

# CONTENTS

<i>Foreword-I</i>	xiii
<i>Foreword-II</i>	xv
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xix
<i>Introduction</i>	xxi
<b>Chapter 1: The Zeliangrong Nagas and their Land</b>	1
Introduction	1
1.1. Zeliangrong and their habitation	1
1.1.1. The home of the Zeliangrong	1
1.1.2. Peren District	2
1.1.3. Origin of the Zeliangrong	3
1.1.4. The term Zeliangrong	3
1.1.5. Origin and Migration	4
1.2. Socio-political and Cultural life	5
1.2.1. Marriage and Family	5
1.2.2. Clan	6
1.2.3. <i>Hangsiuki</i>	6
1.2.4. Village	7
1.2.5. Food, drinks, ornaments, songs and dances	8
1.3. Economic life	9
1.4. Religious belief and practices	10
1.4.1. Belief in a Supreme Being	10
1.4.2. Pantheon of gods and deities	10
1.4.3. Belief in spirits	11
1.4.4. Ancestor worship	11
1.4.5. Life after death	11

1.4.6. <i>Genna</i> : Practices and significance	12
1.5. Values highly regarded in Zeliangrong Society	12
1.5.1. Community Orientation	12
1.5.2. Sense of equality	13
1.5.3. Respect for elders	13
1.5.4. <i>Heleikerau</i>	14
Conclusion	14
<b>Chapter 2: The Advent of Christianity to the Zeliangrong Nagas</b>	<b>17</b>
Introduction	17
2.1. Zeliangrong people and Christianity	18
2.1.1. Outsider Scholarship	18
2.1.2. The first converts and initial growth of Christianity according to tradition	19
2.1.3. The opposition from the <i>Kampai</i> Cult or the <i>Heraka</i> religion	21
2.2. Formation of Zeliangrong Baptist Association	23
2.3. Division of the Zeliangrong Baptist Church Council	25
2.3.1. Liangmai Baptist Aruang LBA (Tening Town)	25
2.3.2. Zeme Baptist Association-Nsong (ZBA-N)	26
2.3.3. Rongmei Baptist Association (RBA) Jalukie Town	27
2.3.4. Zeme Baptist Church Council (ZBCC) Peren	27
2.3.5. Zeme Baptist Association-Jalukie (ZBA-J)	28
2.4. Other Denominational Church Traditions	29
2.4.1. Roman Catholic	29
2.4.2. Christian Revival	29
2.4.3. Presbyterian	30
2.4.4. Seventh Day Adventist	30
2.4.5. Pentecostal	31
2.4.6. Independent church	31
Conclusion	32
<b>Chapter 3: The Encounter/Interaction Between                 the Zeliangrong Culture and Christianity</b>	<b>33</b>
Introduction	33
3.1. Culture defined	34
3.2. Relation of Gospel and culture	35

3.3. Encounter between the Zeliangrong Culture and Christianity (1897-1953) – Phase 1	35
3.3.1. The Zeliangrong Christians within the Kohima Mission Field 1897-1953	36
3.3.2. The resistance movement of Zeliangrong Heraka Cult	40
3.4. Encounter between the Zeliangrong Culture and Christianity (1953 – till date) – Phase 2	41
3.4.1. Zeliangrong Baptist Association	41
3.4.2. The coming of Revival to the Zeliangrongs	43
3.5. Resurgence of traditional elements in Zeliangrong Christianity	47
3.5.1. Traditional drum	47
3.5.2. <i>Paupai rwaklei</i>	48
3.5.3. Traditional attires	49
3.5.4. Traditional dances	50
3.6. Cultural continuity among the Zeliangrong Christians	50
3.6.1. Rites connected with childbirth	50
3.6.2. Marriage	51
3.6.3. Burial	52
3.6.4. House construction	52
3.6.5. Church Administration	53
3.6.6. Influence of <i>keniu</i>	53
3.6.7. Observances connected to cultivation	54
3.6.8. Feast of merit	54
3.6.9. Slaughtering of animals	54
3.7. Third Factor in the interaction of the Zeliangrong Christianity and culture: Modernization	55
3.7.1. Modernization under British Government	56
3.7.2. Modernization under free India	57
3.7.3. Modernization through Christian missionaries	58
Conclusion	59
<b>Chapter 4: Present Zeliangrong Christianity and Mission: Challenges of Identity</b>	61
Introduction	61
4.1. H. Richard Niebuhr's Propositions	62

4.1.1. Christ against Culture	62
4.1.2. Christ of Culture	63
4.1.3. Christ above Culture	64
4.1.4. Christ and Culture in Paradox	64
4.1.5. Christ the Transformer of Culture	65
4.2. Looking at the Present State of Zeliangrong Christians through Niebuhr's Propositions	65
4.2.1. Christ against culture	66
4.2.2. The Christ of Culture, Christ above Culture, and Christ the Transformer of Culture	66
4.2.3. Christ and culture in paradox	68
4.3. Confused Identity in the face of modernity	68
4.4. Looking at the Mission of the Zeliangrong Baptist Church Associations (ZBCAs) through Niebuhr's Propositions	70
4.4.1. Christ against culture	70
4.4.2. Christ and culture in Paradox	72
4.4.3. Christ of culture	72
4.4.4. Christ above culture	73
4.4.5. Christ the Transformer of culture	74
Conclusion	74
<b>Chapter 5: Towards a Meaningful Indigenous Zeliangrong Christianity and Relevant Contextual Mission</b>	77
Introduction	77
5.1. Indigenous Zeliangrong Christianity	78
5.2. Integration of Christian faith, culture and modernity	78
5.2.1. Mission with the Youths	79
5.2.2. Mission and Women	81
5.2.3. Toward Comprehensive Salvation	82
5.2.4. Theologically Motivated Mission	83
5.2.5. Chaplaincy Ministry	85
5.2.6. Restructuring the Structure	86
5.2.7. Fulltime Pastoral Ministry	87
5.2.8. Indigenous-creative worship	88
5.2.9. Eco-Care Mission	89
5.2.10. Mission of Love and Justice	90

5.2.11. Mission Constants in Context	90
5.2.12. Unity/Collaboration in Mission; Mission in Unity	91
5.2.13. Giving Ministry	92
5.2.14. Friendly mission to religious neighbours	92
5.2.15. Spirit filled Mission	92
5.3. Indigenous Zeliangrong Christian Identity	93
Conclusion	93
<b>Conclusion</b>	95
<b>Appendices</b>	
I. Mission Activities of the Zeliangrong Baptist Church Associations	99
II. Questionnaire	113
<b>Bibliography</b>	117