

In Dihamalai Area the villages like Chaptuk, Tangpui, Buangkung, Paija and Loskor are the Christian villages and the rest are mixed with nonbelievers. At present, there are about 80% Christians in this area.

## 2. Haflong Town Area :

Haflong is the headquarter of N.C.Hills District. In late 19th Century the British made a headquarter of the railway administration at Haflong and employed the Hrangkhols for labours providing opium which they had eventually became addicted.<sup>36</sup> The British did not have concerned for propagating the Gospel, but were rather absorbed in business.<sup>37</sup> In the meantime, the Welsh missionaries also set up a Mission Centre in early 20th Century. Rev. D.G.Merfyn Jones writes:

*The Missionary also placed a teacher in a Hrangkols (sic. Hrangkhols) village, that was sited at the foot of the hillock on which the mission compound was placed...They were mostly day-labourers in the Haflong bazaar and spent most of their earnings on opium.<sup>38</sup>*

At present, the Hrangkhols living in the bazaar are few in number. So the expansion of Christianity can be traced from the surrounding area of Haflong Town. In the Haflong Town area, the Hrangkhols Churches were newly established.

In 1958, Khimlianzen of Robite or Asiak Robi accepted Christianity from some itinerant preachers. As believers increased a church was formed at Robite in 1958.<sup>39</sup> The Gospel spread far to Robipui village where a church was formed in 1980 with few members.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Interview with Rilsuanthang of Fiangpui, on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1997.

<sup>37</sup> *Souvenir of Gospel Platinum Jubilee of Vongzawl*, p.12.

<sup>38</sup> Rev. D.G.Merfyn Jones, "The History of the Church among the Hill Tribes of Cachar", unpublished MS in the Library of CHT Synod, Haflong, p.14.

<sup>39</sup> *N.C. Hills Hrangkhol Kristian Golden Jubilee Souvenir*, pp.10f.

<sup>40</sup> Interview with Chonhruilian of Robipui, on 24th May 1997.