ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is my great privilege to express my sincere thanks to all who have helped me in the whole course of my research work. First, I give my due honour to revered Prof. Chongtham Budhi Singh, my guide, for his potent guidance in each step of my research process. His systematic supervision with enduring academic strength of mind, indeed, is always a source through which I extract nerve for continuity of my work, without which the work would not have assumed the present shape. Gratefulness is to my respected teacher, Dr. M.C Arun, my co-guide, for the cares he had rendered me since the start of the work. His proficiency and precision in the techniques of research indeed is of a great help to me. I owe my deep gratitude to respected Prof. W. Nabakumar Singh, former Head, Department of Anthropology and Dr. T. Shyamacharan Singh, the present Head of the same department for taking care of all the official proceedings with respect to my research activities up to its final stage. I thank all the beloved members of non-teaching staff and my fellow scholars of this department for extending all possible help during the exhaustive period of my research work without which I may have been indeed helpless.

My regard is due also to Dr. H. Kamkhenthang, Director, Tribal Research Institute, Government of Manipur, custodians of the Manipur University Library, State Archive, State Central Library, Clubs and NGOs for their generosity in allowing me to use a good number of their collected literature. I had liberty to use them for a number of days together and able to unearth lots of information relating to my research topic. My sincere gratitude goes also to uncle T. Janngam Chongthu, President of United Chongthu Tribe Oranisation, and Rev. L. Touthang, Secretary, Genealogy Custom and Culture, Guite-Doungel Council, Dr. Khuplam Milui and
also many other individuals for supplying me a good number of related information. I owe great indebtedness to my aunty Bulshi Touthang who always stands besides me throughout my academic carrier. To my family members, relatives, friends and members of my mother Church I give my profound gratitude for the constant encouragements and supports they rendered in all forms during the tiresome days of the research activities.

Research involves a huge amount of expenditures; to meet these requirements lies far beyond the ambit of my capability. To this fact I am deeply indebted to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India for providing me financial assistance through the University Grants Commission, New Delhi under the auspices of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC/ST, 2005-2006 by which I could successfully complete the work without any financial constraint. Thanks is extended also to the Tribal Development Department, Government of Manipur for granting me Post-Metric Scholarship prior to the official release of the RGNF. It is through these collective efforts that the work attained its present form.

Dated: Imphal
The 11th September, 2008

(Helhomang Touthang)
Research Scholar
Department of Anthropology