

"El Bautista,"
"El Expositor Bíblico,"
"Nuestros Niños;"
Libros
y Folletos Evangélicos.

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

J. E. Davis, Administrador,

Progreso Nos. 52 y 54. Apartado Postal No. 90.

Departamentos de
Imprenta, Rayados y
Encuadernación,
para trabajos del público.

León, Gto., Méx., Nov. 9th, 1912 de 191

Dr. R. J. Willingham,
Richmond, Va.

My Dear Brother:-

I received your kind letter yesterday, but was so busy that I could not answer it. Today I am sending a copy of the Articles of Agreement to Mr. Brewer, the Gen. Missionary of the New York Board, and have asked him to write me at his earliest convenience about this matter. I have also sent Bro. Cheavens a copy and am keeping one. Bro. C. has already written you and has sent me a copy of the petition he sent in. I think this is the best plan we can hit on at present. I am not of the opinion that we can revive the paper at present to any great extent, because the revolution has paralyzed our work in so many places. I think however this would be worth the trouble of trying, as at the present rate, the paper can not last longer than January, or I will be a nervous wreck. I have to do it all and all the rest. Of course Bro. Castillo helps me here, but his help does not take off a bit of responsibility, and that is what is killing me slowly. I can not do the work, and the other editors seem to be willing for me to go down with it on top of me. That is what it looks like as they do not even help, only criticize. I have sacrificed, and done all I know how to do for the Cause here, and have only multiplied my own labors and worries seemingly, as it appears that we are not getting any nearer the goal than before.

I think your Articles embody the principal matters, and heartily approve them, but do not think the N. Y. Board will assume half the expense of the paper. I have thought that it would be better for a good man to move to Guanajuato to open up the work there and edit the paper from there, they paying one fourth his salary, according to our amendment of the plan suggested--I mean the amendment adopted in our Mission Meeting. Or if you would not let us begin in Guanajuato--which is an open field at last--then that he live in Guadalajara, as pastor, and give half his time to this work. But García will not move down here, and furthermore, I would not want him in León, of course, Guanajuato is near by, and if he would come, that would do, but Bro. Cheavens says he will not do it, so that settles that. We had talked with Mr. Brewer about Sr. Uriegas, but he has not written me a word about the matter. I am waiting. Have written him two or three times. I rather suppose he is out on a trip, and will write when he returns.

I fear that the Bautista will go under, and this will be a shame. Well, I can say that I have never worked more conscientiously on anything in my life, and have carried burdens here in this plant to meet the great drain on our finances. The paper,

I mean the Bautista, costs some \$2.500 per year to publish. This with only about \$250.00 income from subscriptions, eats up more than all the appropriation the Board gives us for running expenses. We have to make the rest on the side, as well as for the books and tracts we publish. For this reason, unless something is done to make the paper worth more to our work than it is right now, I think it is money spent almost in vain, and in fact will be compelled to resign my position as Business Manager and Managing Editor. Then it will fall, as I am the only prop left for it, and can not be that prop much longer. I have prayed and wept over this thing, I can not feel that I am so much to blame in the matter. I have given blood for it, so to ~~pe~~ speak, and have come to the following conclusion: That unless something is done quickly, I will have to let it fall, though it would humble--I mean humiliate--excuse bad English, as we talk Spanish, and are forgetting our native tongue--me greatly. That we need a paper there is no question. But it will have to fall by January 1st, unless there is a relief force sent to my aid.

You see, I am discouraged today. I have spent much time and effort to make this thing go. I have laughed at criticism, when it was altogether unjust, and made use of it when it was just; I have published articles which I had worked on till midnight many a time; I have translated great sermons and other articles, some of which have been put into tract form, from such pens as those of Dr. Gambrel (hard work to translate his idiomatic English) Dr. Truett, of Dalas, Dr. Mullins, and many others, Dr. McArthur, Dr. Woodrow Wilson, our new President elect, and many others. I have set type when I ought to have been at something else, just to save money to publish what I had worked hard to write or translate. This has been put into the Bautista, and then they write me saying that they dont like it. Well, that is all right. They think they want an editor of their own race; that pleases me. I do not think the paper will be half as good, for I had one of the ablest men in the Republic with me, Mr. Buldain, and they did not like his work either--he is a Spaniard. But this much is sure, they will have a man of their own, and I am happy in that. I do not think he will last long either, for they are all that way--eager to begin, and quick to change. Thousands of papers are started in this Republic every year that suspend publication with the second or third number. But, I will feel that I have not failed entirely if only the paper can be carried on to more or less success. I have stayed through two revolutions, when others ran away, and have brought the paper out almost every week. There have been times when not a note from the field came in, yet we supplid all and went on. Now I can not take another step. I gladly pass the standard on to some one else. I pray that he may be able to do more.

Well, the way I go on scares me. I feel that a fever is on me. My nerves are doing overtime work. I must be careful.

You will please take this letter as my opinion of the present situation. In what I am to blame, dont hesitate to place the blame on me and not on any other. I have failed in my plans and dreams, especially of consolidation of the papers, but it may result all for the best in the end. I did what I thought I ought to do under the circumstances.

We are all well and at work as usual. We have a teacher for our children--the same one we had three years ago, and are well satisfied. She is a fine girl and a splendid teacher.

Our white chickens are doing fine. They are royal birds.
Fraternallly yours,

J. E. Davis

"El Bautista,"
"El Expositor Bíblico,"
"Nuestros Niños,"
Libros
y Folletos Evangélicos.

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

Departamentos de
Imprenta, Rayados y
Encuadernación,
para trabajos del público.

J. E. Davis, Administrador,

Progreso Nos. 52 y 54. Apartado Postal No. 90.

León, Gto., Méx., Nov. 21st, 1912 de 191

Dr. R. J. Willingham,

Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother:--

Your very kind letter came this morning. I thank you for your kind words. I should not have written you when in the state of mind I was in that day. I am feeling much better now, and am battling ahead, hoping to at least fulfill my duties to God and to man.

It is true that I have been trying to do too much, and do not see my way clear yet to "let up" a bit, but I am arranging to get things in a better condition, that is, arranged so I can have more time off from the hard work of this office.

I have had no office help for some time, but am about to get a young man to lift a lot of this work off my shoulders. Also I am arranging for a man with more experience than the boy I have to help me direct the work of the printery. With this matter off my hands I can oversee all better and get more time to take recreation. I love to work, but I can not stay all day in this office and keep my nerves just right.

As to the Bautista, I am writing the following proposition to the brethren:

That they take the paper off our hands and run it, or that they turn it over to us to run as we like. This is the real trouble. We can see alike as to the way the paper should be run, and so it has been neglected. I have plenty of young men that will help me make it go, but the policy of the paper must be changed. They can not take it over, so Mr. Brewer says; so if they will turn it over to us, we will make it for the next year, fortnightly, which will make the work lighter, and we can keep it up better I think, and make it a better success. We will put the paper at \$1.00 paid in advance, and the rest we can send out for propaganda. I feel that this will be the best way to arrange the matter. If they do not cede all (which is, really, nothing) then we can suspend it as you suggest. We are not doing the good we should with the paper as it now is, and unless we can make it reach the people more, it will be better to kill it January 1st. But I think we can make it go yet, putting it on a different basis.

I will keep you posted.

Bro. Castillo is a good man, an excellent man, and can help me a great deal, and will help when I get a young man here to read and correct proof. He has lots of this hum drum work to do, and that naturally keeps his mind off other work.

Was over at Guadalajara last Sunday. Preached to good congregations. Neala and wife are doing good work. Came home Monday

and Tuesday night a train on that line was assaulted by the rebels and several killed. It is rather dangerous to travel these days down here in these parts. We all stay at home as much as possible, but I had to go over there on Committee work for the Mission.

Yes, it is a great pleasure to have a few chickens to look after though I do not have much time for them. Am glad your boy has some fine ones. We have the White and Buff Rocks. Have raised several this year. They are now about 8 months old, and beginning to lay, except the roosters, of course. Well, we had been waiting for three fine young roosters that we saved for breeding purposes to begin crowing. Well, the day after Wilson was elected they began, that is, two of them, and when they found out they could crow, they just celebrated the victory to a finish. Of course it is needless to say they have been at it ever since.

I am taking up too much of your time as well as mine, so I will close. May the Lord bless you in your work.

I am fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother:--

Your very kind letter came this morning. I thank you for your kind words. I should not have written you when in the state of mind I was in that day. I am feeling much better now, and am battling ahead, hoping to at least fulfill my duties to God and to man.

It is true that I have been trying to do too much, and do not see my way clear yet to "let up" a bit, but I am arranging to get things in a better condition, that is, arranged so I can have more time off from the hard work of this office.

I have had no office help for some time, but am about to get a young man to lift a lot of this work off my shoulders. Also I am arranging for a man with more experience than the boy I have to help me direct the work of the printers. With this matter off my hands I can oversee all better and get more time to take recreation. I love to work, but I can not stay all day in this office and keep my nerves just right.

As to the Baptists, I am writing the following proposition to the brethren:

That they take the paper off our hands and run it, or that they turn it over to us to run as we like. This is the real trouble. We can see alike as to the way the paper should be run, and so it has been neglected. I have plenty of young men that will help me make it go, but the policy of the paper must be changed. They can not take it over, so Mr. Brewster says; so if they will turn it over to us, we will make it for the next year, fortnightly, which will make the work lighter, and we can keep it up better I think, and make it a better success. We will put the paper at \$1.00 paid in advance, and the rest we can send out for propaganda. I feel that this will be the best way to arrange the matter. If they do not concede all (which is, really, nothing) then we can suspend it as you suggest. We are not doing the good we should with the paper as it now is, and unless we can make it reach the people more, it will be better to kill it January 1st. But I think we can make it go yet, putting it on a different basis.

I will keep you posted.

Bro. Castillo is a good man, an excellent man, and can help me a great deal, and will help when I get a young man here to read and correct proof. He has lots of this hum drum work to do, and that naturally keeps his mind off other work. Was over at Goodale's last Sunday. Preached to good congregations. Neely and wife are doing good work. Came home Monday