

**CCA General Secretary's Message of Greetings on the occasion of
35th General Assembly of the Church of Christ in Thailand**

It is a great joy and privilege for me to greet you on behalf of the Christian Conference of Asia on this occasion of CCT's 35th General Assembly.

I take this opportunity to convey the greetings and best wishes from CCA's member churches and councils spread around in a vast geographical area in Asia, starting from Iran in West Asia to Japan in the East Asia; from Nepal in the North to New Zealand in the South.

The Church of Christ in Thailand has a unique place in CCA's history, and its life and witness. The CCT has been one of the founding members of CCA in 1957. Well, CCT did not suddenly become a founding member of CCA in Prapat. CCT's accompaniment to found a fellowship of Asian churches had started even from the time of the first initiative of Asian Church leaders when the first consultation of Asian church leaders met in Bangkok in 1949 to discuss about the possibility of a more permanent structure for Asian ecumenical movement.

CCT has been continuing its journey with CCA ever since the EACC, the forerunner of CCA was founded. When EACC decided to establish the first office, CCT extended an invitation to EACC / CCA to set up its first office and provided space for CCA office on the Bangkok Christian College Campus in early 1960's. It was in 1987 again CCT welcomed CCA to Thailand and gave the shelter to CCA when CCA was expelled from Singapore. CCA was welcomed by CCT again on a third time to set up its headquarters here in Chiang Mai in 2006.

CCT's accompaniment and support to CCA during the past 61 years demonstrate the significance of a special place for CCA in CCT's history and a special place for CCT in CCA's history. No other church in CCA membership and fellowship can claim such a unique privilege. CCA's life and witness is interlinked with the mission and witness of CCT.

Every assembly and its deliberations provide special and new opportunities to reflect about its mission and witness. It is also a special occasion to reflect on the relevance of its mission in changing contexts and search for new vision which will help the Church and its mission to be revitalised. The theme CCT has chosen for the 35th General Assembly is , "You are the light of the world, the city on the mountain cannot be hidden" (Mat. 5:14) is pertinent in today's context. The message conveys through this metaphor teaches us something very significant and Jesus likens His disciples to light. Jesus reminds us by saying that you are the world's light. It is an enormous compliment as well as it reminds us also about the enormous responsibility of all his disciples.

I wish and pray that the 35th general assembly of CCT will be an occasion to reflect deeply about our responsibility to be the light of the world. Let CCT continue to be a light and blessing for this nation and beyond in the coming days and years. I pray for God's richest blessings for successful deliberations of the Assembly.

Dr. Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary, Christian Conference of Asia (CCA)
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