Acknowledgements

First of all I thank God whose mercy knows no bounds.

I record my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor Dr. K. M. Krishnan, School of Letters, for his help and guidance which led me on to the successful completion of this work. His prompt and meticulous attention during the various stages of research proved to be of immense value and his positive response has gone a long way in boosting my morale.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. P. P. Raveendran, Director, School of Letters for his support and favourable response throughout my period of scholarship at the centre; to Dr. Vinayachandran, Dr. P. Geetha and Dr. V. C. Harris for their warmth and concern; to all my good friends at the research centre for their support and good wishes.

My thanks are due to the UGC for granting me the honour of Teacher Fellowship; the CSI Management and Prof. C. A. Abraham, former Principal, CMS College for facilitating the same. I also acknowledge with gratitude the help and encouragement given by Prof. Korulla Isaac, present Principal, CMS College, Prof. T. M. Yesudas, Head of the Department of English and other colleagues.

I record my gratitude to Dr. B. Hariharan for his valuable suggestions; to Dr. Varghese John for his thoughtful observations and to Dr. Reena J. Andrews for her generosity and readiness to help.

I wish to thank the librarians of IACIS, Hyderabad; SCILET, Madurai; AIRC, Chennai, Hosanna Mount, Palai; School of Letters, and Collins Library, CMS College for their whole-hearted cooperation. I would like to mention particularly the wonderful cordiality and help rendered by the staff of T.T.S and the Centre for Social Analysis, Madurai who have impressed me with their simplicity and ecofriendly style of life. My discussions with Mrs. Gabriele Dietrich turned out to be very helpful in the progress of this work. A special word of thanks to Rev. Sunny George, TMAM Orientation and Research Centre, for directing me to TTS where I came across several books on Ecospirituality.
I am very much obliged to my friends Prof. Susan Varghese, Prof. Susheela Nair, Prof. Annie Varghese and Prof. Mini Chacko for their genuine interest and encouragement.

I thank Mrs. Saramma Skariah warden of “Pisgah” for her favourable response to my plea for ‘a room of my own’. I found much comfort in the presence of all the inmates whose maternal affection and prayers strengthened me a lot. I thank Mrs. Molly for her regular assistance during the last two years which helped me to concentrate on research.

I am extremely grateful to Mr. Thomas Mathews who took immense pains to make this thesis presentable with his computer expertise.

I have no words to express my indebtedness to my sister-in-law, Jessy and her husband Mr. Jacob P. J. who readily sent the primary works all the way from New York. I feel proud of my mothers who in their late seventies continue to sustain me.

Only with feelings of love and gratitude can I think of my husband Prof. Sunny Varghese, whose wholehearted support has been the inspiring force behind this whole venture. But for his tolerance and goodwill this thesis would not have materialized. My sons Prasanth and Pranoy are to be highly appreciated for their cheerful optimism and willingness to set aside their “likes” for the sake of this work. The thesis is dedicated to them.

Sobhana Kurien