

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. THE PROBLEM

The topic chosen for this research is "A HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY AMONG THE HRANGKHOLS OF THE CACHAR HILL TRIBES SYNOD IN ASSAM." The Hrangkhols are one of the hill tribes living in North East India and had rich heritage. From the middle of 19th century, Christianity was introduced among the hill tribes through the work of foreign missionaries. As Christianity grew, a wonderful revival broke out in 1905 in Meghalaya which provided a great impetus to the native people for embracing the Gospel. As a result, the Gospel was then propagated and spread among the Cachar hill tribes since the first decade of 20th century throughout North Cachar Hills and South Cachar in Assam. Nevertheless, the Hrangkhols accepted the Gospel from the neighbouring Biata evangelists during the fourth decade of 20th century in North Cachar Hills. Whereas in South Cachar, the Hrangkhols received the Gospel from Mizo evangelists during the seventh decade of present century. The growth of Christianity was not so rapid. Local Church history was not preserved well in written form. At the same time, the pioneer missionaries, evangelists as well as Indian Church historians also ignored or minimized concerning the Christian history of Hrangkhol tribes. Till now, nobody ever attempts to study in depth the origin, progress and impact of Christianity upon the Hrangkhol society. Thus, this work is an attempt to recount the Christian history of Hrangkhols for the use of the posterity.