

hand. Missionaries from Kohima, as well as from Im-
pur, sent teachers to this tribe; and the results were
gratifying. The traveler among those hills is impressed
with the growth and spiritual conception of the people.
Their church buildings are the pride of the villages.
Their Christian conventions are conducted with re-
markable skill and orderliness. Their philosophical out-
look upon life is genuinely Christian, and a visit among
them leaves the most skeptical person wondering
whence all this wisdom.

There remains but to mention one more field, — the
Manipur state. No Christian missionary was allowed
within its borders prior to 1894. Attempts had been
made by Burma missionaries as early as 1836 to go
through Manipur but permission was refused. In 1885
Mr. Robert Arthington of Leeds, England, wrote to
the Assam Mission stating his desire to open a work
among the Singphos, with a station at Mankum or
Ledo, in Upper Assam.¹⁴ This scheme did not material-
ize at that time, but in 1890 Mr. Pettigrew was sent
out as a missionary under the Arthington Aborigines
Mission. He located first in Bengal. In 1894, he applied
for permission to enter the state and work among the
Manipuri Hindus. That permission was granted. He
established a school for Manipuri boys at Imphal, the
capital of the state; but within six months the British
authorities, who were administering the state in behalf
of the minor Rajah, decided against opening of mission
work. Mr. Pettigrew was permitted "at his own risk"
to work among the Tangkhul Nagas in the hills to the
northeast of Imphal. He chose Ukhrul, a little village
about fifty miles from Imphal from which to do his
work. In 1896, Mr. Pettigrew was appointed as a mis-
sionary of the American Baptist Foreign Missionary

Society and Ukhrul, with the work already started,
was taken over.

It took a good many years before the missionary had
won the confidence of the people and before he had
been able to reduce their language to writing. It was
not until 1901 that the first baptism occurred, at which
time twelve young converts, boys from the mission
school, were baptized. This little nucleus was the be-
ginning, or the leaven, which spread throughout the
mountains so that in 1917, there were 335 church
members and five churches reported.

After twenty-three years of work at Ukhrul a new
era in the Christian development of Manipur was be-
gun, when the new station at Kangpokpi was opened.
This station is located on a military road between Im-
phal and the railroad station, or twenty-eight miles
from Imphal. A grant of 250 acres was given to the
mission with the understanding that a medical mission-
ary be appointed and located at Kangpokpi. This sta-
tion soon developed into one of the most beautiful in
the entire province. Two bungalows, a church, a school
house, two dormitories, a dispensary, and houses for
native staff, as well as a number of buildings for the
lepers in their colony, graced the site.

An awakening among the Christians has taken place
and the Christian community, according to the Census
report of 1931, numbers 10,004. It is also worthy of
note that in 1934 the third convention of the Manipur
Baptist Association was held in the very capital of the
state.

The permanent values of Christianity in Manipur
are difficult to enumerate. The literature in Manipur,
Thadou Kuki, and Tangkhul Naga may appear to be
very small when on the shelf, but it does not adequate-