ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are many people to whom I am greatly indebted to for their support, help and assistance in the formation of this thesis. The guidance of Dr. K. S. Kripalini, my supervising teacher, was intellectually profound and personally intense. Her unstinted support and valuable suggestions have contributed tremendously to the clarity and exposition of the thesis. I owe a large share of gratitude to her for the constant encouragement that I received throughout the course of my research. I warmly thank her for her vision, patience, insight and vividness.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. A. R. Rajan, Dr. C. Jayasri, and the entire faculty of the Department of Mathematics, Kariavattom for their support and care. I also express my gratitude to the librarian and all the members of the administrative staff for their kind assistance and for their efficiency and cheerful disposition.

I owe a lot to our beloved manager Rev. Sr. Mary Frances, All Saints’ College, Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. Mabil P. S., Principal, and my colleagues in the College with whom I have worked over the years, for their timely advice and help. Those particularly deserving mention are Ms. Shirly Joseph, Ms. Suseela M, Ms. Veena V.G and Ms. Indu R.S.

I register my gratitude to the Librarian, University Library, University of Kerala and the entire Faculty in the Library for their help.
I would be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge the intellectual support from Dr. E. Krishnan, my guide and teacher in M. Phil. Degree in the Department of Mathematics, University College, Thiruvananthapuram. His comments and help on the earlier draft of the thesis were immensely valuable.

I would like to thank my friends for their moral and personal support. Those particularly deserving mention are Mrs. Latha J. T, Dr. Sunny Luckose, Dr. Beena V. T., Dr. Madhukar Mallayya and Dr. Varghese Abraham.

My deepest sense of gratitude to my loving husband - who not only make my life possible, but joyful, happy and loving in every way. This work would not have been completed but for his perseverance and sharing. My heartfelt gratitude is also due to my brother and his family.

Above all I am greatly indebted to God, The Almighty, for his sublime generosity showered upon me for the compilation of this thesis.

Mary Mettilda Rose V.