ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many of the thoughts and ideas presented in this thesis are due to my Supervisor Prof. Neeladri Bhattacharya’s scholarly suggestions, not letting me get away with arguments easily and making me realize the implications of what I am saying. His thought-provoking supervision and intrinsic deftness has helped me in shaping my ideas properly. This work owes most to him.

It is my pleasure to thank the institutions and people who helped me complete my research. This research has been made possible by the fellowship granted by ICSSR, I would like to thank the staffs of Nehru Memorial Library, New Delhi, Vidyajyoti Theological Library, Delhi, Eastern Theological College Library, Jorhat, Council of Baptist Churches of North East India Library, Gawahati, Molungyinsen Baptist Church, Nagaland, National Archives, New Delhi, and Jawaharlal Nehru University Library, New Delhi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Office Mokokchung, for their assistance. My research took me to various places for my field work. It would not have been possible without the kindness of many people. I would like to thank aku Walu, odi Imsu, oni Achi, Talisunup, Nungsangmeren, Lanu Nokdir, Moa Imchen, for making my field work enjoyable. Particular appreciation goes to Temsunla and Nuok for their technical assistance without which I would have missed my deadlines.

One enriching experience of my research was the interactions I had with the non-convert Aos-Arsashi, Temjenyanger, Repakokha, Akangjungshi, Talimeren and Imdongmayang. Their stories set me to look at the history of Ao conversion to Christianity in ways I had not anticipated earlier. I am grateful to each one of them for sharing their stories.

My parents and my siblings Toshi, Achi and Sunup are my strength and sustenance. Their presence gives a continuous flow to life’s events. I can never thank them enough.

I thank my friends Lemti, Rani, Ianosha, Era, Sarah, Robin, Limaakum, Ruma, Alenuo, Namrita, Ayung, Ann, Chavee, and many more for their steadfast encouragement and support.

Above all, I give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness.