

According to the information obtained from Elder J.Lalhmingliana, Gharmurra local Church, Vanlabuka of Sihphir, Mizoram visited Gharmurra (now Zawlnuam) in late 1962. He enquired them if they want to have school and they asked that they want to have english medium school. On their request, the Hmartlang Presbytery of Mizoram Synod appointed Mr. B. Ropianga as evangelist-teacher and sent to Gharmurra in 1963. As a result, he made convert named Vansuanlian (kalim/headman) along with his family members in the same year.²⁰ In this village, it was somehow easier to make convert because a village kalim(Headman) first embraced Christianity. From Gharmurra village, Christianity slowly spread to other villages.

B. SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY

The spread of Christianity among the Hrangkhoh areas was mainly due to the work of evangelists rather than to the financial investment of the foreign missionaries. The first Hrangkhoh converts themselves took an initiative for the propagation of the Gospel to their own tribes. In those days, each village has stern religious and democratic life. The ochai (priest) and deipu (prophet) had authority over the entire Community. Without this (Kalim) consent nothing can be done. In such severe situation, the Gospel was preached to the Hrangkhoh villages.²¹ That is why the evangelists first attempt to convert a kalim (headman). The non-believers were indulged in persecuting the new converts and imposed a great fine on them as they thought that their gods might get angry upon the entire Community due to their embracing other Faith.²² Despite much opposition, Christianity steadily won the people.

²⁰ Information from Eld. J.Lalhmingliana, Gen. Secy. of Gharmurra Church, date 7th September 1997.

²¹ Dholchhoro Presbyterian Kohhran Silver Jubilee Souvenir (1965-1990), Dholchhoro, 1990, p.10.

Hereafter cited as *Dholchhoro Presbyterian Kohhran Silver Jubilee Souvenir*.

²² Information from Rev. C.S. Rila of Silchar, date 10th July, 1997.