyy 

WhatsApp number *

*Don't forget to add your country code.

Your answer

What's your occupation? *

Your answer

Dietary restrictions *

☐ Vegetarian

☐ Vegan

☐ Gluten-Free

☐ Other

☐ None

What's are you expecting from this workshop? *

Your answer

Who invited you? How did you find out about this workshop? *

Your answer

Would you like to add something?

Your answer

Workshop fee If you send money in advance, please include "1-day WS + your name" with the payment and kindly inform us at the contact email:sei.rei.1202@icloud.com

Please note that if the payment is not confirmed, your order will be cancelled. Once your order is processed, you will receive a confirmation email 

A confirmation email will be sent to the address you provided.

Regular fee: £20

Account Name: SEIREI KISHINO

Sort Code: 23-01-20

Account number: 27596545

Reference: 1-day workshop

☐ I paid in advance via bank transfer

☐ I am staff

If you are participating partially, please write when you arrive and when you leave.

Your answer

Please read the Privacy Policy below *

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☐ Agree

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FRANÇOISE MURPHY

October 2, 2026 | Articles

9/11: Watford Bridge Of Peace

September 11, 2001 — do you remember that dreadful day when two planes crashed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre in New York City? It felt like time had stood still; the world was in shock. So many people died. We all wondered what the consequences of this horrific event would be on the stability and peace of our world. That day, True Father stopped everything he was doing and urged America to lead the way in practicing Jesus' teaching of 'Love your enemy'.

At that time in 2001, I had been a member of the Watford Interfaith Association for over three years. The following year, they asked me to speak at one of their conferences on women's contributions to world peace. I spoke about the work of the WFWP and the Bridge of Peace. I didn't want just to give a speech; I wanted to offer something concrete for our town. Watford has a high percentage of Muslim residents. I made an announcement that I would organise a sisterhood ceremony between Christian and Muslim women.



On March 2, 2003, at the outbreak of the Iraq War, 40 women from the Christian and Muslim communities in Watford responded to our invitation to cross the Bridge of Peace. It was an amazing sight to witness these women coming together under the Peace Arch, embracing each other and pledging to become peace sisters learning about each other's communities. The Mayor of Watford was present. She congratulated us and promised to offer her continuous support for our outreach. Later that year, she attended the Middle East Peace Initiative in Jerusalem.

In 2007, the Watford Bridge of Peace received a grant from the Prevent programme of the Home Office. I continued my outreach work with the Muslim community for many years afterwards. I was invited by my Muslim peace sister to join her community centre, where she was the Chair. I became a Trustee and Vice Chair for a while. As the years passed, I ended up being the only non-Muslim on the committee. Eventually last year the community centre had to close.

up being the only non-Muslim on the committee. Eventually, last year, the community centre had to close.



With the Mayor

Our Peace Arch is now standing at the entrance of the Peace Garden in Cassiobury Park, a reminder of our sisterhood ceremony and a symbol of harmony and friendship between the various communities of Watford. A few days ago, we commemorated the events of 9/11. As I was reminiscing about my outreach work, I was reading about True Father's reaction to 9/11 and how he had launched the Middle East Peace Initiative in 2003 and the UPF in 2005. I was then amazed to find out that the Middle East Peace Initiative was inaugurated on March 2, 2003, the same day as our Bridge of Peace here in Watford. I was astonished and realised that, at that time, I must have tuned into True Father's mind and heart.

Two years later, on September 12, 2005 True Father inaugurated the Universal Peace Federation and twelve days later in Watford on September 24, 2005 we hosted the Watford Celebration, an annual community event celebrating the rich diversity of cultures and faiths of our town.

For more information on the Watford Bridge of Peace please [click here](#).

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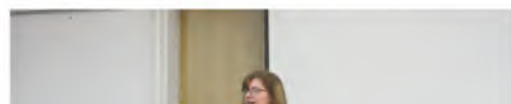
PATRICIA EARLE

October 2, 2026 | Articles

Peace Begins At Home: Family Festival And Interfaith Peace Blessing

On 19 September in Birmingham, to celebrate UN Day for Peace, we held a beautiful Family Festival and Peace Blessing. Around 150 friends came, a melting pot of people from all races, cultures, faiths, social backgrounds and different generations.

All of us stood for the value of the family in a very divided society. Also making a new beginning in our own heart, and life, asking for the strength to love and forgive, beginning in ourselves and in our home. The event began with beautiful prayers from our different faith traditions, followed by an insightful presentation about the family as the School of Love, where peace begins.





Then we all took part in the Interfaith Peace Blessing, making a new start individually and all together. We heard responses from 4 different religious leaders, and we finished by presenting 6 'Exemplary Family Awards'.

Each shared an insight on meeting the challenge of maintaining a good family in today's society. Many young adults were there to support their mum and dad for the occasion. It was very touching to see! It all ended with us sharing a wonderful meal together, when we could feel so much good energy and happiness.

A big thank you to everyone who came to support.



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