

Rev. C. V. John (1909-1979) Chirappurath, Kottayam.

(Defender of Faith)

Published by Thomas John Philip Nalloor

Rev. John was born on 10 April, 1909, to the Chirappurath Family of Tabor Mar Thoma Church in Thottakkad, near Kottayam. Varghese and Annamma were his parents. After obtaining his theological Degree (B.D.) from Serampore University and B.A. from Calcutta University, he became a priest in 1938. He started as a teacher in the M.T. Seminary High School, Kottayam and then became a teacher in Mar Thoma Theological Seminary. He was the Vicar of the Jerusalem MTC, Kottayam, St. Peter's MTC, Manganam, Mar Thoma Parish, Quilon and the secretary of the Northern Division of the Church from 1948-1953. For two years, from 1956, he served as a student chaplain of Ohio State University, Columbus, O.H., USA. In 1963, he became the Principal of the M.T. Seminary. Through his hard work the seminary was upgraded to B.D. Level in 1974.

Achen was the second defendant in the Daniel Case (Dr. Juhanon Mar Thoma was the first defendant) and was examined by the court for many days. His statements during the trial regarding the faith and practices of the Church are commendable. Achen was a gifted orator and writer. He has written numerous books and many of his articles were published in the Church magazine "Sabha Tharaka". Achen's kochamma, Saramma (Chinnamma), was the daughter of T.P.Thomas, Theverthundiyl, Maramon.

For many years, he was one of the official translators of the Maramon convention. He was a member of the Sabha Council and of various subcommittees. Achen had a massive heart attack on 2 Sep, 1979, while he was preparing for Holy Communion Service in the Church at Ernakulam. He passed away before getting any medical aid. Achen will be remembered for the highly distinguished service he has rendered to our Church during critical times.

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