

Toluca Mex.

Dec. 14, 1905

Dear Bro. Willingham:-

1st. Next week, the Lord willing, we want to land in Leon. It is a big task to move and especially a printing.

2nd. As to the Book Agency, it ~~would~~ require some \$250 gold to put in the assortment of tracts, song books, &c. &c. which we should have to start with. I think now is your opportunity. May the Lord guide!

3^d "La Luz" is the only Baptist paper of importance we have in Mexico published by Rev. W. H. Sloan of Mex. City. He is going to suspend it now after 20 odd years of existence. I have before me a letter from him which is a reply to a letter I sent him making inquiry about the paper. I quote: "I am glad you think you can go ahead with La Luz, and will help you all I can. I have had from 350 to 400 paying subscribers and perhaps 50 exchanges." He goes to Aguascalientes to take up the work there. Now we can run it, I feel certain. He will give me his list of subscribers.

Don't you think we ought to assume so important an item in our work in Mexico? How does it appeal to you?

I give you an idea of costs. We would have to pay out \$120 for paper for a year's issues, 24 issues. and I would have to have an extra man which would cost me about \$10 per week. He, of course would be ready for any and all kinds of work. This would amount to \$600. The subscription price is 80 cents; (it should be \$1.00) yielding something like \$250, leaving \$350 to be provided in some way. If the Bd. could give us \$200 gold we could come out O.K. and you or we would then have the printing work in our hands. I believe we could make it a success.

Let me hear from you soon at Leon, Gto.

With much love,

I am fraternally yours

J. E. Davis

Leon, Gto.

Dec. 29th 1905

Dr. R. J. Willingham,

Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother:-

Your letter came yesterday and I will try to write you a word tonight. We left Toluca last Monday--Xmas day--and got here Wednesday morning, spending one day in Mexico City. I had business there and so attended to that as I came through. We had to wait a little for our household goods which arrived last night. We hope to be settled again soon and ready for work.

We are strangers here but we are thankful to be out of Toluca. We hope to get things moving a little here. This is a very hard field as you already know, but we are getting started well. Quite a number heard the gospel last night. True, they were not on the inside of the house, but they were listening and after the sermon we gave out about 50 tracts to those standing outside.

I have bought the other press and it is here now along with the entire printery. Hope to get in place next week.

I note what you say about La Luz and have nothing more to say. I thought it would be a grand thing but of course the money comes from you brethren in the States and I do not want anything that does not seem wise to the Brethren. I am of the opinion and that very strongly, that it is much better not to give money just because a brother wants it. There doubtless have been mistakes made already on account of hasty appropriations. I think I can detect that.

Hope you will get along all right and the brethren will do their duty all over the land and lift that debt.

As to the money for the Book depository, will get along with the \$100 Mexican for a while till we can see what we need. I do not want to dip in too deep anyway, so for the present will make this do. Probably next year, we can enlarge it and get it in better condition.

I must close. Wishing you a happy New Year, I remain

Yours lovingly,

J. E. Davis