

Leon, Gto., Mexico, Feb. 16th 1906

Dear Brother Willingham:-

Your note of inquiry came this morning and I will answer. The draft was for the \$100 silver for the Book Agency. In looking over your letters for the one authorizing this I came on to one of Dec. 22 which mentions it and so I looked no further as that will show you. I did not have the letter at hand when I drew the draft and so the omission. Hereafter I shall take pleasure in giving in full the object of the draft.

I have just returned from the Michoacán Association which met in Morelia. We had a good session. I had to preach and also lead the discussion of the question: Utility of religious literature. They all agree in saying that I am making good progress in acquiring the language. It is a slow process but I am now getting a right good start. I hope to master the language. I do not want to be satisfied with what some Americans in this country think is Spanish. It is to be my life-work and for this reason, I want to get a through knowledge of the language. While there I met all our brethren of the South except Dr. Hooker. He could not attend on account of the condition of his family, as I suppose you know.

I took the treasurer's books along and Bro. Mahon and I got the tangle out and tomorrow I will forward my report for six months. I am very thankful for your kindness in waiting on me, but there was no other way, for the mistake was in his checks and I did not want to pay out the deficit, but all is in good shape now, and hereafter you will receive my reports promptly, as I am going to keep everything in such a shape that I can make it out in a few minutes.

We are feeling encouraged in our work here. Our attendance is increased greatly and the interest awakened ~~in~~ better. We are planning to visit other places in our territory right away and investigate the conditions. We have many places in this State that ought to be worked. We visit Lagos in Jalisco State and Silao and Irapuato in this State of Guanajuato, but there are more than 1,000,000 people in my parish and we are going to try to get at more of them if possible. We are going to visit Celaya with about 20,000 and Querétaro the place where Maximilian lost his head, and San Miguel a town of more than 20,000 people where, so I am told, never have protestants tried to open work--any denomination. Then too there is Salamanca where two railroads cross with 10,000 inhabitants and the capital, Guanajuato where the people are liberal. Of course the Methodists have a work there but in my opinion that is not a good reason why we should keep out. I am a Baptist and I think we are under obligation to go, as Baptists, into every part with the pure and complete gospel. What say you? I have the largest field in the Republic and the easiest to reach, as all these places mentioned are on the railroad, but at the same time, I suppose there is no State in Mexico so fanatical and wicked as this. I do not say it because I am here, but the other brethren have told me this.

We are getting on nicely with our printery and soon I am going to send you an inventory of it and a report of our first year's work. I am now employing a helper who by the way is a Baptist preacher--he was at Chihuahua--and the plant is paying the bill. He is a good worker in and out of the printery.

But, for the present, I will not weary you. May the Lord lead and bless you and us all, is the prayer of your humble brother.

Love and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. E. Davis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the letter, below the closing text.

J. E. DAVIS,
REAL ESTATE, INSURANCE AND LOANS
306 TITLE GUARANTEE BLDG.
BELL PHONE 1021

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Feb., -16, 1906.

Dr. R. J. Willingham,

Richman Va.

My Dear Brother;

The situation is such in China, -particularly in the ~~FE~~ Province of Canton, as to cause some apprehension and alarm to myself and wife over the safety and wellbeing of our brother and sister - Rev- B. P. Roach and wife. Mrs. Roach is a sister of my wife - her only sister and dearly beloved, and while ofcourse we feel and know that you are fully alive to the situation and will do what is wisest and best under circumstances for thir protection and safety, yet my wife feels that some assurance of this from you, would be comforting and relieve the severe tension of alarm under which she suffers. We know that at Canton they will be accessible to foeigh-

war ships, and that some of our own are there all the time, so that in case of danger they could immediately go aboard of these and be protected. What do you think of the situation there in reference to them? It seems to us that our missionary interprises in China has received a serious setback, and that perhaps it may be impracticble to continue work there, except in a few large cities where there is ample protection by our government. Kindly give us all the information that may be in your possession in refence to the situation in general, and especially about our dear relatives, and the prospects of their continuing work there or elsewhere.

We are in deep sympathy with you in your great work, and pray that God will abundantly bless and reward you.

With best wishes and regards,

Sincerely Yours

J. E. Davis