

This is to certify that the thesis presented in this volume is an original research work carried by Mrs. Salam Irene. The content of this thesis did not form a basis of the award of any previous degree to her and it had not been submitted by her for any research degree to any other University.

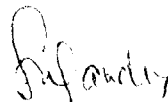
She has carried her research satisfactorily and has been able to analyse the facts based on primary sources.

On the basis of her aptitude and work, she is qualified for the degree of the Ph.D.

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PREFACE

Study on the History of Manipur has started recently for it remained neglected for many years. In the last few years, some scholars have conducted researches on different aspects of the history of Manipur.

Nevertheless, studies on the history of Christian Missionary activity in Manipur, are few in number. Dr. Lal Dena's doctoral thesis on "Christian Missions and Colonialism: A Study of Missionary Movements in Manipur and Lushai Hills 1849-1947" analyses the missionary movement in Manipur and Lushai Hills, during the latter part of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. The second research work is "Advent of Christian Mission: A case study of its impact on the tribals in Manipur 1910-1950." This is a Ph.D. thesis by Dr. Th. Lamboi Vaiphei. This work deals with the advent of Christian Mission, and spread of Christianity among the tribal population of Manipur.

Both the works have different approaches. Dr. Lal Dena has taken a period of colonial rule and covered Manipur and the Lushai Hills. It analyses

the relationship between the Colonial rulers and missionaries during the period of study.

Dr. Vaiphei's study is confined to the advent and expansion of Christian faith in Manipur, particularly among tribals. It attempts to analyse the impact of Christianity on the social life of the tribals in the first half of the twentieth century, upto 1950.

The Catholic Mission activities in Manipur began from 1952. A most important field of their work was education. Since then, there has been remarkable development in education as a result of Catholic Mission Education in Manipur. The Catholic missionaries have opened a series of educational institutions throughout the state. The Catholic Mission Education has been able to spread education throughout the valley and hills of Manipur. Their educational institutions elementary and secondary, are the premier institutions of the state.

There has been some literature published on education in Manipur. But none of them give any picture of the contribution of Catholic Mission

education. Before the establishment of Catholic Mission, the percentage of literacy was only 5% in Manipur in 1941. According to the 1951 census, the literate population was 65,895 in Manipur which constituted only 11.4% of the total population. But in the 1981 census, literacy in Manipur rose to 42%. This rise was largely a result of Catholic Mission Education. It is concrete evidence of the significant contribution of Catholic Mission towards the spread of education.

But there is no research undertaken on the educational works of the Catholic Missionaries. I have attempted to fill this gap. I have tried to collect materials from all the primary sources. I have collected all the reports of the missionaries. I have done extensive field work. The method used in my research work is a combination of historical analysis and field work. In the former category, the source materials consisting mainly of the original reports and letters of the Catholic Missionaries in Manipur and elsewhere, and reports and records preserved by various archival centres have been used, with proper scrutiny and verification. I have **included** first hand information gathered through informal

meetings, personal contacts, interviews and questionnaires from Manipur and Catholic centres in the North-Eastern states of India.

I am very grateful to the Catholic Missions who have readily supplied me vast mass of materials, without which it was not possible to complete this work. I extend my sincere thank to Bishop J. Mittathany, Bishop of Imphal, Fr. Mathew, Pulangathil, Rector, Don Bosco, Dimapur, Fr. M.C. George, Rector, Don Bosco, Imphal, Sr. Louisa and Sr. Ivy, Superior and Head Mistress, Little Flower School, Imphal, Fr. J. Mattam, Vicar-General, Catholic Diocese of Imphal, Manipur, Fr. Sebastian Chelat-Chancellor, Catholic Diocese of Imphal, Manipur, Fr. Mathew Planthottam, Principal, St. Joseph's School, Imphal, Sr. Cici, Headmistress, Nirmala Bas School, Imphal, Fr. Mathew Manianchira, Director, Catholic Schools, Imphal, Manipur, Fr. Sebastian Karotemprel, Dean, Sacred Heart College, Shillong, Brother Joseph Athichal, Don Bosco, Imphal, Catholic Missionaries at Ukhrul, Nungbi, Churachandpur, and other Catholic Centres all over Manipur.

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