

N.C. Hills headquarter, commonly known as Haflong town particularly during the period of around 1850 A.D.”<sup>13</sup>

Opium eating/smoking (Kani fak/inzup) was the bane of the Hrangkhol people. Elderly people of both sexes became easily prey to this accursed habit. Although some of the Hrangkhol men were skilled in masonry and other crafts work opium eating had drained their strength and will-power and their offspring become weaklings and are unable to tackle with the social problems that arose with the ongoing process of urbanisation of Haflong. Except for a few Hrangkhol families whose male members were employed in the government offices as grade IV employees and interpreters (dubasis), wage earning became problematic for the uneducated. The changing circumstances compelled the Hrangkhols in Haflong town to move towards the western part of North Cachar Hills and started their settlement there and continue to live there till today; hence, the Tangram Presbytery was located in this area where the Hrangkhols more or less live in a contiguous settlement.

In the beginning of evangelisation, the Hrangkhols were very resistant to the Christian gospel which was partly due to opium eating and partly due to the influence of Hinduism. However, when their kid and kin the Biates became Christians and ardent preachers of the gospel and when the Hrangkhols saw the good impact of the gospel on the individual and the community life of the Biates, the eyes of the Hrangkhols were opened and were ready to accept the claims of Christ on their life and so, through the sincere efforts of the Biate evangelists, the Hrangkhols began to embrace Christianity in the year 1935.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> T.S. Hrangkhol, **Hrangkhol thurchi laktoi** (A Brief History of Hrangkhol), Haflong, 2000, p. 70

<sup>14</sup> **Biata Christian Centenary Souvenir** (1890-1990) Haflong, 1990, p. 16 Chaptuk, 1985, p. 9 (Hereafter cited as N.C. Hills Hrangkhol Christian Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 1935-1985)