

## **FFWPU UK: Easter Renewal, Gratitude, and Family Honouring Jesus**

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### **Easter: A Season of Renewal, Gratitude, and Family!**

As we approach the Easter season, we are reminded once again of the deep meaning this time of year carries, both spiritually and personally. Easter is a celebration rooted in hope, rebirth, and the promise of new beginnings and therefore invites us to pause, reflect, and reconnect with what matters most...

#### **A Time to Cherish Family and Community**

For many of us, Easter naturally becomes a moment to gather with family and friends by sharing meals, enjoying the lighter spring days, and organising Easter Egg Hunts for the children. These simple traditions remind us how precious our relationships are. They help us build memories, strengthen bonds, and appreciate the love that surrounds us.

In these connections, with family, community and Heavenly Parent may we find nourishment and renewal.

#### **Honouring Jesus and His Course**

At the heart of Easter is the remembrance of Jesus' incredible life and sacrifice. His devotion, his unwavering love for humanity, and the path he walked continue to inspire all who seek a life of faith and goodness. This season offers a chance to offer renewed gratitude for Jesus' mission and the hope he brought to the world.

Some members may have engaged in Lent or other conditions leading up to Easter. Whether through prayer, fasting, or personal reflection, these sincere efforts help us realign ourselves with Heavenly Parents's heart and open the way for deeper renewal. Also in current circumstances and difficulties it may help us to find resolve to see where we can help each other or bring hope.

#### **Remembering Our Origins and True Father's Experience**

Easter can also be a moment for us to reflect on the spiritual origins of our movement, particularly True Father's profound encounter with Jesus as a young man. That meeting, on the mountain shaped not only True Father's life but also the unfolding of God's providence in our time. As we honour Easter, we also honour this lineage of faith and the foundation it provides for our spiritual lives.

## A Chance for Renewal and Fresh Dedication

Spring is a season of rebirth where nature awakens, light returns, and new life blossoms. Easter mirrors this beautifully, offering each of us a chance to begin again. Whether we are seeking clarity, healing, peace, or a new sense of purpose, this season invites us to make fresh decisions and set renewed intentions in our faith and daily life.

We hope that everyone is able to have a wonderful Easter celebration whether at home or with the community services taking place and that families can enjoy the Easter break with their children off of school.

Please read this article from the EUME website to help remember True Father's experience with meeting Jesus -

This article and more can be found on the Unification News website [here](#).

## A truly life-changing encounter with Jesus

On Wednesday 17th April 1935, as Easter was about to begin, on Myodu hill in [Chongju](#), not far from home, [Sun Myung Moon](#) had a deep spiritual encounter with Jesus, who explained how 2,000 years ago he had been unable to complete the mission for which he came to earth. In [Sun Myung Moon](#)'s own words:

"When I was 15, I had an extraordinary experience. It was an Easter morning, and I was in deep prayer. I cried as I prayed. Then Jesus appeared. He revealed many things to me and explained that [God](#)'s heart was full of [sorrow](#) and pain because of us humans.

Jesus asked me to take on a special mission so that [God](#)'s will could be completed here on earth. It is difficult to explain to you about this experience. In short, the spirit world suddenly opened before me, and I was able to communicate freely with holy and wise men in the spirit world. In the quiet hills of northern Korea, I spoke directly to Jesus many times. The revelations I received then constitute the very core of the [Unification Principles](#)."

Jesus asked him to take upon himself the responsibility of completing the mission which Jesus himself had started 2,000 years earlier, but which, because of his premature death, he had not been able to complete. [Sun Myung Moon](#) thought at first that he could not promise such a thing, but Jesus urged him repeatedly, stressing that the young Korean was specially chosen by [God](#) and that there was no one else who could take on such a mission. Therefore, the 15 year old boy in the end said yes. But he hardly knew what he was getting himself into.

Here is how [Sun Myung Moon](#) describes his encounter with Jesus in his autobiography,

"It was the night before Easter the year I turned fifteen. That day also, as usual, I climbed up the Myodu hill behind our village and stayed up all night praying. As the tears flowed, I begged [God](#) for answers to my questions, 'Why had He created a world full of so much sorrow and despair? Why did an all-knowing and all-powerful [God](#) leave this world to itself when it is in such sorrow and pain? What should I do for my poor fatherland?'

As the tears flowed, I asked this again and again.

I was up praying all night without sleeping at all. At dawn that Easter morning, Jesus manifested himself before me. Like a gust of wind, Jesus appeared and said, 'Because of the sufferings of humankind, [God](#) has a broken heart. That is why he asks you to take on a special mission in [God](#)'s work on earth.'

That day I saw the sorrowful face of Jesus clearly and heard his voice distinctly. Seeing Jesus manifest made my body tremble violently, like an aspen leaf. Then and there I was seized with an awe so great that I thought I was going to die, and at the same time carried away by emotions so strong that I thought I was going to explode. Right in front of me, Jesus clearly explained to me what I had to do. In an incredible way, he told me that I should save a humanity that was suffering and in pain, and bring joy to [God](#)."

- From [Sun Myung Moon](#)'s autobiography, chapter 2, section 1, translated from the Korean original.

"Encounter with Jesus" - text written based on [Sun Myung Moon](#)'s own words. In his teachings, [Father Moon](#) has devoted a lot of space to Jesus. In the [Unification Principles](#), 3 entire chapters go into great detail about Jesus, his life, words and mission.



# NEWS AND INSIGHTS

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## Rev. Sun Myung Moon – Father Moon (1920 – 2012)

### In a nutshell

- **Name:** Sun Myung Moon. In Korean 문선명 (Moon Seon-myeong – the family name always comes first in Korean). Written in Chinese characters, the name is 文鮮明. He was born as 문용명 (Moon Yong-myeong), but changed his name in 1953. Many call him Father Moon.
- **Born:** 25<sup>th</sup> February 1920 (6<sup>th</sup> day of the first month according to the Oriental lunar calendar) in Sangsa, a hamlet in Chongju (town status since 1994) of North Pyeongan province in Korea, now North Korea).
- **Married:** 11<sup>th</sup> April 1960 to **Hak Ja Han**. Together they realize the ideal of **True Parents**. They had 14 children together. This was his second marriage. First married on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1945 to Seon-Gil Choi, but divorced on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1957. A son was born to her

Sun Myung Moon founded several organizations, including the **Unification Church in 1954** in Seoul, South Korea, with his wife **Hak Ja Han**, the **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification** in 1996 in Washington DC, and the **Universal Peace Federation** in 2005 in New York.

He and his wife are also known for arranging so-called “**Blessing Ceremonies**” since 1960, the year they themselves **got married**. The ceremonies are often called **mass marriages** or mass weddings.

Father Moon is also known for founding several newspapers, including **The Washington Times**, in 1982.

Sun Myung Moon was a skilled orator, and his speeches have been published in collections of over 600 volumes, mainly in Korean, but extracts from the speeches have been translated and published in a wide range of languages.

His original religious teachings are called the **Unification Principles** (Wolli – 원리 – in Korean – translated as Divine Principle in English. The Korean word wolli actually means principle or principles.)

Sun Myung Moon was far more than a religious leader. He thus founded and supported dozens of organizations to promote international understanding and create lasting peace in the world.

He was an outspoken opponent of totalitarian atheistic communism and founded several organizations that developed a systematic ideological critique of communist ideology.

Sun Myung Moon also strongly believed in culture and sport as peace-making activities and invested in football clubs, symphony orchestras, and ballet. Already in 1962, he formed a dance troupe for children, **The Little Angels**, which eventually became outstanding



### Timeline

**1920:** Born after World War I into a Korea suffering and struggling under Japanese occupation.

**1935:** Easter 1935, he had a mystical life-changing **encounter with Jesus Christ**, who commissioned him to a great mission and taught him personally.

**1940s:** In his student years, he found crystal clear answers to the mysteries of religion and life's big questions.

He was tortured for his involvement in the underground Korean independence movement.

**1945:** After World War II and Korean independence, he began to share his profound insights with key persons and movements **God** led him to. Met with misunderstanding in South Korea. He walked to North Korea and built his own movement there. Soon arrested and tortured by the Communist regime. In 1948, sentenced to 5 years in a **concentration camp**.

**1950s:** Miraculously **saved from certain death** by UN forces. Came as a penniless refugee to the South.

The rapid growth of his movement after the Korean War in 1953 was **officially registered** in Seoul in 1954.



North Korea. Public domain image. Cropped

in 1946.

- **Died:** 2nd Sept. (European time) 2012 (3rd Sept. Korean time) in Gapyeong, South Korea, aged 92.
- **Autobiography:** "A Peace-Loving Global Citizen"
- **Teachings:**
  - **Unificationism.** See also **Brief about the Teachings** and the **Unification Principles.**
- **Education:** Graduated in September 1943 from the electrical engineering department at Waseda College of Engineering in Tokyo, Japan, affiliated with Waseda University, one of Japan's top universities.

ambassadors for Korean culture.

Father Moon invested large sums in establishing a car factory in North Korea. He saw the ocean's resources as the key to fighting hunger and malnutrition and invested in fish farming, and also developed fish products rich in high-quality protein.

Sun Myung Moon organized a long series of interfaith conferences to promote cooperation between religions and also proposed the creation of an Interfaith Council at the United Nations.

He was, in addition, an ardent advocate of the construction of a tunnel under the Bering Strait to unite the nations of the world by means of an international highway.

Ever since it became clear that the messianic task could not be completed through Jesus because of his untimely death, **God** began to prepare the world again, as he had done before the birth of Jesus. As the **Unification Principles** (Divine Principle) shows there are striking points of similarity between the 2,000-year period before Jesus and the last 2,000 years.

**God's** preparations for the **Kingdom of Heaven** intensified in the last centuries before the coming of Jesus. Buddha, Confucius, Zoroaster, and others laid spiritual foundations in their respective parts of the world. Major reforms were carried out within Judaism. Greek and Roman civilizations created major changes here in Europe.

In the same way, the last centuries from the Renaissance and the Reformation have been a time characterized by great upheavals. The purpose of all these changes has been to create the conditions for an ideal world without war, suffering, and injustice.

The prerequisite for **God's** and humankind's longing for a harmonious world to become reality is that someone shows us the way to **true love**, true marriages, and true families. That is why **God** has also prepared the world for **True Parents**.

The Messiah comes to realize the ideal that **True Parents** represent, namely a man and a woman who has achieved the standard that men and women, fathers and mothers, should have, according to **God's** original plan.

Against all odds, with a handful of followers, he built what, within 25 years, became a global movement.

**1960s:** **Holy Marriage** to **Hak Ja Han** in 1960. Began holding larger and larger **Marriage Blessing** events, first for his followers and then for people of all faiths and nations.

**1970s:** Preached throughout the USA. His rallies filled big stadiums; the largest in Washington attracted 300,000. In South Korea, he gathered 1.2 million in 1975. Established schools, newspapers, a hospital, humanitarian aid organizations, shipbuilding facilities, and businesses. Started annual conferences for hundreds of eminent scientists, media people, and academics. **Blessed the marriage** of several thousand couples.

**1980s:** More newspapers were established, including The Washington Times. Organized large interreligious conferences. Formed organizations are exposing weaknesses of atheistic materialism. Predicted the imminent collapse of Communism in 1985. **Large weddings** are held for 15,000 couples.

**1990s:** Personal meetings with top leaders of the Communist world – President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow and Chairman Kim Il-sung in Pyongyang. Seven years later, he built a car factory in North Korea. Launched global educational, interfaith, and peace initiatives: **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification**, and Women's Federation for World Peace. Millions of couples receive **marriage blessing**.

Published *World Scripture – A Comparative Anthology of Sacred Texts*.

**2000s:**

Major efforts for peace in the Middle East. Launched the Universal Peace Federation.

120-nation speaking tour at the age of 85. Received many honorary doctorates.

Autobiography *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen* published 2009. Became a bestseller in South Korea.

**2010s:** Died at the age of 92 in 2012. Dr. **Hak Ja Han Moon** continued to expand the activities throughout the world. Large religious groups with millions of followers started to embrace the teachings.

Sunhak Peace Prize was

established to support individuals and organizations excelling in work for peace and environmental protection. **Large weddings** for thousands of couples every year.

**2020:** World Summit 2020, with thousands of VIPs, including many heads of state, held in Seoul.

Launch of global peace networks connecting parliamentarians, religious leaders, media experts, scientists, students, academics, and entrepreneurs. Continuing efforts for Korea's reunification.

