

A. E. Davis,
Leon, Gto., Mexico

Leon, Gto., Aug. 12th 1907

Dr. R. J. Willingham,

Richmond, Va.

My Dear Brother:--

Yesterday I sent you by registered mail the minutes of our Mission meeting. I registered the letter because I have had quite a number of letters ~~stolen~~ out and I find that I have to register everything of importance. This is a perpetual annoyance, but we have to take things as they come.

In the first place, I want to congratulate you on your voyage to the Orient. Of course it is a little early to do it, but as you are going I feel that it will be a great blessing to Missions in China and Japan. I feel that it will also be a great blessing to you who have labored so faithfully for so long a time without a single vacation. I wish you good health and in short God-speed. Hope that some day in the not far distant future you will make us a visit that will be for you a delightful trip as well as a blessing to us.

Now to the items of the Minutes that it falls to me to explain somewhat. I hope you will bear with me as I make my little speech.

1. You will note that I have been elected editor of all the S. S. literature and of a proposed paper, a weekly Baptist Newspaper for our work in Mexico. Hope this will not meet with your disapproval, for this is about the only thing aside from Medical Work that gives me the opportunity I want to reach the people. As it seems nearly impossible for me to take up the Medical Work, I want to dedicate myself to this literary work. There are several items that relate specially to this that I want to note:

(a). It was recommended that in view of this the following appropriations be made, which you will find included in the annual estimates

Granted?

for the Leon field and Printery. "For workmen, \$300 gold; for Expositor, \$200, and for the new Weekly, \$200." Now with this we can run the plant, getting out all the papers for the Spanish work. This you will see is the amount regularly appropriated for Expositor and Nuestros Niños, and with it we expect to increase the size of the Quarterly to at least 56 pages per Quarter, and make of Nuestros Niños a little Weekly on the order of Child's Gem of the Sunday School Board, something badly needed among us in our work. The same amount is asked for for the maintenance of a new paper. This matter has been on foot for a long time, as you know, and at last there is perfect unanimity. All those of the North were in favor of it this way last year, and now you will see that all of those of the South are in line. This paper is needed badly. The other denominations have their organs of communication, and we have none since the demise of La Luz, which will soon be two years. I feel that this is a move in the direction planned by our Great Convention at Richmond. It is "adelante", forward.

As to the \$300 gold asked for workmen: This will be but a part of the expense of running it, as I will have to employ a foreman and several typesetters, but with this amount to depend on, we can get the rest from subscriptions and outside work. This is what I asked for some time ago, but which I have heard nothing from as yet. I am anxious that this begin soon in accordance with the special petition sent in some time ago.

(b). As to the other item found in the regular estimates of \$600 Mexican for a helper here in Leon. Josué Valdez is in Panindícuaro which as you know is a part of this field. A new railroad is being built into that section and we have our eye on several points of importance where we have already begun work on a limited scale. He got tired here and so we transferred him temporarily, for the present at least, to that place. They have a fine work in that town; he reports 35 in S.S. last Sunday, and the preaching services very interesting, and quite a per cent. of the male members are in the United States temporarily.

But this leaves me here with the bag to hold. That would not be hard to do if it were not for all this extra work. Then another thing is that I will have to do as all the rest of the brethren do, and that is to submit my manuscripts to a Mexican for correction. I will need a man here after the work of editing falls so heavily on my shoulders. And the brethren all think the same way. So I have asked for \$600 per year for this.

(c). Now to things you will find apart from the regular estimates:

(1). As to the Commentary. You will find in my report as joint committeeman with Bro. Marrs of the North Mission, that we are moving forward with this project of issuing a Commentary on the New Testament. It is recommended that \$1000 Mexican be asked for to begin the printing of this work. It is thought that two volumes will likely be ready for the press during next year and we will need some money for this work. It will cost more at the beginning than later, as we expect to dispose of some of the books as we go along, thus giving us some returns, but for the first ones we will have to be at a dead expense without any income. You will note that the Committee of our Mission who reported on this report recommend the same. Please give this serious thought, as we have nothing in the Spanish in the way of a Commentary for our men—our workers. We have taken the initiative in this and we want to get out a good Commentary that will teach our doctrines clearly, though incidentally, and we will thus get this work into the hands of all the workers in all the denominations. We are of the opinion that it will be a great and lasting blessing to our work. We are looking to the future.

(2). A little further along you will find a Resolution which was unanimously and heartily adopted with reference to some immediate appropriations for the enlargement of the plant. Now we ask for a good cylinder press to enable us to do this work that it seems we should do. The reason why this should be attended to at once is that it will take

some months to get the press here as it comes from Conn. We buy it here in Mexico City, but at the factory. Sometimes they are three months behind with their orders there and so we need to buy, if at all, soon. We ought to have the press. All the other plants of the other denominations here have cylinder presses, of course this is really no argument that we should have one, if it were not essential to the welfare of our work. This is the one thing needed above all things else as it appears to me. I am praying that the Lord may guide the Brethren there to see it the same way if it is his will that we should develop a publishing business in this country.

The other items in the resolution are \$300 gold for type and other material necessary to run the enlarged plant. As also the expenses of freight and duty (which is practically nothing on printing machinery) and cost of installment.

(3). There is still one item more. That is with reference to buying property here in Leon. Now, I write to ask if you think the Board has any idea of buying here soon. Property is going up fast, faster, fastest. Rents also are soaring. Of course we have a contract that runs three years yet, but we can relinquish it at any time. The question is whether you think the Board would consider the matter. If so, then I will get figures and descriptions of desirable properties and submit them to your consideration.

Now I believe that is all the special matters that relate to my work. If you fail to understand anything in this connection, if you will write me asking for further explanation, I shall be glad to make it. Hoping that we are on the right track for the glory of our God in the furtherance of his Kingdom among men,

I am fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis