



Christian Conference of Asia

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25 April 2017

Congratulatory Message to Most Rev Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom Valiya Metropolitan on Birth Centenary, 27 April 2017

Your Eminence Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Valiya Metropolitan,

It is with profound thanks to Almighty God that the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) joins with the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church and the multitudes of people from all walks of life in India when they gather together on the auspicious day of the Birth Centenary of Your Eminence, on 27 April 2017. On behalf of the constituencies of CCA spreading from Iran in West Asia to Japan in the East Asia and from Nepal in the North to New Zealand in the South, we convey our prayerful regards and greetings to Your Eminence, the Valiya Metropolitan.

You have been at the helm of ecclesiastical and ecumenical affairs, spanning more than six decades as a Bishop and subsequently as the Mar Thoma Metropolitan which is a unique gift of God and unparalleled in recent ecclesiastical and ecumenical history. You have been providing leadership, not only to the Mar Thoma Syrian Church, but also to the ecumenical movement as a whole. Your leadership as President of the National Council of Churches in India, your participation at the CCA Assemblies and its committees as well as your participation and leadership at the Evanston and Uppsala Assemblies of the World Council of Churches and at other world ecumenical events have been deeply appreciated and valued by the international community.

It has been always a joy and privilege to recollect the contributions of Your Eminence to the Asian ecumenical movement. You have been an ardent supporter and promoter of ecumenism and the Asian ecumenical movement. The insights and innovative ideas your eminence contributed to the East Asia Christian Conference (EACC), the forerunner of CCA in the late 1950s and 1960s helped the EACC / CCA immensely in its formative years. Your active participation in different committees of EACC / CCA, especially in the Church and Society programme was most encouraging and beneficial for CCA to build up and articulate its theological positions and missiological convictions. The CCA and the Asian ecumenical movement have been privileged to receive your insightful thinking on numerous occasions.

On this occasion of special thanksgiving, we take this opportunity to express our heartfelt felicitation and greetings to Your Eminence and we pray that God's richest blessings may continue to strengthen Your Eminence in your life and ongoing ministry.

On behalf of the Christian Conference of Asia,

Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary, CCA