

of their service, Lianthoisiak along with his family members were converted. In 1965, a Church was formed at Zaito.³⁰ In 1972, Evan. Khawlthumi and others came to Cheragi from Mizoram and worked there. As the result of their work, a Church was formed in 1975 at Cheragi.³¹ Christianity gradually spread to other villages such as - Kungpui, Tlangpui, Ronpur, Zailian, Manikbond, etc. mainly through the ardent effort of Mizo evangelists from Mizoram. Rev. V.L.Zaithanga writes as follows :

*According to the census of India 1971 there was only one percent Christians in Cachar District. The evangelistic work in Cachar District has been confined to the tribal people. The major groups of the tribal people in this area are Hrangkhawl, Ranglawng and Sakachep.*³²

By 1997, there are appropriately 2500 are Hrangkhhol Christians in South Cachar. Considering the percentage, there are about 80% Christians among the Hrangkhols.³³ The Hrangkhhol Churches are still growing and the new converts increased in every year.

C. ORGANISATION OF THE CHURCH

Since the Hrangkhhol Churches are few and some members are living with other tribes in many villages, it is necessary to study the Church Organisation in South Cachar as a whole. Here we study with special reference to the Presbyterian Church. Earlier all Churches were formed to one central body called 'South Cachar Lushai-Kuki Presbytery'. This name was soon changed into South Cachar Presbytery.³⁴ In 1960, the Church resolved to form another

³⁰ Information from Eld. Neikhupngula of Zaito, date 9th Sept. 1997.

Interview with Rev. B. Ropianga of Silchar, on 4th December 1997.

Cf. Rev. Lalauva, *Mizo Synod Ramthar Thlawhima*, Aizawl 1984, p.5.

³¹ Information from Eld. K C Bula of Cheragi, date 22nd Sept. 1997.

³² Rev. V.L.Zaithanga, *From Head-Hunting to Soul-Hunting*, Aizawl, 1981, p.24.

³³ Information from Rev. C S Rila Hrangkhhol of Silchar, date 10th July, 1997.

³⁴ *Souvenir of Cachar Hill Tribes Synod GOLDEN JUBILEE*, p.43. See also *Souvenir of Golden Platinum Jubilee of Vongzawl*, p.31.