

Oh Mission Life

Traditional melody on verses
Words by Barbara Speicher

Verse #1

Oh mission life (2 x's) three hundred years the missions reigned
Oh mission life (2 x's) along a Spanish border chain
On mission life (2 x's) the padres taught the Indians
About religion and how to work hard and to be Spanish citizens

Chorus

Mission life (3 x's) the missionaries came
Mission life (2 x's) and nothing stayed the same

Verse #2

Oh mission life (2 x's) under Franciscan Fathers thrived
Oh mission life (2 x's) with farms and ranches it survived
Oh mission life (2 x's) Father Serra's claim to fame
Were missions he built in California despite the fact he used a cane

Chorus

Verse #3

Oh mission life (2 x's) brought good and bad we must concede
Oh mission life (2 x's) helped many live and learn to read
Oh mission life (2 x's) so greatly changed the Indian way
With all the routines and loss of freedom
The culture they once knew did fade

Chorus

And nothing stayed the same...