ACKNOLEDGEMENT

This research project has been a pleasure because of the topic of forgiveness and because of the joy I experienced working with my research guide and others who contributed their prayers, support, and words of encouragement. This work is the result of the efforts of many who believed in me and in the healing process of forgiveness. Creating a Ph.D thesis is not an individual experience; rather it takes place in a social context and includes several persons, whom I would like to thank sincerely.

First of all, I wish to acknowledge Dr. Shanmukh V. Kamble, my research guide, without whose excellent advice, wise counsel, genuine listening, inspirational teaching, and role modeling of peaceful grace under pressure, this dissertation would ever have come to fruition. I salute a brilliant researcher, outstanding and engaging teacher, kind advisor, and patient coach, for his vision of discovery, and his unwavering dedication to make a difference in the lives of others. It has been my honor to work with him.

I will be failing in my duty, if I don’t mention the co-operation and support extended by the PG Department of Studies and Research in Psychology, Karnataka University, Dharwad.

My appreciation, as well, is extended to Authorities of Karnataka University, Dharwad for providing me with all the facilities to carry out this research work. I am immensely thankful to the Chief Librarian and the Staff of the Karnataka University Central Library for providing me with all the sources of literature required for this research work.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to non-teaching staff Sri Kusugal, Sri Basavaraj Sunkad, Mrs. Jahnvi Diwan, Mr. Jagadish Nidgundi, Mr. Jagdish and Mrs. Suvarna for all the help and cooperation in official works.

My special thanks to the participants, who participated in the study and genuinely shared their experiences. They had been my motivation to continue on my research, in order not to let their effort go to waste. My thanks are due to the students from various departments of Karnataka University, Dharwad.

I owe my special thanks to Dr. Worthington, E. L. Jr, Micheal McCullough, Nathaniel Wade, Frank Fincham, Judy Eaton, Ward Struthers, Jennifer Friedberg,
Tyler Okimoto, Lesa Hoffman and Kent Harber for providing me related research materials and the sources of literature required for this research work.

I am highly indebted to Mrs. Deepti B. Duggi, for her help in the statistical analysis of the data and helped me whenever I needed her guidance and encouraged me when I feel blue. I am extremely grateful to her for her invaluable guidance and inspiration throughout this research. I whole heartedly thank her for truly being a guiding spirit and constantly encouraging and motivating me in my research work. Her patient and meticulous guidance helped me to complete my research work successfully.

My deepest appreciation belongs to my family for their patience and understanding, specially, my mother Smt. Sushila B. Marigoudar, my lovely sisters, brother-in-laws and sweet nephews, my mother-in-law Smt. Geeta S. Channammanavar and my dearest Husband Mr. Abhishek and my little angel daughter Miss. Shanvi who have supported every aspect of my life from their care and advice. Their support has allowed me to pursue my studies whole-heartedly. Without their love and support none of this would have been possible. They have always been there for me and I am thankful for everything they have helped me to achieve.

Of course, my dear friends, who always stood by me, helped me and encouraged me throughout this research. A special thank you is reserved for Late Prof. B. A. Ganagi, Prof. Rekha Jogul, Mrs. Madhvi Waddar and Amit Patil. I am very much grateful to Sadashiv Sarwad and M.M.Mishrikoti for making my thesis look very beautiful.

Finally, to the One who never ceases to carry me in the darkest hour, covers me with His armor of Truth, and embraces and comforts me with His love, to the God, I give thanks and praise. He is my role model of forgiveness, to forgive and to be forgiven.

Even though the list may be extensive, still there may be some oversight of person to be thanked. Therefore, last but not the least I thank all such persons who might have been overlooked.

Savitri B. Marigoudar