# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgement</td>
<td>(ii)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>(iii)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


   1.1 The Rationale and Purpose of Study                                  1
   1.2 Previous Studies on Bible Reading Habits                            3
   1.3 The Present Study                                                   5
   1.4 Description of Terms                                                6
   1.5 Scope of Study                                                      7
   1.6 Data Resources                                                      7
   1.7 Methodology                                                         8
   1.8 Overview of Study                                                   8

2. Chapter Two – The Tamil Methodist Church in Malaysia

   2.1 Christianity in Malaysia                                            10
   2.2 History of the Tamil Methodist Church in Malaysia                   11
   2.3 Distribution of Tamil Methodist Churches in Malaysia                12
   2.4 Administration of the Tamil Methodist Churches in Malaysia          13
   2.5 Categorisation of Tamil Methodist Churches According to Membership  13
   2.6 Membership of the Tamil Methodist Churches in Malaysia              14
   2.7 Programmes and Activities of the Tamil Methodist Churches          15
   2.8 Usage and Transmission of the Word in the Tamil Methodist Churches  16
     2.8.1 Attendances at Regular Sunday Worship Services                  17
     2.8.2 Bible Study Activities                                          18
     2.8.3 Cell Group Activities                                            19
     2.8.4 Other Church Activities Where the Word is taught to Members     19
   2.9 Conclusion                                                          20

3. Chapter Three – The Bible in the Life of a Christian

   3.1 Bible the Living Word of God                                        22
   3.2 The Bible is to be Read                                              24
     3.2.1 The Bible is to Read for Spiritual Growth                       25
     3.2.2 The Bible is to be Read to Experience God                      26
     3.2.3 The Bible is to be Read to Gain Wisdom                          28
     3.2.4 The Bible is to be Read for Protection in Life                  29
     3.2.5 The Bible is to be Read to Lead a Moralistic Life               29
     3.2.6 The Bible is to be Read to be Transformed                       31
   3.3 Methods of Bible Reading                                             32
   3.4 Suggested Bible Reading Guide for Tamil Methodist Churches         33
   3.5 Conclusion                                                          35
Chart 3 – How Respondents Became Christian ........................................... 73
Chart 4 – Number of Years as Christian .................................................... 73
Chart 5 – Educational Level of Respondents ............................................. 74
Chart 6 – Occupational Status of Respondents ....................................... 74
Chart 7 – Language Preferred by Respondents ......................................... 75
Chart 8 – Types of Bible Used by Respondents ....................................... 75
Chart 9 – Reading Habits of respondents .................................................. 76
Chart 10 – Comparison Bible Reading Times According to Churches ......... 76
Chart 11 – Bible Reading Duration per Session ....................................... 77
Chart 12 – Respondents Who Read Bible Less Than 10 minutes ............. 77
Chart 13 – Praying Before reading the Bible ............................................. 78
Chart 14 – Praying After reading the Bible ................................................. 78
Chart 15 – Percentage of Respondents Using Bible Aids .......................... 79
Chart 16 – Family Bible Reading Session ................................................ 79
Chart 17 – Reading Bible in Church ........................................................... 80
Chart 18 – Whole Bible Read ................................................................. 80

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – The Questionnaire ............................................................. 82
Appendix 2 – Some Interesting Comments by Respondents ..................... 86
Appendix 3 – Letter to the Pastors of Participating Church ...................... 88
Appendix 4 – Letter to the Respondents ................................................... 89
Appendix 5 – Letter TAC President .......................................................... 90
Appendix 6 – One Year Bible Reading Plan ............................................. 91

9. Bibliography ......................................................................................... 93