PREFACE

This dissertation is the outcome of research done by me on "From Madras To Mauritius 1800 - 1856, Studies In Emigration And Assimilation under the supervision of Dr. Chiranjivi J. Nirmal, Professor and Head of the Department of History, Madras Christian College (Autonomous), Tambaram, Madras, from January 1988 - August 1991. The sources used for this work are mainly archival.

At the outset I would like to place on record a large debt of gratitude to my Professor, Supervisor and Guide, Dr. C.J.Nirmal, who motivated me to publish a couple of papers on this subject and also who guided me through the various stages of research and writing. His valuable advice, illuminating suggestions and unfailing courtesy will always be remembered. When it is rare these days to find within the ranks of the professional historians or scholars one willing and eager to share his knowledge of the subject, I found him one of the rarest among the rare.

My special thanks to the authorities of the Tamil Nadu Archives, who provided accessibility to the records upto 1856. My thanks to the authorities of National Library, Calcutta; Connemara Library, Madras; Serampore College William Carey Library; Tanjore Tamil University Library; Miller Memorial Library, Madras Christian College, Tambaram.
I wish to place on record my gratitude to Rev. Dr. J.T.K. Daniel, Principal, Serampore College for his hospitality during my stay at Calcutta. I must also express my thanks to Dr. Srinivasa Rao, Professor & Head of Dept. of Philosophy, Madras Christian College and U.Bissoondoyal, Director, Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Moka, Mauritius for providing me some material related with this topic.

Though it is not possible to list here my numerous friends who have assisted me in various ways, I must single out for mention Dr. Sundararajan of the Tamil Nadu Archives and Dr. V.J. Philip both of whom have so readily and ungrudgingly responded to my calls for help especially Dr. V.J. Philip in correcting the manuscripts.

I shall be failing in my duty if I omit to acknowledge my appreciation to Mr. C.R. Boyd, System Analyst and Miss. P. Jemimah, Programmer of Kibble Computer Centre, Madras Christian College for feeding and correcting the manuscripts with patience and care.

Finally, I am greatly indebted to my beloved wife, Nalini and son Anderson for their loving patience and cooperation in the preparation of this thesis.

(C. JOSEPH BARNABAS)