# Acknowledgments

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance and encouragement of many colleagues and advisors in the planning, development and execution of this study.

Foremost amongst these are the two academic supervisors well chosen for me by the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies; Professor Deryke Belshaw of the School of Development Studies at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, and Professor Andrew Walls of the Centre for the study of Christianity in the Non-Western World at Edinburgh University, Scotland. Their patience and persistence in guiding and reviewing the writing of this work were invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Credit for the initial impetus for this study and the original planning must go to the senior faculty at William Carey International University, Pasadena, California: Drs. Ralph Winter, James Buswell, Bob Pickett and Corinne Armstrong. Also most helpful in the initial stages of the work in Pasadena was the kindness and direction offered by Dr. Ed. Elliston of the School of World Mission of Fuller Seminary, and a former friend in Ethiopia.

From the leadership of SIM International I greatly appreciate the encouragement and the freedom given to undertake this study which they saw as according well with the common aims and objectives of that Mission Agency which it has pursued for more than 100 years in Africa. In particular the contributions of Drs, Ian Hay, Howard Brant and Gary Corwin have been helpful as well as the very positive endorsement of the newly appointed International Director Dr. Jim Pleuddemann.

Another organisation deserving acknowledgment for their valuable contribution not only to this study but much wider in their work of tracking such marginalised peoples as nomadic pastoralists is Global Mapping International of Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA.In particular, the technical help of one of their computer cartographers, Loren Muehlius should be mentioned for freely offering his professional assistance.

No attempt will be made to mention the names and organisation of the multitude of highly qualified and committed practitioners who have all played a vital role in contributing towards the field learning experiences and models that from a major part of his study. Some of their work is presented or described without attribution in the text to the relevant individuals for which I must ask their understanding and forgiveness. To mention the names a few of the people from whom I have learned would risk causing offence to the greater numbers of others by their omission. They are collectively an outstanding army of fine men and women with the highest possible motivation with whom it is an honour to be associated. It is to such people that this work is humbly dedicated with the desire that they will be able to derive some benefit from it as we continue hopefully working together.

Finally, the greatest appreciation and honour must be paid to my wife, Jean who endured, cheerfully as always, the rigours of life together not just in the two years of field research in northern Kenya but for the previous thirty years of living mostly in the incongenial sort of places where nomadic pastoralists in Africa are obliged to try to survive. The rigours of those years were as nothing to the struggle to bring this thesis to completion and there is no doubt that without her secretarial skills and total commitment to this end this would not have been accomplished.