Meghalaya brought the Gospel to his brethren (Biates) and Zemes during the first decade of 20th century. It was said that the Gospel was first preached among the Biates in N.C. Hills.[5] In the mean time the Welsh missionary Rev.Gerlan Williams visited Haflong, N.C.Hills in early 20th century. Thus, the coming of Haia or Haite and Rev.Gerlan Williams may be regarded as the prelude to the coming of the Gospel in N.C. Hills, Assam.

2. Arrival of Pioneer Missionaries and Evangelists:

The Welsh Presbyterian Missionary named Rev.J. Gerlan Williams first visited Haflong, headquarters of N.C.Hills in about 1902[6]. He was a dynamic missionary hailing from Wales. He obtained his first class B.Sc.Honour in Maths. and Physics. As he received God's calling, he came with his wife to Sylhet, Assam in 1898. In 1901, he moved to Karimganj and in 1902 he shifted to Silchar[7]. Before shifting to Silchar he met Rev.Dr.T.J.Jones who was the Welsh Missionary at Silchar. As a result, they arranged to go for a visit together to Haflong, N.C.Hills. By 1902, the two missionaries visited Haflong and came back to Silchar with heavy burden in their hearts[8]. Rev.Gerlan Williams alone visited Haflong again in November 1903 and attempted to set up a mission-station at Haflong.[9]

In 1905, the Welsh Mission-Station was set up at Haflong through the ardent effort of Rev.Gerlan Williams[10]. As John Hughes Morris writes, "The

[5] Ibid.

[6] A Souvenir of Gospel Platinum Jubilee of Vongzawl Presbytery and Lakhipur Presbytery (1921-1996), Vongzawl Presbytery, Haflong, 1996, p.12. Hereafter cited as Souvenir of Gospel Platinum Jubilee of Vongzawl.

[7] Ibid.

[8] Ibid., pp.11f. Cf.Rev.D.G.Merfyn Jones, "The History of the Church among the Hill Tribes of Cachar," Unpublished MS., Cachar Hill Tribes Synod Library, Haflong, p.3.

[9] Souvenir of Gospel Platinum Jubilee of Vongzawl, p.13.

[10] Souvenir of Cachar Hill Tribes Synod GOLDEN JUBILEE, p.36. See also Rev.H.Remthanga and Rev.Lalbiaktluanga, Kohhran Chanchin (A.D.1500-1900), Aizawl, 1990, p.235.