

Presbytery expecting that the Church might be more progressive. It was in March 1962, the C.H.T. Synod allowed to form into two presbyteries. As a result, in 1963, the South Cachar Presbytery splited into two Presbyteries, viz., (i) Silchar Presbytery and (ii) Lakhipur Presbytery. It splited according to the geographical boundary.³⁵ The Presbyterian Church of Hrangkhols joined the Silchar Presbytery of C.H.T. Synod. Ever since 1969, this presbytery had three Bial (Districts or pastorates). Namely:³⁶ (i) Silchar Pastor Bial (formerly known as Rongpur Bial), (ii) Hachhek Pastor Bial. (iii) Zaitte Pastor Bial.

The Silchar Bial consists of 10 (ten) local Churches and 5 (five) Preaching Stations (also called as branch Churches). Its Pastor's quarter is located at Silchar and Rev. C.S.Rila Hrangkhol is now serving as pastor in-charge in Silchar Bial. He is the first ordained Pastor among the Hrangkhols of South Cachar.³⁷ The Hachhek Bial consists of 8 (eight) Churches and 4 (four) Preaching Stations. The Pastor's quarter is placed at Garodpunji where Rev.Lalhmingthang works as pastor-in-charge. The Zaitte Bial consists of 6 (six) Churches with 3 (three) Preaching Stations and Rev. Z.L.Kunga looks after the Churches. The Pastor quarter located at Buruatilla.³⁸

There are as many as 16 (sixteen) hill tribes within the Silchar Presbytery. Of these, according to Rev. B.Ropianga, the Mizos, Hrangkhols, Sakānep and Ranglong are the majority.³⁹ According to the statistics of 1996, the total members are 3014 only and their total collection is Rs.5,23,704/- and there

³⁵ *Silchar Presbytery Silver Jubilee Souvenir (1963-1988)*, Tlangpui, 1988, p.3.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p.5.

³⁷ *Interview with Rev. B.Ropianga and Rev. C.S.Rila*, at Silchar Mission Compound on 4th December, 1997.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ *Interview with Rev. B.Ropianga* of Silchar, at Mission Compound Silchar, on 4th December, 1997.