



Christian Conference of Asia

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*The Members of the family of the late Bishop Kenneth M. Fernando,
Rt Rev. Dushantha Lakshman Rodrigo, Rt Rev. Nishantha Fernando,
and the faithful of the Church of Ceylon*

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of Bishop Kenneth M. Fernando, the elder statesman of the Church of Ceylon and former President of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA). The demise of Bishop Kenneth Fernando is a great loss not only to the Church of Ceylon but also to the CCA and the entire Asian ecumenical movement.

Bishop Kenneth's ministry in Sri Lanka and his contributions to the Asian ecumenical movement will be fondly remembered and cherished. He was a wise counsellor who handled every precarious situation with sensitivity and pastoral care. Without any pretence, he served people and communities with compassion, guided by the deep convictions of his faith and his commitment to the kingdom values of the gospel.

He was widely respected for his unwavering commitment to reconciliation during Sri Lanka's decades-long civil war. He courageously championed peacebuilding initiatives and sought to bridge divides between warring ethnic and religious communities. His outspoken advocacy for peace at the height of the conflict, together with his visionary leadership, tireless efforts to build trust, foster interfaith harmony, and strengthen collaboration among different religions and ethnic groups in Sri Lanka and across Asia, were deeply valued, admired, and recognised.

I always regarded Bishop Kenneth as an exceptional church leader, and I personally cherish my more than three decades of close association and friendship with him. On behalf of the Christian Conference of Asia and the Asian ecumenical movement, I extend sincere condolences to Bishop Kenneth Fernando's family and to the faithful in the Church of Ceylon. Please be assured of our prayers for you all.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Yours along the journey,

Dr Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary, CCA