ABSTRACT

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For more than one hundred years, Mizoram in the North East India has undergone tremendous change. From being a tribe that practiced head hunting and animism, through the introduction of Christianity and the establishment of Christian mission schools, Mizoram has become a Christian state.

This thesis is a historical study of the educational ministry of the BMS and the BCM. The education that prevailed then was both primitive and informal, in which the family, and the Zawlbuk (young men’s dormitory), played the centers of Mizo traditional education. It is in this socio-cultural background, the missionaries of the BMS endeavored in educational ministry among the Mizo in the latter part of the 19th century. Historically, missionary education became an important means of evangelization and social transformation in the Mizo society. The BCM continues in educational ministry as a key enterprise among the Mizo and non-Mizo within and outside of Mizoram.

The Research Objectives are: To ascertain the key founding principles governing the educational ministry of the BMS and BCM; to identify and compare the educational methods and strategies of the BMS and BCM; and, to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the educational ministry of the BCM in the light of the future with a purpose to bring out recommendations for applications for the future educational ministry of the BCM.

This thesis encompasses the domain of educational ministry of the BCM with particular reference to the work of the BMS. The findings indicate that the standard of education imparted in many schools is often of a sub-standard level and consequently does not sufficiently reflected in the norms set up by the BCM. The BCM needs a holistic approach to its education mission. The study, therefore, in conclusion, recommends that the educational ministry be socially, educationally, economically and spiritually relevant in a dynamic changing society of Mizoram in particular.

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