ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To God be the Glory, Honour and Praise for He had carried me through this endeavour. At the outset, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Management of Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai for giving me the opportunity to pursue my research.

With a sense of immense gratitude I owe my sincere and special thanks to Dr. Tmt. INDIRANI SRIDHARAN, M.A., Ph. D., Principal and Head of the Department of History, Ethiraj College and my Research Supervisor for her invaluable and scholarly guidance, constant support and goodwill, deep involvement and meticulous scrutiny at each and every stage of this research study.

I am extremely thankful to the Rt. Rev. Dr. V. Devasahayam, Bishop in Madras and Rt. Rev. M. Azariah, former Bishop in Madras for having given me permission and all the necessary support to execute the present study. My special thanks are due to Rev. Samuel Jacob, former Secretary of the Madras Diocesan Council and Rev. E.W. Christopher the present Secretary and Mr. C. Christy, former Diocesan Treasurer for the help and cooperation extended to me. I also thank all the Staff of the Diocese and the Synod Secretariat of the CSI but for whose constant help this work could not have been accomplished.

I also owe my gratitude to Dr. Sadanand Patra, M.A. (Def. St.) M.A. (Hist.), Mphil., Ph.D., for his unceasing encouragement and valuable support at all stages of my research work. Herein I wish to thank Rev. Dr. John Sundaram, Founder Dean, Indian Theological Research Institute, Maduravoyal for his unhesitant help. My thanks are also due to Dr. A Chandrasekaran, Department of History, and Dr. Ananda Kumar Raju, Department of English, Institute of Correspondence Education, University of Madras for their valuable suggestions extended to me.
remain grateful to Dr. R. Sunderarajan, Tamilnadu State Archives, for his help that enabled me to have an easy access to the resource materials available.

My gratitude knows no bounds for the spontaneity of the members of the various institutions, and libraries who, unmindful of their preoccupations spared their time and extended the needed help. More specifically I thank the officials of Tamilnadu State Archives, Chennai; the Archives and the Library in The United Theological College, Bangalore, The Archives and the Library in the Gurukul Theological College and Research Centre, Chennai; The Madras Theological College Library, Chennai; the Library at Tamilnadu Theological Seminary in Madurai, the Connemara Public Library, St. Christopher’s Training College Library, Chennai and Ethiraj College Library.

I express my sincere thanks to my colleagues for their cooperation and support.

I would specially wish to record my thanks to my sister Mrs. Mano Chandran and my brother-in-law Rev. Dr. P.E. Chandran, Research Director, Day Star University, Nairobi, who were my source of inspiration and sustained encouragement throughout the study.

I place on record my sincere indebtedness to my husband Mr. John J.Selvakumar for his constant encouragement and valuable support in the fruition of this work. The cooperation of my children Caroline and Sharon who readily adjusted to all inconveniences during this period deserve my special appreciation and thanks.

Place Chennai

Date 25 09.2002

Mrs. SHEELA KIRUBAKARAM