

Our dear Mr. Stearns -

We hope that already you will have received our last letter - and will be rejoicing with us over God's great goodness.

Now I must tell you of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd in Manuao.

You will remember that in one of our last letters - One spoke of a young woman who had interested over fourteen families - but that there was yet no chapel place provided for chapel. This girl's name is Maria Rivera - and her father is Francisco Rivera - She has shown great interest from the beginning - and a remarkable change in life and manners. She is the eldest daughter of a large family - and has improved her opportunities by teaching her little brothers and sisters all she learned here - Her father and mother, led on by her enthusiasm have come to be constant and earnest attendants - At first they offered the living room of their own house, in which to hold services - but we not only felt that the meeting place should be dedicated wholly to that purpose - and ^{besides} the room was rather too small - and that a more central position was desirable - Finally Francisco Rivera offered a small house he owned, which was easily accessible for all - and the day after New Year's Emmanuel went there to see it - They found it would have to be considerably enlarged, repaired, and ~~renewed~~ roofed - before it would at all answer the purpose - So they started not at once to stir up the people to help - and before the end of the afternoon - One man had promised four palms, another promised to saw and clean the boards, another to bring beams - another to build

At the last came Dona Gorgonia, the wife of our good friend Don Andres Corrales Yagquez of whom we have often spoken to you. She was nearly crying with distress - as Don Andres had passed a very bad night - and was in such a weak condition that she had not had the courage to urge him to come although she knew he was to be ^{be given} ~~given~~ into the church and to ~~receive~~ a special charge in the Committee.

Perhaps we have not told you that Don Andres is seventy five ^{of years} and although young and very robust in appearance - he suffers from heart trouble - and this last fall has been in a very critical condition - twice Manuel has been called to his house - and has worked over him ^{for hours} to save his life - lately he has seemed much stronger and better, but of course there is always danger that the slightest over exertion may bring on an attack.

When Dona Gorgonia saw how disturbed we were at his not having come - she sent one of the boys flying to tell him that if he could possibly make the effort and come - we would wait for him -

It is a long distance from here to his house - and after the boy set out a heavy shower of rain fell - but still we did not give up hope - We spent the time in singing hymns - and all was perfectly quiet and orderly -

At last Don Andres came - and after the service - he told us of ~~the~~ his many difficulties in getting here -

In the first place he had understood the reception of members and the change to the Committee - was to be a week later - ~~then~~ ^{so} when the boy arrived to tell him we were waiting - he at once sent for his horse and began to get ready - and was even given strength to put on his new shoes ^{which} ~~which~~ he has not been able to do for over a year - How God helps us even in little things!

When he reached the gate of his own grounds the horse fell with him - a thing he was never known to do before - but the attack which at any other time would have been enough to bring on an attack had no effect whatever - and Don Andres, ~~rather~~ urged the horse, made him get up and go on bawling God for his strength and protection - When he reached the house near here - the horse planted his fore feet ^{neither whip nor spur} ~~and trotted~~ and could make him cross - Don Andres does say he does not

3
rains are so strange^{here} in January. The ~~Friday~~ Saturday was
Clear and bright. Don Manuel and Don Antonio started out in the
morning to and did not reach there till noon on account of the dreadful
condition of the road - after the rains -

They found another surprise awaiting them - the Chapel enlarged
by an addition of ~~four~~ yds on one end - they had just finished
roofing that morning. Clemente had gone up to Belegua on Tuesday

It had rained heavily all day Wednesday - but in the evening he
called the men to gether - and said - Now, you know Saturday
is to be the dedication of the chapel and we need to have it four
yds longer. We cannot wait for the rain to stop - who of you is willing to
work in the rain? - They all answered readily, even one poor sickly
Onan - who said "I have only a few months more to live - one
month or less is nothing to me - I will go too - and do what I can -

So Thursday morning ~~the~~ ^{we} divided them into ~~two~~ ^{three} groups. One
group - others to saw and clean boards - others to ~~put up the~~ ^{put up the}
~~frame~~ ^{and nail on the boards} - others to bring roofing by Friday
Afternoon all worked except the roof. They worked till ten o'clock at
night ~~and~~ ^{and by four in the morning they were at work again}
finishing near noon. They had the chapel decorated for the occasion
with some yds of bunting - and little flags - and on the walls some
texts and pictures we had sent them. - Early in the afternoon

~~The~~ crowds of people began to assemble - and although the
Chapel was so much longer it was not large enough to hold
them. The ~~dedication service is taken mostly from the Bible too -~~
The dedication service which is taken mostly from the Bible made
great impression on them, and afterwards the sermon also was
greatly blessed. Each sermon seems to make deeper and deeper im-
pression and bring greater and greater blessing.

Clemente's brother who used to gather the people to gether for dances
etc, and be a leader in all sorts of folly, now gathers them to gether

in front of everyone! - Pray that the Prince of Peace may confirm their peace making that it may endure!

Twenty eight more gave in their names to be received as aspirants next Sunday - and we know of many more who are coming -

We want you to understand our plan which you think hope you will approve - Those whom we receive as aspirants are those who have been regularly attending the services - and who have shown a marked change in their way of living, ^{and progress in spiritual things} and who by giving their names - declare that they wish to belong to the Church of Christ and to follow His doctrine - Perhaps many of them would be counted worthy to be received into full membership by others - but we have resolved to make our sin not numbers - but true conversion and consecration - so that we receive them now on probation. The regulation term will probably be six months - Some few perhaps may be received sooner - and others may be delayed a year or more - or may be entirely taken off the list - ~~what~~ according to their conduct - and the signs they give of progress - true conversion and the Baptism of the Spirit, which is what we pray for -

We pray earnestly that God may so guide us that not one may enter our Church membership - who can bring discord - or insincerity - ~~but~~ or anything unworthy - but that the few in number we may be made and kept wholly separate from the world and wholly purified and consecrated to the Perfect will of God - so that the focus of spiritual force may be kept strong and life giving and all conquering by reason of perfect union - He alone is able!

These who are received as aspirants ^{altho' not full members - we have under our} are ^{care} now charged to work as ^{well} and ^{care} Missionaries - each to look after the spiritual welfare of the other and to bring still others to the knowledge they have received -

God give his angels charge over them, that they may protect them ^{against} the enemy of our souls! that they may be constant in their resolve

On the Yesterday afternoon - was the dedication of the Chapel in ^{Memoria} - We all went, except Don Andres and Dona Gorgonia -

the word - receiving it with joy - She has an old mother - who is
in very poor health - and two little children - a little boy of about five
and a little girl of three - These we thought we might bring here
to care for them, as although we have made it a rule not to take
children with mothers - this would be an exception - as the mother would
be dedicating the time she would give to her children - to God and His
service - Manuel was told the other day of how beautifully
the old mother was talking to her daughter - saying that the
light had come to her when she was old and feeble - but if she were
only young how gladly she would give up all, to dedicate herself
to spreading the good news. And what a blessed privilege and
honor it was to be called by the Lord for His service -

We had thought of giving her one four or five dollars a month
to support herself and her old mother -

Please answer us what you think of this -

~~There are~~ The two others are Maria Rivera in Maricao and
Rasualca here in Quebrada Limon - We shall not be
hasty in choosing any of them - but ~~are~~ praying for
guidance - Our plan is to have the missionaries under
our direct supervision for the present having them come here
for a day or two each week for special exercises of prayer
and study - of what they are to teach to others the remaining
days of the week -