

General Topics :: My child's public school "Missions" report**My child's public school "Missions" report, on: 2005/3/3 19:07**

I have been helping my son do his required 4th grade report on California's Spanish Missions.

One of my concerns of the faith, have been those who say there should be no separation between "church" and "state", (altho, what a true church would want to do with a "state" is beyond me)

I came upon this article, and I'll just cut and paste a bit:

The social atmosphere in Spain during the Fifteenth Century was one of passionate religious zeal brought about by centuries of Christian-Muslim conflict. The Spanish brought with them this fervor as they colonized the recently discovered "New World." After the triumph of the Protestant Reformation in northern and central Europe, mission work was perceived as a way of restoring the Roman Catholic Church's prominence in the world. The Americas provided an ideal venue as it housed millions of "pagan" natives, supposedly ready and waiting for Catholic salvation.¹ The Pueblo Indians of New Mexico were one of the Spaniards' targets for conversion. The Spanish began the conversion of the native immediately following conquest; they subdued the Indians with "a sword in one hand and a bible in the other." They employed many methods to convert the natives, but a vast number of Indians converted not because of true piety or direct force exerted by the Spanish. Most converted to simply survive in the new environment that the Spanish had created. The Pueblos of New Mexico converted to Catholicism primarily out of necessity.

Converting the Indians through mission efforts became an integral goal and desire of Spanish colonization. Indian conversion not only fulfilled the religious fervor of the Spanish, but had other goals as well. With few colonists in New Mexico, there was a shortage of labor. The natives were the obvious choice of cheap labor for the Spanish missionaries. The Franciscan missionaries were to convert the Pueblos to Christianity, and also to instruct the Indians on Western methods of farming, building, and mechanics.⁵ Most missionaries did not know the native language, which resulted in miscommunication between the Spanish and the Indians. Due to the lack of communication, the Indians did not fully understand or accept the basic tenets of Christianity until the missionaries finally learned their language or, more likely, the natives learned Spanish. Baptism was considered enough to temporarily save a native's soul, even if the "converted" Indian had little or no understanding of Christianity. The natives' temporary salvation through baptism was conditional; the natives were to understand that the "padre" through the Sacrament of Penance ultimately decided whether the Indians would enter heaven or purgatory. This blackmail gave a considerable amount of influence to the padres over their neophytes..

The Indians were forced to convert to Roman Catholicism in order to survive under the conditions that the Spanish had created for them. Conversion to the Pueblos was simply a practical ploy for survival; they still practiced their traditional religion, though concealing their genuine religious beliefs and practices from the missionaries.¹⁵ In exchange for converting to Christianity, the Indians received food, clothing, and protection from the Spanish. The natives' situation was so desperate that some even gave themselves as servants to the Spanish in hopes of obtaining maize or other foods.¹⁶ The friars realized that the Catholic faith had little appeal to the Indians.

Re: My child's public school "Missions" report - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2005/3/3 19:09

Quote:

-----I have been helping my son do his required 4th grade report on California's Spanish Missions.

hehe sounds like fun. Are you going to share the report with us when it is done? ;-)

Actually....., on: 2005/3/3 21:01

He's typing the last page.....right now...and we are in Jack Hayford's King College library, and he's sitting across from me at another terminal, and I just looked over at his face and just thanked God for sending me this noble beautiful boy, and as I type this, I pray that God makes me into the type of father that will be a blessing for him.

Wait, my brother...God willing, you will see, there is no other love like that you have for your child, its the kind of love you get on your knees, when the Spirit of the Most High comes upon you and you are given a revelation of the enormity of the Cross, and your heart gets flooded with love for Jesus.....the love for your child almost goes there....

I will never forget the first time I gazed into that boys face, his mother, God bless her, she was undergoing a c-section after 30 hours of labor, and I looked over at her tummy area, and I saw this wet head, and there he was....the attendant took him over to a table to get cleaned...he wasnt breathing yet....and I started to get a panicky feeling, but since the medical professionals in the room were cool, I stayed cool too.....then he started to breathe, and they handed him to me, and I looked into his eyes.

I will never forget that moment, there was a recognition there, I cant explain.

Life is mystery and sometimes God is mystery.

Ah Greg.....you will see, helping create life, and then helping disciple a young man...God is good.

This boy, he's a fourth grader, and he can read at the 12th grade level, he's a blue belt in karate, can play beethovens 'fur elise'.

But you know what the best Thing is? When I got water baptized 3 years ago, the boy, then 6, came up to me a half an hour before service and said,

"Daddy, I want to get baptized too."

I asked the lad, "Do you know what that means?"

Clear as bell he said, "Yes, it means I accept Jesus as my personal Saviour".

God is so good.

My prayer is that you meet a lovely woman in California and fall deeply and completely in love, and that she give you healthy children who love the Lord like their mommy and daddy, in Jesus Name....amen