



Chevalier I. C. Chacko's



# Kristu Sahasra Nāmam

THOUSAND NAMES OF CHRIST  
(Sanskrit Ślōkās)



CMS-105

CHRISTIAN MUSICOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA

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THOUSAND NAMES OF CHRIST  
(Sanskrit Stōkas)



CHRISTIAN  
MUSICOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY OF INDIA

*Christian Musicological Society of India,  
is an international forum for  
interdisciplinary research, discussion,  
and dissemination of knowledge, on the  
Music, Dance and Art traditions of Christians in India,  
who belong to a diverse set of communities  
and linguistic groups and follow a variety of  
liturgical traditions some of which date back to the  
early Christian era.*

*The Society hopes that such researches will  
draw attention to the lesser known aspects of India,  
in connection with the rest of the world.*

**"Connecting the dots between two complementary concepts: India and Christianity."**

A deep longing welled up in my heart as I pondered over the amazing work of Chevalier I. C. Chacko, the *Kristu-sahasra-nāmam*, and it became my cherished dream to bring it to the devotional life of the Indian Christians. A thousand names of Christ! Just a thousand epithets and a thousand titles, in exquisite biblical lore, and in enticing poetical charm and what more, all presented in classical Sanskrit lyrics. Who would not be tempted to have a try? It enshrines the whole history of Christ, gathered from the New and Old Testaments alike, all in one hymn of adoration, a long litany of praise. You can prayerfully recite it then, unawares, in accompanying rhythm; you are transported to the marvelous setting of the Gospels, Psalms and the Book of Revelation. This is I. C. Chacko's *Kristu-sahasra-nāmam*, a Christian counterpart of the well-known Hindu *Vishnu-sahasra-nāmam*.

Almost seventy years ago, when the inculturation movement was rather at a low ebb, I. C. Chacko, a learned layman of the ancient St. Thomas Christian Church of Kerala, came forward with the challenging concept of a *Kristu-sahasra-nāmam*. As Brahmabandhav Upadhyay (1861-1907) was not fortunate enough to hear his famous hymn *Vande Saccidānandam* in the Christian churches of his time, so too, I. C. Chacko was not rewarded by an immediate recognition of this Christian masterpiece as a prayer book of the Church. Yet, I. C. was an honoured lay scholar of the Church, a prolific author of creative works, and, according to the then accepted style of honouring, a Chevalier of the Church. Though an engineer by vocation, with creditable degrees from England, I. C. was an acknowledged Sanskrit scholar, a specialist in linguistics and, above all, a bold thinker in the Church of his time. Of the many other books of I. C., the one which deserves special mention is his famous *Pāṇinīya Pradhīyōdam* which secured the national award for displaying high scholarship in Sanskrit and linguistics.

I am truly happy to present I. C.'s *Kristu-sahasra-nāmam* to a wider Christian world today, and really feel proud that the work has come from an unmatched Sanskrit scholar who lived his Christian faith in word and deed. I found in the person of Anto Amarnad, a composer who can feel, relish and reverberate I. C.'s thinking in the right musical rhythm. When the gifted artists, Fr. Joseph Palaackal and Indumathi Ephrem lent their melodious voices to these Christological lyrics and the musical notes of Fr. Anto Amarnad, the result was the much loved and eagerly awaited recording: *Kristu-sahasra-nāmam*. I gladly present all these young artistes to the lovers of our Church and culture, rhyme and rhythm, with a blend of new ideas.

In the original Sanskrit verses, all the thousand names are presented in the accusative case as the objects of verbs *Vānde*, *Bhaje*, or *Pranamāmi*, all of which are transitive verbs, meaning, "I revere and I adore." However, in English translation, for better understanding, I have presented many of the names as simple qualifications of Jesus, all of them ultimately referring to Christ whom the devotees adore. Though the poetic rhyme and rhythm are given due attention, the prime consideration was always fidelity to the original.

This recording does not present all the thousand names of Christ, but only a selection of the best among them, arranged under eight separate titles. Appropriate tunes are successfully provided by Amarnad to match the moods and content of the selected texts.

In the fond hope that one day these verses will find their way into the prayer life of many a devoted Christian, religious as well as lay, I present to the lyrical world this musical feat which is a happy blend of the classical rhythm of our country (India) and sacred music of our Church. And all Churches are parts or limbs of one universal Church, the mystical body of Christ.

**Francis Vineeth, C. M. I.**  
Dharmaram College  
January 1, 1985

# Kristu Sahasra Nāmam



THOUSAND NAMES OF CHRIST  
(Sanskrit Ślōkās)

Selected verses from the famous Sanskrit poem by  
**Chev. Ilipparampil Cora Chacko (1876-1966)**

Text selected, translated, and introduced by **Francis V. Vineeth, C.M.I.**  
Music: **Anto Amarnad, C.M.I.** | Lead singers: **Joseph J. Palackal & Indumathi Ephrem**  
Music arrangements: **Sundermurthy, Bangalore**

Track 1:

**Kristum kanyāsutam wande 08:40**  
Jesus the suffering servant

Track 2:

**Rājarshigōtrajam 05:04**  
Jesus the sage for India

Track 3:

**Yājñakam yajñadrawyam 05:04**  
Jesus the offerer and the oblation

Track 4:

**Swargastam pitrparvastam 03:09**  
Jesus the glorious Son of the Father

Track 5:

**Martyaputram dēwaputram 08:04**  
Jesus, Son of Man and Son of God

Track 6:

**Saptarkshapānim 4: 09**  
Jesus the eschatological Lord

Track 7:

**Pāwanam bhāwanam 7: 01**  
Jesus the holy, the healer, and the liberator

Track 8:

**Śāntāya śāntahridayāya 1:16**  
Praise to Jesus, our peace



Front cover, *Yajñam*,  
by Joy Elankunnappuzha, C.M.I. (1980)

For a copy of the English transliteration and translation  
of the text and liner notes by Dr. V.F. Vineeth, C.M.I.,  
please contact [info@TheCMSIndia.org](mailto:info@TheCMSIndia.org)

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क्रिस्तुसहस्रनामं

# CHRISTU SAHASRANAMAM

BY: Late Chev I. C. Chacko

THOUSAND NAMES OF CHRIST



Text Edited by: Dr. V. F. Vineeth, C.M.I.  
Sung by: Joseph Palackal, C.M.I. & Indumathi  
Music: Anto Amarnad, C.M.I.

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**SIDE A:** Kristum kanyasutam vande Rajarshi gotrajam

Yajakam, yajnadrayam Swargastham pitraparvastam

**SIDE B:** Martyaputam devaputam Saptarksha panim

Pavanam bhavanam Shāntaya shāntahridayaya

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