

1. Formation of Cachar Hill Tribes (CHT) Synod:

In early period, the Churches in North Cachar as well as South Cachar were under the Aizawl Presbytery of the Lushai-Cachar Assembly (Synod) till 1927.⁵⁶ In 1928, North Cachar Hills (Ngaiban Tlang) Presbytery was formed. It consisted of all Churches in North Cachar Hills. The first meeting was held at Jatinga in January 4-6, 1929 and it adopted a resolution to create a new Synod for the Christians in North Cachar Hills and South Cachar. According to its demands, the Synod of Assam granted in the session of 1929. As a result, the Cachar Hill Tribes Assembly (Synod) was officially constituted in March, 1929.⁵⁷ When it was formed, there were three Presbyteries, namely- 1) Ngaiban Tlang (N.C.Hills) Presbytery. 2) South Cachar Lushai - Kuki Presbytery and 3) Khasi Pnar Presbytery. By February 1953, the term 'Assembly' was changed into 'Synod' and was therefore called 'Cachar Hill Tribes Synod'.⁵⁸ Rev. Laltea Nampui was the first native pastor in Ngaiban Tlang Presbytery in the Synod area.⁵⁹

The Cachar Hill Tribes Synod, as its name indicates, comprised of many hills tribes in North and South Cachar of Assam, part of Karbi Anglong and Manipur. There are more than 20 (twenty) tribes within the Synod Area. These are Khasis, Zeme, Imars, Kuki (Thadou), Lushai (Mizo), Karbi (Mikir), Biates, Ilangkhols, Vaiphei, Sakechep, Ranglong, Riang, Thiek, Paite, Gangte and others. Recently, some Nepalis and other non-tribals have also joined this Synod.⁶⁰

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, p.44.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.* See also *Souvenir of Gospel Platinum Jubilee of Vongzawl*, p.28; *Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in North East India Golden Jubilee Souvenir (1926-1976)*, Shillong, p.11; Lalsuotlur Khawbung, "Missiological Challenge of Evangelism and Social Ministry with special reference to the Cachar Hill Tribes Synod: India", Unpublished M.Th. Thesis, Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary, Seoul, Korea, 1993, p.2.

⁵⁸ *Souvenir of Gospel Platinum Jubilee of Vongzawl*, p.29.

⁵⁹ *Souvenir of Cachar Hill Tribes Synod Golden Jubilee*, English Edition, p.43. *Information from Chongliana Nampui of Fiangpui*, date 31st May, 1997.

⁶⁰ *Souvenir of Cachar Hill Tribes Synod Golden Jubilee*, English Edition, p.1.