ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis entitled “The Role of Protestant Missionaries in Enhancing General Education in Tirunelveli District from the Beginning of the 19th Century to 1947” is an earnest attempt to focus the impact of the Protestant Missionaries on the general education in Tirunelveli District. Started as a “Mission of Help” to the Protestant Churches of Tirunelveli, the work of Protestant developed into an ‘Open Mission’ to the natives irrespective of caste, creed or community. Though the mission was directly committed to evangelization, it had to work in the society stepped in various social evil mainly for improving the general education. It was thus that the labours of the missionaries came to be associated with several schools in Tirunelveli District. The study became a reality only with the blessings and inspiration of the eminent personalities. So it is my duty to acknowledge them.

First up all, I deem it great privilege to have done this research under the guidance of Dr. T.S. Emmanuel, Professor and Head, P.G. Department of History and Research Centre, Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam. The entire burden of my research till the time of submission of the thesis for evaluation was shouldered by my guide. His valuable suggestions have made the study what it is today. But for his untiring help and encouragement, I would not have been able to complete my research successfully. I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to him.
I would be failing in my duty, if I do not thank the Principal and members of the staff of the History Department of Nesamony Memoriyal Christian College, Marthandam, for the encouragement given to me in my research. I always remember with gratitude their unfailing boost given to me at every stage of my work.

I am also indebted to the staff of the National Archives, Delhi, Tamilnadu Archives, Madras, United Theological College Archives and Library Bangalore, Tirunelveli Diocese Library and Parish Priests for their help and assistance in completing my research.

I thank my beloved better half Mr.V.Allen Don for being a backbone and encouraging me. My daughter A.M.Donisha for her cooperation encouraging me throughout the work.

I express my special thanks to my friends Mr.J.Jeya Kumar and Mrs.Anu.J.Preetha, for spending her valuable times in revising my dissertation in the line with grammar and correct use of the English language.

I wish to express my thanks to the personal of Crescent Computer Centre, Nagercoil for adding a professional touch to the attractive presentation of this dissertation.

To crown all, I glorify the Almighty God for the presence, blessings, grace, wisdom, knowledge and guidance throughout this dissertation work and my entire life.

N.MARY USHA