

MISSIONARY DISTRICT OF PORTO RICO
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

P. O. BOX 1115

St Thomas, Virgin Islands.
March 14th 1927.

SAN JUAN, P. R.

My dear Bishop:

I had thought to write you much sooner, but found this work very exacting and it takes more time than I have at my disposal to get things in shape, especially during the lenten season. I want to confirm my conversation with you of February 22nd last, when I told you that I would ask you to take entire charge of the spiritual oversight of the missions at Quebrada Limon and outlying stations. This includes of course, Magueyes and Quebrada Ceiba, El Mato and all missions formerly under the Church of Jesus. You are to be the sole authority in these missions, and are to have under your direct supervision the following clergy: Rev. Messrs. Hermenegildo Maldonado, Primitivo Maldonado, Ramon Cortez and Victor Rivera. I take pleasure in offering you the services of Deaconess Lyon, subject to her acceptance of the appointment. I hope you will not feel at all constrained to accept the Deaconess, or under any obligation to employ her, as I have other work she can do at any time. You are therefore perfectly free to invite her to work under you or not as you choose. The three women workers at present employed at the mission are also included in those to be under your supervision. I should have added above that the Deaconess should also be understood to be free to accept or reject any offer made to her without prejudice of any kind. This should be understood to be an entirely new appointment, as far as she is concerned.

As regards the material affairs of the farm, I would like to leave this in statu quo, until I can return to Porto Rico and have an opportunity to discuss the situation with you and Mr Edmunds. I hope everything is going nicely and that you have been satisfied

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with the information furnished you by Mr Edmunds.

I will be glad to hear from you in regard to the work on the replacement of the arches, which ~~are~~ were removed from the Church. Please let me have an account of the expense of the same. When you have time I think it would also be well to have the house examined so as to see what the condition is and what repairs should be made ~~in~~ this year. There is an appropriation made annually for this purpose amounting to \$225. It has been my intention to make repairs gradually the most important each year until everything is in good condition. There have been a good many expenses in this connection in the past two or three years.

Mr Edmunds told me before I left that he would be ready at any moment to turn the house over to you, and all you have to do is to tell him when you would like to have it. Please give him two or three days notice so as to give him time to move.

Perhaps my statement about the arches above is not clear. In your letter to Mr Wood, you state that you would proceed to restore them at once but are out of funds, and that you consider the building to be the property of the Board of Missions. Please be authorized by this to proceed with the restoration of the arches, and send me an account of the expense of the same.

In placing you in charge of the spiritual oversight of all the missions of the Quebrada Limon district, I of course retain as Bishop the right of visitation at any time as also the right of admission of any and all clergy to the Missionary District. This of course does not mean that I shall not call upon you from time to time for assistance in the work in the other missions of the District as occasion shall demand and as may be mutually agreeable to you and me.

Frm your letter to Mr Wood, I gather that you have been mis-

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informed about many things, and evidently gotten a very wrong idea of the whole spirit and intent of my actions and policy. If you had been willing to discuss the situation with me recently on the occasion of my visit to you, I feel sure I could have disabused your mind of many of your supposed difficulties. I can assure you that you are entirely mistaken in the idea that I have not wanted you in the District and that you are unwelcome. If at any time our natures do not seem to understand each other, a frank discussion of the situation would go much farther to clearing up the situation than any amount of letter writing through a third person. I want to be frank and friendly. Please try to put out of your mind anything to the contrary, and let us resume our old relationship. You will find me at any time ready to hear suggestions and to cooperate to the limit of my ability.

Please give our regards to Mrs Ferrando, and with all best wishes believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

+ Chas B. Colwell.