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BAPTIST SPANISH PUBLISHING HOUSE

EDITORIAL MUNDO HISPANO • CENTRE DE PUBLICATIONS BAPTISTES
CARIB BAPTIST PUBLICATIONS • ÉDITIONS DU MONDE ÉVANGÉLIQUE FRANÇAIS

May 26, 1991

Mr. David Coleman, Director
Office of Development, FMB
P.O. Box 6767
Richmond, Va. 23230-0767

Dear David:

Last week Dr. Joe Poe asked me to get together some information for you to use in your column in the Commission and to be used by your office in its efforts to raise capital funds for the purchase of a press (a 1975 Miller TP 36 Two Color Press) that will replace a Miller sheet fed press that the BSPH purchased long ago and has used for 25 years. The old Miller press no longer has replacement parts for it. When there is a break down due to a worn out part, it is necessary to have a part especially made for it. This is very expensive and the down time is much longer. Also the Miller Company has no servicemen that are knowledgeable enough to help us with our repairs. Fortunately, one of our employees is able to help us with repairs because of his longevity on the job. Due to the age and obsolescence of this press, it is less effective than our newer Miller Press which is identical to the used press that we hope to buy. The press, auxiliary equipment and installation will cost approximately \$150,000.

The purchase of this press will allow the BSPH to produce with a tighter schedule which will insure that churches receive their literature on time in the countries where our missionaries are serving. When there is a delay in the production schedule, our costs may be increased because of the need to find a faster way to ship the literature so that it arrives on time. Therefore, this newer and more efficient press will help to reduce our costs and that will help permit pricing for our literature that our churches can bear.

The impact of BSPH materials on the mission field is enormous. We are shipping materials in Spanish to some 43 countries around the world (when our French and English publications are added, we ship to over 70 countries). Churches and schools depend on our publications for their programs of education which are so vital to church planting and church growth overseas:

Some of our publications seem to be larger than life. An example is the EXPOSITOR BIBLICO, our adult Sunday School publication. Last year we celebrated its centennial. For over 100 years now it has served as a "missionary" and has gone to many countries without the need of a passport or visa. Baptists in

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Guatemala, Colombia and Venezuela give testimony that the EXPOSITOR BIBLICO was a forerunner of Baptist beginnings in their country.

The EXPOSITOR BIBLICO has gone into jails to evangelize. For example, Guillermo Chacon left the prison "La Reforma" of Alajuela, Costa Rica. He had been a Roman Catholic priest of the Jesuit order but because of bad conduct he went to prison. A Christian witnessed to him and gave him a copy of the EXPOSITOR BIBLICO. With this adult Sunday School piece, Guillermo began to study the Bible and soon organized a group of prisoners for Bible study.

Mrs. Olivia Lerin knows well the story of Adolfo Alarcon Falcon who was in prison in the city of Penjamo, Mexico. One day he picked up a piece of paper that had been wadded up into a ball. Before he threw it into the garbage can, he opened it up and began to read the words that were printed there. It happened to be a page out of the EXPOSITOR BIBLICO and he was especially impacted by the words, "Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). Miraculously, the page Adolfo was reading also contained the Publishing House's mailing address and Mrs. Lerin's name. He immediately wrote to Mrs. Lerin, the Director of the EXPOSITOR BIBLICO at the time, and asked that she explain more about God. In the course of time not only was Adolfo converted but he helped others become believers in Christ also.

Luis E. Quilo, in his later years as a retired pastor from Guatemala, told of when he was a young man and his Sunday School teacher asked him to substitute for him one Sunday as teacher of the adult class. Luis said that this was his first contact with the EXPOSITOR BIBLICO. and today, Almost 50 years of Christian service later, he commented that this magazine had been his companion in ministry during all of those years.

The EXPOSITOR BIBLICO has served as a teacher. Don Kammerdeiner told of a visit he had with a pastor in South America. During that visit the pastor asked if Rev. Kammerdeiner wanted to see his library. He pulled back a curtain in the corner of the room and displayed a large number of copies of the EXPOSITOR BIBLICO. He had maintained an index of all the Biblical texts and in which issue the commentary could be found. The pastor said, "This is my commentary of the Bible. Here I find help to prepare my sermons." That pastor is only one of many who have filed the EXPOSITOR BIBLICO transforming it into a Biblical commentary.

Such a file helped Dr. Patterson discover the correct date of publication for the first issue of the EXPOSITOR BIBLICO. It had been thought that it was first published

in 1893. But in 1953 when Dr. Frank Patterson, then General Director of BSPH, made a two week preaching tour to Cuba, he had supper in the home of pastor M. A. Calleiro one evening after the church service. As they visited, the pastor presented him with a real treasure; the bound copies of the first fifteen months of the EXPOSITOR BIBLICO. The heading of the first issue carried the date of October 1890. Also on this page was a handwritten note that read in Spanish, "From October, 1890 to December, 1891. Property of D. A. Wilson". David Alexander Wilson was the first director of the EXPOSITOR BIBLICO. This collection is now kept in the J. Wilson Ross Library at the BSPH. An this is how it was discovered that the EXPOSITOR BIBLICO began, not in 1893 but in 1890.

In that first edition of the EXPOSITOR BIBLICO the purpose of the magazine was stated:

1. To awaken, in as many as possible, the desire to possess the Holy Bible and to comprehend the sublime truths that it contains.
2. To instil in everyone the highest respect for the sanctity and authority of this blessed book of God in such a way that they would accept it as the ultimate authority in all matters of faith.
3. To dispel the superstitious notion that only certain privileged persons should read the Word of God and that it was dangerous for others.
4. And finally, to assist in the intellectual development of all of those who sincerely desire to study the Word of God.

The BSPH has had the responsibility for publishing the EXPOSITOR BIBLICO since 1905 when the BSPH was founded by Dr. J. E. Davis in Toluca, Mexico and has been faithful to the above stated purpose. Our presses have been referred to as "iron preachers". The countless testimonies that have been received across the years make that designation self-evident.

In a sense our need for a replacement press is a need for a new recruit to replace a tired and worn out "iron preacher" who has done his work well but now must be retired.

I have spoken only of one publication while our catalogue carries over 2000 products. There are many other testimonies of how the products from the BSPH, a missionary institution related to the Foreign Mission Board of the SBC and supported by the generosity of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas offering, have changed lives. However, since needs are so great all over the world in so many crucial areas new sources of funds may need

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to be found to put this "iron preacher" on line. May God open the heart of the one he has chosen to meet this need.

Greetings from El Paso and may God bless you in your search.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse D. Bryan".

Dr. Jesse D. Bryan,
Director of Communications

cc Dr. Joe Poe

Dr. Roberto Garcia

Dr. Joe Bruce

Mrs Trudy English