

Ponce, Porto Rico

July 26th., 1902

Rev. A. S. Lloyd DD,

My dear brother:

I am sending by this mail a letter to Ep. Van Euren in which I also enclose my resignation of this work to take effect Oct. 1st., 1902.

This action has not been taken *hastily* but after much thought and *earnest* prayer for Divine Guidance and in it I feel assured by my own conscience that I am acting for the best interest of the church in the greatest and most sacred work committed to her by the Lord and Master.

The reasons are in part the following:

Because I am *convinced* ~~convinced~~ after a residence here of six months that the work as now constituted does not justify the expenditure of so much money on the part of the Board of *Managers* as is necessary for the support of a family here. Therefore I feel that I am doing *wrong* to make the Board (should I have that *power*) contribute from such a sacred *fund* as I consider the treasury of the missionary work so much as my necessities *demand* could I hope to *avoke* my whole life to this work, I should find some consolation in the thought that after I have mastered the language (at least *three in year here*)

mandado para un viaje de dos semanas,
pero Sr. Edith tendrá cuidado para contestar
tan pronto recibamos tu carta desde allí.

Ahora bien; lo primero que quiero que llegas
es lo siguiente.

1. Cuanto cuesta el alquiler en una de una casita
decente, que sirva para tener algunos muebles
de unos poquitos para principiar.
2. Hay casitas en el campo, como algun barrio en don-
de se pueda conseguir casa de vivienda con algun
tiempo? Cuanto cuesta arrendado, y comprado?
3. Dime francamente si te gusta el pais, y si esta
dispuesto a trasladar la familia.
4. Dime cuanto cuesta la vida en una.

Puedo escribirte pronto y largo, pero deseo que
me escribas lo mas pronto posible.

Con muchos saludos de Sr. Edith
te bendigo y amo de corazón Tu afmo
Felipe

Has visto a Mr. Zowe?

Hace tiempo que no se de el.

Escribe a Mr. Guernsey

Ponce Porto Rico

July 26th 1902



Rev A. S. Lloyd Esq.,

My dear brother

I am sending by this mail a letter to Bp. Van Buren in which I also enclose my resignation of this work to take effect Oct. 1st 1902.

This action has not been taken hastily but after much thought and earnest prayer for divine guidance and in it I feel assured by my own conscience that I am acting for the best interests of the Church in the greatest and most sacred work committed to her by her Lord & Master.

The reasons are in part the following.

Because I am convinced after a
residence here of six months that
the work as now constituted does not
justify the expenditure of so much
money on the part of the Board
of Managers as is necessary for
the support of my family here.

Therefore I feel that I am doing
wrong to make the Board (should I
have that power) contribute from

such a sacred fund as I consider
the treasury of the Missionary work
so much as my necessities demand.

Could I hope to devote my whole
life to this work, I should find
some consolation in the thought
that after I have mastered the
language (at least three years hence) I
would then be able to enlarge the
bounds of my operations & usefulness.

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But three years hence my increased
expenses arising from the education
of my children will certainly take me
away from here and the real missionary
work just found for its beginning
the length of time.

Prof. Van Buren advises that a return
to the States once a year is desirable
by others tell me it is not fresh
desires the commercial world of those
who have had experience, that
a return once in two years is
absolutely necessary, but no
provision can be made for
such an expense as my
family would make in their
business, So says Prof. Van Buren.
The view of this condition of affairs, I
deemed to me providential that I should

reside from a most unexpected
quarter an invitation to become the rector
of a parish in the States, with an
offer to pay my expenses home
if I would accept. This seemed to
me & seems now a ^{providential} provision by
which I can relieve the Missionary
fund of any further expense. I
should say abnormal expense.

It is not an easy matter for one
to be able to say plainly & frankly
that he has made a mistake in
a business which seemed so clearly
ordered by the Lord. It is not easy
to bear the appearance at such a
turning back from the point
but I believe that the course I
am pursuing is at least honest
and in taking it I am doing all in
my power to correct whatever
error I am guilty of from the
past transactions in this connection.

For my personal comfort or that
of my family I would not desire
to forsake Porto Rico. Our home
is pleasant and we have much to
make us wish to remain, but
for me to spend so much money
and have so little to show for it
makes me unhappy indeed.

I have come now fully to realize
that the day for me to render service
in the mission field is passed. Could
I have entered it when I began
my ministry it would have been well,
but frustrated then, as I believe
Providence has, I have been grieved
as ever since - since my work has
led to hope that in this I had
realized my hopes. I had hoped
that I should I may do for this
at least - in the field at
home or not abroad.

For the help you have given
me and the interest you have taken
on my behalf I shall ever be
sincerely grateful. And I do trust
that in my limited sphere I
may be some little help to
you.

May God abundantly bless you
and fill you with the fulness of
His grace, that as you labor for
others you may yourself share
the likeness & glory of the first
great Missionary, which Heaven sent
to our lost world,
With love in Christ, in which
Mrs Gunn desires heartily to join

Yours Faithfully & affly
E. Sterling Gunn

Lucie K. Kimbier

May 31st 1902

Mr. Geo. W. Wood,

My dear Mr. Wood,

I recd. today your letter of the 19th inst. informing me of the action of the Board of Managers on May 3rd amount my stipend and with yours came also a letter from the Rev. Mr. Kimbier on the same subject. From these letters I learn that the Board has kindly acted to save me personal embarrassment and yet what they have done is not to be considered other than a temporary provision.

If I am correct then I beg that you will read this letter in the light of my letter of May 20th to the Rev. Mr. Kimbier and from this you will

understand my position fully.

I feel that I am due the Board of Managers a full account of the congregation and prospects for work here that they may know how to act in the case.

The church at Ponce was built by a number of Protestants residing here, with no regard to their own special communion. It is a union of Methodists as well as communicants of the Church of England, about twenty eight years ago. It was consecrated by the Bp. of Antigua in the summer of 1874 and placed under his care. It was known throughout the island as the Protestant Church of Porto Rico and for years was the

only Protestant Church in all the Spanish possessions. Its privileges were however very limited under Spanish rule, the church bell was not allowed to be rung and at one time it was only kept in existence by flying the British flag over it, claiming it as a British possession. It was then supported by all who were Protestants or Protestant sympathizers and in a great measure this is true to day.

Our Vestry of six, is composed of one Lutheran (the Vice Consul of Norway and Sweden) one Lutheran (the Vice Consul of Holland) a communicant of the U. E. Church (the American Post Master) a Presbyterian residing here, our communicant of the church of England and the British

Vice Consul a non communicant.

The congregation is just about the same so far as churchmanship is concerned, by far the largest number are either communicants of some other church or non-communicants. The colored communicants are largely Moravians from the U. V. I. and a few Church of England adherents from the Island of St. Thomas.

There is the English speaking Church of Ponce, almost all the other Missionaries confine their work to the Spanish speaking people, hence we have gathered the few Americans who attend Church at all, of whatever Creed, and a part of the English speaking Negroes - the United Brethren have some English services and have gained many of the colored people

With such a ³ congregation the Vestry
are able to pay \$30 for. with towards
my house rent and the other current
expenses of the church which amounts
in all to between \$40 & \$50 for. month
but to do this they are taxed to their
utmost capacity.

The hope of our church here is
almost entirely in the line of
gaining adherents from the Spanish
speaking people as the foreigners
are entirely too transient to admit
of the hope that a permanent, self-
supporting congregation can ever be
built up by them. Other Protestant
bodies are at work and still others
doubtless will come and possibly
divide our present congregation.
What can be done among the natives remains
to be seen. So far the other Missions

have done nothing save among the very plain people from whom of course not much financial support can be obtained. I feel that on account of our position here we have a decided advantage for the Spanish work, but time, patience and continued support from home for many years will be absolutely necessary. To give you an idea of our position I am just this moment in receipt

of an official invitation from the Judge of the court to visit some poor criminals who are to be executed and I am the only Protestant Minister who has rec'd. such recognition - a little thing of course but straws show which way the wind blows.

I am aware of the fact that a man with a smaller & less expensive family would be more economical for our work. I am disappointed

I am also surprised to find that it is considered by those who have had experience that a return to the States at least once in two years is necessary to preserve one's health in this climate. Mr. Van Buren

thinks that a trip once each year is better and expressed to me his intention to have his men take such a vacation that often.

On this account also the size of my family complicates matters very much.

Had I known the full state of affairs before I came, the cost of living and the financial ability of this church I should never have

as well as the ⁴ Board, in finding
that the congregation can not do that
which I was told they would, but I
know that they cannot and what
they are doing is indeed
creditable when you know how
few of them are our own people.

But compared with the other
congregations here one are doing
very well indeed.

The Baptists, who are at an expense
in Power of not less than between
\$2500 and \$3000 - receive from their
congregation about \$18 or \$20 pr. month.
The United Brethren who have two
men at work receive about half
that amt. and the Disciples who
have two men and a woman at
work receive not over \$2 pr. month.

Both the Baptists and United Brethren
are now erecting brick church
buildings at a cost of about
\$1000 each, while the work of
our church is just where it
was three or four years ago save
the expenditure of a little more
than \$1000 on repairs just after
the cyclone.

So that our congregation, some members
of it at least are beginning to
wonder why the other denominations
are doing so much more at Parke
than we are.

My predecessor could live on that which
he recd. \$1200 + house rent because for
half of the time he was a
single man and the other
half he had only himself
and wife to support.

asked for the appointment. The
idea I had that a man who had
been some years engaged in Spanish
work would by his experience be
better fitted to begin the work
here and therefore justify the increased
expense of supporting a larger
family, I now see was an error,
and I fear that the amount
necessary to support me here
would scarcely be well spent.
The present congregation could be
fully as well ministered to by
a younger & less expensive man
and the future work among the
Spanish speaking people will
of necessity be slow & tedious and
should be undertaken by a man

with most of his life before
him in which to master the
language and use it with advantage
to the work before his responsibil-
ities gather as mine have done.
I am aware that the tendency of this
statement is to defeat my desire
to remain here but I cannot con-
scientiously accept the increased
appropriation without honestly
stating the facts in the case as
I clearly see them now and giving
the Board an opportunity to act
intelligently in the matter.
If with this information they are
willing to make permanent the
necessary provision for my support
I shall gladly remain & do all in

My power to fulfill the trust
committed to me. But in view
of these facts if the Board cannot
make the appropriation of \$125.
for month a permanent one I
trust they will take the matter
in hand promptly and advise me
that I may make my arrangements
accordingly. The house I now
occupy is leased in terms of six
months each and while my lease runs
till Aug 1st if I pass June 30th
without giving notice I shall be
bound for six months rent after
Aug 1st.

The appropriation already made,
which according to Mr Kimber
includes September, will enable
me to get along nicely until Oct 1st

And if I am notified in time, (by
June 30th) and the Board will allow
my expenses home, I will give
place to a younger & less expensive
man at that time.

You will, of course, see the necessity
of bringing this before^{the} Board at
their June meeting and of having an
clear & definite arrangement
made as possible.

Please pardon me for writing such
a long letter but I want to present
the situation as clearly as possible.

Hoping to hear from you soon
after the June meeting of the Board,

I am,
Christian
with best wishes &
love,

Yours Faithfully and affly,
E. Sterling Gumm.