

Pastor Manoj Jacob Featured on Unification Church website Dplife.info

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Jacob is originally from Kerala, a southern Indian state with a population of 33 million people, 20 percent of whom are Christians due to the presence of many Christian Educational Institutions.

Brought up Catholic, Jacob was active in his childhood with many church activities such as Sunday School, Youth Ministry, service activities, etc. He went to Catholic schools and colleges in and near his home town and completed an undergraduate degree in physics and also received a diploma in Computer Systems Management.



“One of the most joyful things is when I come back home after work my three little girls come to the door and hug me,” he says in the video profile featured on dplife.info.

In addition to being a full-time pastor, Jacob is also a full-time student at the Unification Theological Seminary where he is completing his Masters in Divinity, and expects to graduate next May.

He says, “Working as a pastor and studying to acquire the necessary skills to do a better job is fascinating.”

Jacob tells Unification News that he joined the Unification Church because he sees the theology as a fulfillment of his Catholic beliefs and is very happy that he chose this path.

His first contact with the Unification Church was in 1994 through the Religious Youth Service program. He signed membership in 1997.

In 1998, Jacob was matched and Blessed to Denny Jose P. (Rany) by True Parents in New Delhi, India. He and his wife have three daughters, 9, 8 and 7, all of whom attend Nutley Public School. The family

resides in Nutley, N.J.



Jacob lives in Nutley, New Jersey with his wife and three daughters.

Jacob and his family came to the United States in early 2010. He says he got revived by the vibrant church community and that his life has greatly benefited since he met the Unification Church in New Jersey.

Since becoming pastor in 2011, Jacob has seen the potential of creating a Facebook page as a tool to communicate with his congregation. But now he sees the value of Facebook as a tool for outreach and connecting with seekers, too.

Jacob and Iparraguirre have maintained the Facebook page since its creation a year ago. “When we created the Facebook page, we didn’t deliberately make it the face of our church [in New Jersey],” wrote Jacob in an e-mail to Unification News. He added: “Initially, we were using this as a way to communicate with our congregation. Isabel and I got excited when we heard about dplife.info, the new social networking platform, and received guidelines from Headquarters about the vast potential of a Facebook page integrated with dplife.info. We then met with our District Pastor, Dr. Ann I., and we decided to make the Facebook page as the major face of our church.”



Jacob, second from left, with his extended family in Kerala, India, a southern state with a population of 33 million, 20 percent of whom are Christians.

Jacob has upgraded the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/UCNewJersey) in order to interface with dplife.info. Iparraguirre and Jacob manage the Facebook page daily and post Sermons given at the Sunday Services, photo albums of community events, inspirational quotes, etc. “For major programs New Jersey member Graeme Carmichael takes excellent pictures and posts them into separate albums based on the event onto the Facebook page,” wrote Jacob. “We also recently decided to post at least one inspirational quote with interesting graphics.”

“In the last couple of weeks we were able significantly to increase the “Likes” for our page,” added Jacob. He continued: “Right now, our posts reach hundreds of members and non-members. There are many people from other countries regularly following our posts. Our latest Sunday Service pictures reached more than 1500 people.”

As the pastor of a community with more than 350 families, Jacob has learned to be accessible. “I now understand the importance of being available when someone is in need,” he wrote in an email to Unification News. “Nowadays, I don’t switch my phone off, even when I sleep. I believe that only when someone is in need, they call me, especially in the late hours. As a pastor we are involved in the lives of our community members, sharing with them their happiness and sorrows and their feelings and

emotions.”

“Being a pastor here is very exciting; you can never do wrong, because there are always many experienced elder members around you acting as mentors,” he added. Jacob continued: “The work atmosphere is very good, because one’s creativity is considered. Sometimes a community’s diversity is the best and worst part of the pastoral work. Because of the diversity you can experience the goodness of all the different cultures, but at the same time our members have extremely diverse expectations of the church because of their cultural and religious backgrounds. But I believe it’s a balance of everything which makes our life enjoyable.”