

years. However, Mr. Singa and Chongliana made no converts.<sup>19</sup>

### 3. Response to the Gospel:

The Gospel was actually preached among the Hrangkhols from the third decade of 20th century in N.C.Hills, Assam. As stated earlier, the Biate evangelists proclaimed the Gospel to them. In those days, the Hrangkhols had a firm faith in their traditional religion, and they had noble priests and prophets in religious matters. In democratic life, a *kalim* (headman) has the authority over the entire community. In course of such context, the Gospel was proclaimed on a large scale to the Hrangkhols tribes. Therefore, the local people opposed the Gospel and persecution evolved at the beginning. Much opposition and persecution was created because the Hrangkhols thought that this New Faith would spoil or terminate their traditional religion and socio-cultural life.<sup>20</sup> For this reason, a genuine response to the Gospel was very late. Despite much opposition, the Biate Christians of Vaitang initiated for propagating the Gospel to the Hrangkhols areas. In early 1935, Mr. Lalkhochunga of Vaitang served as self-supported evangelist at Chaptuk<sup>21</sup>. He worked generously in spite of opposition and hardship. His coming was very successful. In 1941, he was employed as paid evangelist-teacher by the Ngaiban Tlang Presbytery. He served the Lord till his death in 1951<sup>22</sup>. As a result of his service, Mr. Suangchungthang of Chaptuk

<sup>19</sup> *Biate Kristian Centenary Souvenir*, p.16. Interview with Lalkhupa of North Bagster, at his residence on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1997.

<sup>20</sup> Interview with Eld. Chonsuilian, at Chaptuk, on 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May, 1997.

<sup>21</sup> Information from Mr. N.C. Thanga of Fiangpui, date 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1997. See also *Biate Kristian Centenary Souvenir*, p.16.

<sup>22</sup> Information from Mr. N.C. Thanga of Fiangpui.