

**Methodist Recorder article by Isaac Nketiah-Boateng,
Methodist Rep to the British Youth Council**

Hey! My name is Isaac Nketiah-Boateng, aged 19, and I am a British Youth Council Rep in the Methodist Church. I am from Birmingham and I am currently studying History at De Montfort University. In this week's article I will be giving you an insight into my life as a young Christian and as a Methodist Youth Rep.

So, as a British Youth Council Rep, my role is to take the issues that the youth of the Methodist Church have and areas of work where I feel passionate about and to try and bring about change by taking it to local members of parliament and speaking with groups who share the same passions I do and finding out how I can be of help to them. As a person I can be very passionate about many topics and like to bring about conversations about inequalities and problems that affect the youth right now. One thing that really excites me about my role is how many people that you see challenging the inequalities, especially those who are young. I have always been a big advocate of listening to the youth about stuff like this because they will know it a lot better than other people.

In these times of uncertainty, I think about how my work within the Methodist Church is impacting my faith. I think about how it has given me the opportunity to meet many people who are very spiritual and the chance to be around people like this can only elevate my faith and help me explore my faith even more. Something that has really helped with the bond that we as a group of young leaders have is our Rep weekends and our Rep socials. These gave me the opportunity to really get to know the team even better. Even with the amount of work that gets done there, we all find the time to socialise and this has helped me, especially in my first year as a Rep. Also, seeing how prayerful the Reps are has pushed me to further my own prayer journey and strengthen my relationship with God.

I can only be thankful for this position that I have in the Methodist Church, because it has helped me to be more involved in many events that I may have not had the chance to be a part of. When I think of this one of my favourite things that this position has given me is the chance to work with youth who are coming to the UK for the first time. As a person who has had that same experience it gave me the chance to pass on any tips that I had and also settle any nerves that they had about the new journey they were about to embark on. Not only does it help them, it has also helped me, especially learning more about other countries and how their lives are.

I think that this was especially helpful for my mental health during the whole lockdown and pandemic situation. Being able to talk to other people and take my mind off any worries that I had and having something to occupy my time was very helpful. In addition, the Rep socials also played a great part in this. Even though we were not able to meet in person, attending the quizzes that we held and being able to be in that environment really gave me that family vibe that I have enjoyed since I began in my post.

When I look forward, I pray that I get the opportunity to experience my post in full and get to meet people in person and really begin my work and share passions with them and bring about change. To end this I want to pray for all those who need it right now and for those who are, like all of us, uncertain about all that is happening. I hope that, by reading this, you have got an insight into my Rep life and can see that we all have the same worries. But with prayer may we all be reassured that we are all in the hands of a loving God.

Amen.