

Davis, J. E. 15

S. T. Kelly

Oct First Baptist Church

Moberly, Missouri Nov. 12, 1904.

Dr. R. J. Willingham,
Richmond, Mo.

Dear Bro. - I venture to make a suggestion for your consideration in regard to Bro. J. E. Davis. I happen to be treasurer of our church and during ^{the} pastorate of Bro. Davis I was pretty close to him, and in his frank open way he told me all about his financial affairs. Together we planned and managed to pay off quite a bit of indebtedness, which he incurred during his college years and had been unable to pay any earlier. But when he left he still had 100 dollars borrowed on a life insurance policy which I was very anxious to see him able to redeem. Then you no doubt know of the expense necessary to such a move. With the help your Board gave, and the money received from the selling of part of their furniture and other possessions, they would have made

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it all right, I think, but for the unexpected detention and expense due to his wife's illness, and also the unexpected requirement of prepaying the freight on his household goods.

Since leaving Moberly he has done a good deal of hard work, but has turned everything into that printing press fund. After three weeks work in a meeting at Waldron, Ark., and helping to care for this wife at the same time, he declined remuneration for himself and took an offering for the printing outfit instead. He is now making a tour through Missouri preaching missionary sermons, and arousing much interest in Mexican missions, and receiving offerings from individuals for the press. Now, since he left Moberly he has had no income for himself and family, and what I suggest may be what you and your board have fully intended doing, - that is, that his salary begin from the time he would have

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been on the field but for the providential hindrance which befell them. And that the money paid on freight be made good as early as possible. My understanding being that the board bears the expense of removal.

Now this all seems so presumptuous that I hesitate to send it. Still, knowing Bro. Davis' circumstances so well, I venture to call attention to it, lest with the great amount of work on hand it might not be thought of.

We have not yet located his successor in the pastorate. We are praying that the right man may be sent us.

Respectfully yours,

S. T. Kelly. mod.