

Instructions to Missionaries

A.D. 601:

Let the shrines of idols by no means be destroyed.

Let water be consecrated and sprinkled in their temples.

Let altars be erected so that the people, seeing their temples intact, may displace error and recognize and adore the true god.

And because they are wont to sacrifice oxen to devils, some celebration should be given in exchange for this.

They should celebrate a religious feast and worship god by their feasting, so that, still keeping outward pleasures, they may more readily receive spiritual joys.

POPE
GREGORY I
DECREES
CHRISTMAS

