

## **Lokesh Mazumdar seeks a Fusion of East and West**

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Linda Ryan

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Trying to win support for ideas and concepts which may be contrary to the beliefs of the majority of people can be a tough job. Being labeled a "religious fanatic" makes the task no easier.

But at least one newcomer to the Omaha area apparently take such challenges in stride. Lokesh Mazumdar, 3531 N. 59th St., is a member of the Unification Church, and has lived in Omaha for a month during his efforts to attract more members.

Members of the church are committed to attaining the goal of the ideal world, a world in which people can love whole-heartedly and trust one another -- where God and men and the creation can share alike in a living relationship, not just in words or ideas, Mazumdar explained.

He admitted that people may consider him to be "foolishly naive," but he feels that he is "only stating things realistically.

We're rejected a lot, but we're used to that."

"We feel that the time has come when man is really asking questions about God --about a living relationship with God that can be translated to solving our world problems," commented Mazumaar, who is of Indian ancestry.

"Ever since the fall of man, history has been a process where God has been working to restore man to a state where he can have a perpetual give and take kind of love of God and man, and of man his creation," he said.

"The movement within the Unification Church is "process of restoration of truth, personality and love, brought about by uniting all the religions of the world," Mazumdar said. "The fusion of Christianity and Oriental philosophy is necessary to bring the East and West together."

Mazumdar said he began his studies in the Unification Church at its national headquarters in, DC. The movement was introduced in the United States about 10 years ago, he said, through the work of a disciple of the church's founder, Sun Myung Moon of Korea.

"Jesus appeared to Moon when he was 15" Mazumdar related, "and God revealed to him the Divine Principles, which form the core of the movement's teachings. In attempting to bring these principles to humanity he was persecuted in Korea, but eventually he established a church in South Korea in 1954.

"Unless we understand the Divine plans (the Principles), anything else man does is on a trial and error basis," Mazumdar contends.

"I am here to teach the Divine Principles to bring about this unification of religions, by establishing a teaching center" within his home.

So far, nine persons are attending the "New Life Lecture Series" he conducts. The series consists of teachings divided into six major categories, and covers such things as the basic universal laws, the nature

of man and the process of history.

Mazumdar holds a part-time job to help cover living expenses. His earnings are supplemented with an allowance made possible by other church members across the country, who work "even 18 hours a day" in order to maintain a community fund, he said.

Because of the church's income limitations, Mazumdar said, he must make contact with prospective members preferably by confronting them "on the street" and starting a conversation. He also goes door-to-door.

This week, he has the added support of a busload of youthful church members who have been traveling across the country to help teach the Divine Principles, he said. The youths will depart for their next stop on their "One World Crusade" Tuesday, having completed a weeklong stay in Omaha. Mazumdar would like to see community living establishing among local members, such as can be found at centers on the East and West Coasts.

"By living in a community, it puts you in direct contact with the situation. To do something for yourself is good but to do something for the family (community) is better," he said.

(Such communal living must be distinguished from so-called "free love" communes; Unification Church members lead celibate communal lives, "growing as brothers and sisters" until they are ready for marriage.)

"The relationship between these people is a very beautiful and strong bond," Mazumdar added.

The marriages which result are basic to the "Divine Principles." "Ideally," he said, "we feel that God created man and woman to be together--so that they can have a really powerful reciprocal relationship with God and form a trinity relationship with him.

In this way God really becomes a part of this marriage, with joy, happiness and vitality resulting," Mazumdar explained. "And when the children are born, they represent God's love." Only through marriage can man "return joy and love to God in complete and full way," he believes.

Mazumdar is married, but his wife is in Idaho, also working to establish a training center. He looks on their separation as necessary to bring the movement to its goal. When this has been accomplished-- which he predicts will happen within the decade -- "nothing can separate husband and wife."

History, as Mazumdar sees it "has been an upward movement" even though world problems seem to have worsened. Such things as divorce, war, homosexuality "are the results of not having the truth--a framework to work in. People don't have the proper communication with God."

Now, more than ever, "the time is right to rejoin with God, he believes.

Does he think that such a movement can catch on in the conservative Midwest?

Mazumdar replied that with "even the most conservative person, something may strike him to make the drastic change because everything is so chaotic now."