

Leon, Gto., Mexico, April 17th 1907

Dr. R. J. Willingham,

Richmond, Va.

My Dear Brother:--

Have I not Scriptural warrant for importunity? I come again with reference to this business of going to the States to study medicine. I would not write again about it, but my investigations have led me step by step to certain conclusions that I want to put before you.

1. I find that if I resign here, Josué Valdez, my helper, will want to leave Leon. This is a hard place and he says that he does not feel equal to it alone.

2. I do not see where there is another man to take up this work at once.

3. We have a Baptist Medical College in Dallas, Texas, the term beginning October 1st and ending April 30th each year.

4. Dallas is not far away.

5. I could be on the field five months each year and get my medical work too.

6. If I should resign, where could I put my household goods? There is

no place to store them, and I would suffer a great hardship in this respect.

7. I am not only eager to get this preparation, but feel that I ought to do it. I am willing to sacrifice and so is my wife. It is not for me, but for the Cause I want to do it.

8. Now my suggestion is this: Let me go October 1st, on leave of absence till May 1st, at which time I will return here. Let Mrs. Davis and ~~the~~ the family have a three months vacation, to begin October 1st, they returning January 1st to Leon. Mrs. Davis can keep me posted and with my advice can see that things go forward--of course with the helper here. You pay her, but not me, during the time I am away.

In this way we can hold what we have here and I can get the preparation I feel is so greatly needed. In this way, we will be able to save our household goods and not burden the Board either. We can get in nearly a half year's work each year also.

I have a letter from a Brother, Rev. G. E. Benson, pastor at Savannah, Mo., who wants to go to Medical School with me, and at the same time learn Spanish and get a start for work in Mexico. He is a graduate of William Jewell and the Seminary, and is a fine man and would make a good missionary.

However he wants to get a Medical Education first. I hope to get him for work in Mexico.

We have bought from Rev. Sloan the entire edition of the translation of Pendleton's Compendium of Theology and have had it bound. There are 115 copies of it. It is a very valuable work for us in this country. If you have not a copy I should be glad to send you one to file away. We are today sending 100 copies of our translation of Immersion by Christian to the binders. It was printed in our own print shop here. We printed an edition of 500. Will send you a copy as soon as they get back. They are at work off the Short History of the Baptists now and hope to get it out by August 1st.

Our work here is still looking up. We have about 20 in Sunday School regularly, and quite a percent. are children. This we have never had here before, according to Dr. Hooker. We are doing a little good I think. But I am certain that with Medicine here, our field would be greatly widened. I hope that we can arrange this matter so I can get the preparation without having to sacrifice everything.

We are all well. Bro. and Sis. LeSueur will stop by on their way to Torreon. A telegram just received says they will get here tomorrow.

*Lovingly*

*J. E. Davis*

Leon, Gto, Mexico, April 28, 1907

Dr. R. J. Willingham,

Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother:-

I am praying that by the time you get this letter you may be greatly rejoiced in having reached the end of the year without debt. The brethren are able to do all that has been asked and then more twice over, but it seems that they have not felt the need of it. Oh, if they could see the needs of the fields they would realize that they should do more. May the great Teacher, the Holy Spirit, give them a vision of the world-field and its condition, is my prayer.

Now, referring to the matter we have had up before us for some time, will say that I have been thinking of this same solution of the problem, and most especially since matters have been developing here in a rather unexpected way. The Methodists have had a sort of medical mission work here for a good while and have reached a good many people. The wife of the missionary is a doctor, and she has had a sort of work that they have called medical mission work. They are going to the States in June and say that they will be gone a year, but they are selling off everything and we have little doubt from what has been transpiring that they are going for good. The man that they hope will come here cannot come till December, and will have to begin at the ground floor. Not that we want to take advantage of them, but that we have the opportunity, is the reason for referring to their work in this way.

Now we need a man--a medical man--to come here just as soon as he can get here. I would be glad if he could get here by the 1st of June, but if not by that time, for July or August. We could begin at once, as I could do the evangelistic work and he the doctoring. I like the idea and if you could do it, why not? In that case, he can begin at once,

with me to interpret for him, and we could get a big start before the methodist man can get here.

As soon as he can get the language well enough to run things then we could go some where ~~es/le~~ else if necessary. That could resolve itself later. Please give me the advantage of what you think on the subject. If there is some hope of arranging the matter thus, please let me know. As to the need of the physician in this field, representing the true religion there is no doubt. He could do more from the very start in getting the people to come where the Gospel is to be preached to them than I could possibly do. But, with the people at hand I confess that I would prefer to teach them the way of life, than to do the doctoring.

I am not yet fully resolved what I am to do. I think this would probably be the best solution of the question, but I do not know.

If there is strong probability of thus arranging, please hold my letter, and withhold from the Board, till a little later.

I will send you a copy of Compendio de Teología as also one of Inmersión, el Acto del Bautismo Crsitiano. Think it would be ~~no~~ nice for you to conserve them there for future reference. At leats I like the idea.

All well as usual. In case I do not go back to study medicine this Fall, will the Board grant my wife the privilege of making a short visit to her folks this Fall, say October? We have been here , or will have been here three years then, and I want her to take a little rest.

Fraternally and lovingly,

J. E. Davis