

CHAPTER TWO

GENERAL BACKGROUND OF THE INVESTIGATION

Since Tangram Presbytery has been created by the Cachar Hill Tribes Synod, it is imperative to trace its origin and growth back from the inception of the Christian Missionary work in North Cachar Hills, Assam.

The beginning of Christian mission work among the various hill tribes in N.C. Hills during the first decade of the twentieth century was made through the ardent efforts of the Welsh Presbyterian Missionaries. In about 1902 the first Welsh Presbyterian Missionary, Rev. Gerlan Williams set foot at Haflong, head quarter of North Cachar Hills District, Assam for the first time.¹ The Welsh Presbyterian Mission then set up a mission centre in 1905 at Haflong. The Souvenir of the Cachar Hill Tribes Synod Golden Jubilee noted as follows, "The years of glorious revival in Wales were of great significance for the Cachar Hill Tribes Synod. It was in 1905 that the Welsh Mission set foot on the soil of the Cachar Hills."²

As the year passed by, the first church building-cum- school was constructed at Jatinga in 1910.³ In 1905, a great revival broke out among the Khasi people at Pariong, Meghalaya.⁴ The second revival broke out again among the Biatae people in Meghalaya in 1924.⁵ At the same time revival broke out again among the Hmar people in 1924 which was most significant in the history of CHT Synod.⁶ The aforesaid waves of revival had a great impetus on the people for propagating the

¹ **A Souvenir of Gospel Platinum Jubilee of Vongzawl Presbytery and Lakhipur Presbytery** (1921-1996), 1996, p.12. Hereafter cited as Souvenir of Gospel Platinum Jubilee of Vongzawl).

² **A Souvenir of Cachar Hill Tribes Synod, Golden Jubilee(1929-1979)**, English edition, Synod House, Haflong, 1979, p. 36. (Hereafter cited as A Souvenir of Cachar Hill Tribes Synod Golden Jubilee).

³ *Ibid.*, p.36

⁴ Jyrwa, J.F., **The Wondrous Works of God**, Shillong, 1980,p.45

⁵ Lalsangloma Thiaite, **Biates in Assam and Meghalaya and their Conversion to Christianity**, Unpublished B.D. Thesis, Serampore University, Jorhat, 1996, p.32