

Considering the language, while Hindi is the common language in the meetings; English is employed for official documents. By 1994, the Synod consists of 10 (ten) Presbyteries belonging to the Presbyterian Church of India. In 1995, there were 213 local Churches and 43 preaching stations, 43 ministers, 10 pro-pastors, 31,603 Christians.<sup>61</sup> The CHT Synod is poor in material and financial because most of the members in the area belong to the backward Tribal Communities.

## 2. The Church in Hrangkhoh Areas:

All Hrangkhoh Christians belonged to the Presbyterian Church since 1935 when the Gospel was planted in their area. As the time passed by, the Church splited. Some Church members left the Presbyterian Church and joined other denominations, such as - Evangelical Free Church of India (EFCI), Independent Church of India (ICI), Roman Catholic, etc. Here we look into the Churches with special reference to the Presbyterian Church of C.H.T.Synod.

The local Church, in Presbyterian system, is the primary unit consisting of members from a single village. In 1942, the first local Church was set up at Chaptuk in Hrangkhoh areas. By 1954, there were 5 (five) local Churches. Nevertheless, they were not the full-fledged Churches. Till 1958, the Churches were under the care of Sangbar Bial (Pastorate) of Haflong Presbytery.<sup>62</sup> From 1959 onwards the Church progress steadily. As the Church grew, a number of 6 (six) local Churches formed a Bial (or District)<sup>63</sup> called 'Tang-Bial' in 1959.<sup>64</sup>

---

<sup>61</sup> *Statistics of the Cachar Hill Tribes Synod of Presbyterian Church of India for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1995.*

<sup>62</sup> *Interview with Eld. Chonsuilian of Tangpui, on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 1997. Information from Rev. Lalneithang of Zion, date 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1997.*

<sup>63</sup> The term 'Bial' refers to the unit of Presbytery. It is also called district or, Pastorate in ecclesiastical term. Each bial is generally composed of 4 (four) or more Churches.

<sup>64</sup> *Haflong Presbytery Silver Jubilee Souvenir*, p.35.