

FFWPU UK Wales, West Country and West Midlands Celebrate Easter And A Special Anniversary

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On the 30th of March, the Wales, West Country and West Midlands Holy Community celebrated Easter Sunday with a worship service at the Holy Oak Memorial Hall. This day also marked another special anniversary for the Holy Oak Memorial Holy Ground.



Families from all across the West Country and the West Midlands gathered together for a joyful Easter worship service at the Holy Oak Memorial Hall in Stanton Fitzwarren, Wiltshire. After the songs of praise, bible readings and music, FFWPU-UK National Director Dr. Balcomb gave the Easter Message, titled "The Day of Resurrection." Following the service, there was plenty of food and lots of chocolate

bunnies suddenly appeared, enough for all the children!

Dr. Balcomb explained that the message was based on a sermon first given during Easter week 1957 by the FFWPU founder, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon. Father Moon often spoke about the importance of resurrection in his early messages, and he taught that resurrection is something that needs to happen every day, not just once a year. "In fact, resurrection refers to the whole process of moving from spiritual death to spiritual life," explained Dr. Balcomb "and it is the central goal of our limited life here on earth."



It was on Easter Sunday in 1935 that the 15-year old Sun Myung Moon had a life-changing spiritual encounter with Jesus on a mountain behind his home in North Korea. After a night in prayer seeking God's grace for his sorrowful and colonized country, Jesus appeared suddenly:

"I was on the mountain praying all night and begging God in tears for answers. Early Easter morning Jesus appeared to me suddenly like a gust of wind and said to me "God is great sorrow because of the pain of humankind. You must take on a special mission on earth to do Heaven's work." My encounter with Jesus changed my life completely. His sorrowful expression was etched into my heart as if it had been branded there, and I could not think of anything else. From that day on I immersed myself completely in the Word of God. At times I was surrounded by endless darkness and filled with such pain that it was difficult to breathe. At other times my heart was filled with joy, like watching the morning sun rise."

The Holy Oak Memorial Hall in Stanton Fitzwarren is adjacent to the Unification burial site and Holy Ground of the same name. It was 50 years ago in 1974, when Father Moon came to the farm for the first time. During that visit, together with Henry Masters and his wife Avril, who had earlier donated their entire estate to the Unification Church, they planted two little oak saplings that have now grown into mighty oaks. Later this year a special celebration will be held to celebrate this important anniversary, to commemorate the great gift of the Masters family, and to honour all those who now rest in peace at the site.

