

UK National Leader Handover Ceremony

On Sunday the 12th July, over 130 family members gathered in FFWPU HQ, Lancaster Gate, London to participate in a moving and joyful handover ceremony of UK National Leader. Pastor Jeff Bateman as MC opened the program with words of welcome and prayer. He then invited all present to stand and sing the UK National Anthem.

Part 1

Jack and Renee Corley were inaugurated into the role in 2012 and now after 3 years of devoted and dedicated leadership, they have been re-assigned by True Mother to the position of Regional President for Europe. In his handover speech Jack spoke movingly about the past 3 years and how we have had to deal with many difficult situations and changes within our movement. This is a time when we really need to look at ourselves and ask what kind of movement do we want to build for the future? He expressed gratitude for the support both he and Renee received from brothers and sisters. He said he was particularly delighted to be passing on the responsibility of National Leader to our 2nd generation couple Matthew and Natasha Huish. Jack emphasised that it was True Mother who directly chose Matthew.

Pastor David Earle presented Jack with a Certificate of Appreciation – *(some words on the plaque)* - “you have worked with strong awareness of our Nation’s providential role and led our membership in a period of great change and challenge since the ascension of our True Father, during which the governance of the community was restructured and secured”. Patricia Earle presented Renee with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.



Pastors David and Patricia Earle present a Certificate of Appreciation and flowers to Jack and Renee

Mrs Mitty Tohma, UK WFWP President then presented Jack with a gift from UK brothers and sisters. Following this Pastor Ron German and Pastor Rosemarie Hoyte shared testimonies of their time working with Jack over the past three years.



Kathleen Moloney concluded this part of the programme by singing a beautiful congratulatory song.

Part 2

In welcoming the incoming National Leader, the MC read Matthew's biography to the audience. This was followed by the "passing on of the ceremonial staff". On August 6th, 1986 Mr and Mrs Abe, the National Leaders at the time, with 25 leaders from London travelled to Scotland and climbed Ben Nevis, where a Holy Ground was established. Mr Abe used that staff to climb the mountain, and it has been passed down from National Leader to National Leader since then.



"From the Exposition of the Divine Principle, in the chapter on The Providence of Restoration under the Leadership of Moses, it explains that Moses' staff symbolized Jesus. Just as the staff displayed miraculous power in front of Moses, who represented God, Jesus was to come with such power and

perform miracles before God Himself. Moreover, a staff provides protection and support for people to lean on; it smites injustice and leads people on the right path”.

In his acceptance speech, Matthew shared his heart with the audience. In his reading from the Bible, he mentioned how God spoke to Joshua and told him to be strong and courageous, not to be afraid or discouraged. He spoke about the significance of passing on responsibility from one generation to the next just as Moses did with Joshua. But also that there can be a sense of fear about what to expect when change occurs. When in conversation with his wife Natasha recently, since receiving their new mission, they actually did not feel too stressed or worried about the new role he said. Remembering what God said to Joshua, don't worry I'll be with you! The best way forward is to be brave and courageous. Let's just trust God!



Both Matthew and Natasha felt so grateful for the support they have received from many brothers and sisters. He concluded his speech by saying let's have the courage to do our best.

The final address of the ceremony was given by the newly appointed Regional President for Europe, Mr Jack Corley. He emphasised that our UK movement has enormous potential for growth. True Mother and True Father are one. If we want to know what True Father wants us to do then simply listen to True Mother. As we get through this period of difficulty and confusion we will see great things happening. True Mother was so inspired during her recent European tour. He said that he felt so proud that True Mother could meet with 400 2nd generation members in Vienna. If we can unite and look beyond our differences, we can be very successful.

Group Photographs



Jack & Renee with Matthew, Natasha and three of their six children



Matthew with his mother and sister and Natasha with her father and mother



Former UK National Leaders



Pastors, WFWP UK President, Department Leaders and National Messiahs



Japanese missionaries and Mrs Tomoko Harris



Group photo of all participants at FFWPU HQ, Lancaster Gate, London

Report by Tom O'Connell, General Affairs Department