

was converted in 1935<sup>23</sup>. Thus, Suangchungthang was regarded as the first convert among the Hrangkhols in N.C.Hills, Assam. So, the real beginning of Christianity took place among the Hrangkhols in the year 1935 when Lalkhochunga worked at Chaptuk. From 1935 onwards, Christianity gradually spread from Chaptuk throughout its neighbouring areas.

## B. SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY AND FOUNDING OF THE CHURCHES

To trace the spread of Christianity among the Hrangkhols in N.C.Hills, it is necessary to trace from the geographical perspective because the Hrangkhol Christian Villages scattered into different areas in N.C.Hills. It can be divided into 4 (four) geographical areas.

1. Dihamalai Area
2. Haflong Town Area
3. Dittokcherra Area
4. Harangajao Area.

### 1. Dihamalai Area :

The Dihamalai Area is located in North-West of North Cachar Hills district. It is covered with thick forest. In this area the Hrangkhols received the Gospel from the Biate evangelists. When Suangchungthang (Suangthang) was converted in 1935 at Chaptuk through the ardent work of Lalkhochung of Vaitang village, Christianity flourished in this area.<sup>24</sup> Mr.Suangthang was then appointed by Vaitang Church as an itinerant preacher in 1936.<sup>25</sup> He worked with the help of Biate evangelists for preaching the Gospel throughout Hrangkhol areas. Since then, Christianity spread gradually in this area.

<sup>23</sup> Interview with Rilsuanthang of Fiangpui, on 21st August, 1997. Interview with Eld. Lalchonsiak of Chaptuk, on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1997. See also *Biate Kristian Centenary Souvenir*, p.16. Cf. *N.C.Hills Hrangkhol Kristian Golden Jubilee Souvenir (1935-1985)*, Chaptuk, 1985, p.9. Hereafter cited as *N.C.Hills Hrangkhol Kristian Golden Jubilee Souvenir*.

<sup>24</sup> Interview with Elder Chonsuilian of Tangpui, and Elders, Chonsiak, Chonsong, of Chaptuk, date 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May, 1997.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid*.