

FFWPU UK: Memorial Service Celebrates Lives Of Beloved Brothers And Sisters

Michael Balcomb
August 10, 2022



Last weekend's Memorial Service at the Holy Oak Memorial Woodland celebrated the lives of our beloved brothers and sisters who have ascended this year.

We had an uplifting and moving Memorial service, remembering, and honouring our beloved brothers and sisters who ascended to their eternal home. Members from all over the country gathered at the Holy Oak Memorial Woodland on Sunday 7th of August for our annual Memorial service. It was a warm sunny day and we sat under the comforting shade of trees listening to the service. Viola Dirnhofer beautifully guided us through the various songs and speakers.

The main message was given by our elder brother Philip Withers who passionately spoke about his life's spiritual journey meeting our True Parents. He mentioned how Peter Koch, a pioneering member of our church in Europe had a deep impact on his life. Peter had told our members: 'You must fall in love with God'. If you are in love with God, nothing can stop you, hardships may strike but because of that love nothing will deter you from doing the will of God. Philip told us about his challenges when True Father matched him with Izilda a sister from a very different background. At the request of Philip, Bernard Chellev sang 'Forever young' and we all joined in.



Françoise then gave a report about the Seonghwa Caring ministry. She first recalled how the tradition of the annual Memorial service at the Holy Oak Memorial Woodland had begun in 2017 with Keiko de

Giles's wish to honour our ascended members. It became, the following year, a collaborative venture between the Holy Oak Memorial Woodland committee and the Seonghwa Caring ministry. Françoise mentioned that early this year, the committee had decided to add the term 'Caring' to the originally called 'Seonghwa ministry' highlighting the importance of aftercare for our bereaved members. Informal zoom meetings were set up, giving our bereaved members the opportunity to share.

A webinar on 'Preparing for our Ascension' was held in May. This year, three of our beloved members ascended: Michel Raskin, Avril Masters, and Joanna Hartl. Franklin took care of the Seonghwa ceremonies liaising with and supporting the bereaved families. Françoise concluded with a vote of thanks to Keiko de Giles for her tremendous investment in building up the Holy Oak Memorial Woodland. She then warmly welcomed Kumiko Large as the new warden for the site.

Franklin spoke and emphasised the importance of honouring our ascended members and including them in our daily lives. He reminded our members about getting a headstone for their loved ones.

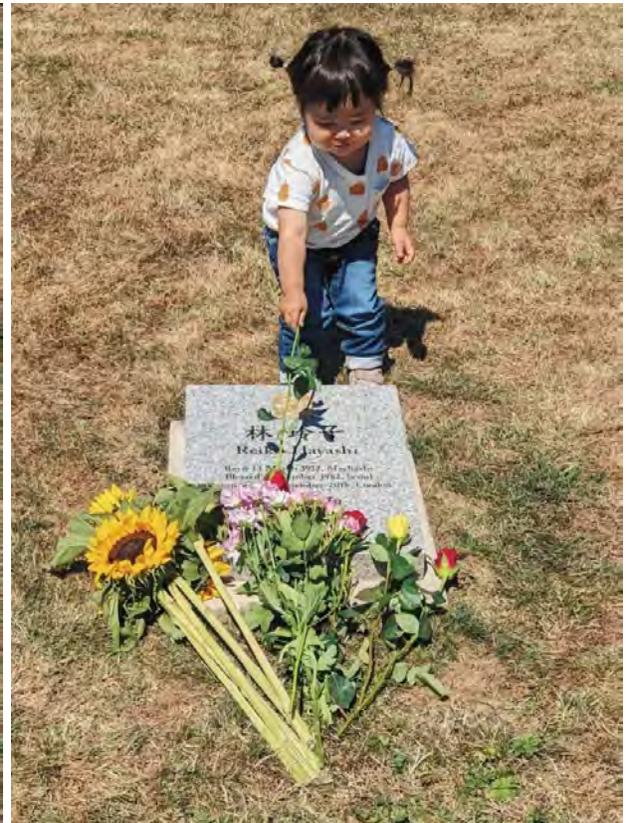
At the closing of the service roses were given to everyone and a photo was taken of the group. Members went around the various wonjeon laying flowers, praying, and reminiscing about each of the ascended members. The afternoon concluded with a potluck lunch. We enjoyed each other's company and spent time catching up with each other.

It was a beautiful day; members were grateful for this unique opportunity to meet and celebrate the lives of our dear ascended brothers and sisters. I believe Heavenly Parent and True Parents were there as we now prepare for the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of our beloved True Father's Holy Ascension.

For more information about the Seonghwa Caring Ministry, please visit:
familyfedcommunity.co.uk/blessed-families/seonghwa/









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The FFWPU-UK Seonghwa Caring Ministry aims to create a support network for its members who are going through bereavement. We wish to provide emotional and spiritual support, as well as practical advice and guidance.



IN MEMORIAM



HOLY OAK MEMORIAL WOODLAND



SEONGHWA PREPARATION



SEONGHWA GUIDANCE



SUPPORT TEAM



GRIEF SUPPORT RESOURCES

Please feel free to contact anyone on our team:

Françoise Murphy: seonghwa@ffwpu.org.uk

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To donate:

The Seonghwa Caring Ministry is part of the Blessed Family Department, and the BFD has agreed to ring-fence the SCM donations to their account.

If you wish to donate towards the work of the Seonghwa Caring Ministry, here are the details of the BFD account and please add **'Seonghwa C. Ministry'** in your reference.

Account name: Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

Barclays Bank

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