ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all the investigator thank God almighty for all the blessings He has bestowed upon him during the period of this study.

No word of thanks would suffice to acknowledge the investigator's profound indebtedness and gratitude to his supervisor and Guide Dr. M.I. Joseph, Head of the Department of Psychology, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala, India, for his keen support, exemplary guidance and constructive evaluation for the successful completion of this research work.

The investigator is also indebted to his co-guide, Dr. H. Sylaja, Reader, Department of Psychology Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala, India for her valuable support and guidance in the present study.

The investigator is thankful to Dr. V. George Mathew, Dr. H. Sam Sananda Raj and Dr. P. Gireesan for giving permission to use their tools (Mathew Materialism – Spiritualism Scale and Alien Inventory) for this study.

The investigator acknowledges with gratitude the valuable support rendered by Dr. Jayanthy P. Nair, Lecturer, Dept. of Social Work, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, in the completion of the statistical analysis of the data.

Special thanks are also due to Sri. P.Y. Prasanth, Student of B.Sc (Mathematics), Marthoma College, Chungathara and Mr. Kanakaraj Rao S. for their untiring effort and co-operation in doing the computer analysis and data processing.

Special thanks are due to Dr. A.V. Thampy (Principal Rtd. Marthoma College, Chungathara) and Sri. Joseph. P. Varghese (Prof. Rtd. Department of Botony, C.M.S. College, Kottayam) for their encouragement and co-operation.
It is fitting to add a word of thanks to the librarians and office staff of the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala, India.

Sincere thanks are also due to all the Directors, office staff and inmates of all the old age homes of Kottayam and Ernakulam Districts for helping the investigator in this research work. He is immensely thankful to all the elderly subjects who participated in this study.

Finally, the investigator wishes to thank all his family members and friends for their constant encouragement, support and valuable prayers through out this endeavor.

THOMAS GEORGE