

Teléfono Guanajuato 107.

Apartado Postal 90.

- Imprenta

Calleres
de Imprenta,
Encuadernación y Ba-
gados. - Especiali-
dad en trabajos
finos.

Americana

León, Guanajuato.

León, Gto., Aug. 12, 1913.

Dr. W. J. Willingham,

Richmond, Va.

My dear Brother:--

Yours of July 26th to hand and I will try to answer immediately, so the letter can get off on the next boat, which sails from Veracruz Thursday afternoon.

I also have a letter from Dr. Kelly which came in the same mail with yours.

I am somewhat at a loss to express myself under the circumstances. I fear that you may think that I am back of this. The facts in the case are simply these. After coming home and talking with Mrs. Davis, who by the way, is a stayer, revolution or no revolution, we decided to try to get a furlough for next year, beginning with September of this year. I wrote Bro. Neal to see if he might not consider the matter of coming here and taking charge of the plant for a year, but he answered very frankly that he had no desire to take anybody's work for a year and that he wanted a work of his own.

We had written to friends in Mexico City about the school there and found out that it was to begin July 1st, so we had very little time to think the matter over. We decided that for this year at least it would be best for the family to go there and I stay here to see that this work was kept up. They went, as you

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already know. And the children are there in the American School, which by the way seems to be a right good school. My daughter entered the High School.

My good friend Dr. Kelly always has to be written to and told everything, so I wrote him a private letter in which I told him how we were trying to do, but that we were greatly handicapped on account the increased expense we were to. I wrote him rather minutely, I suppose, and perhaps a bit discouragingly at the time. He writes me that he took the matter up with you and that you had written me. I have as I said before both letters in the same mail.

Now, as you ask me to write about this matter, I am going to make it as clear as possible to you.

I had a little money saved up as you know and it occurred to me to build a house out in the Park. This I did with the money I had saved up and what I could get hold of advantageously. We got the house up and in shape so that we could live in it comfortably. That was at the beginning of the trouble down here. I went in debt for the land--had three years to pay for it. Had to borrow other amounts, and in short had to leave many things undone about the place so as not to get in debt so far that I could never get out.

Well, the cost of living went up and up and on up, till we finally got to the point that it took all to live on, and we do not live high. Now that I have to do something for my family in the way of educating them, and we have to be separated and keep up two ranches, so to speak, we find that we are going to get more and more behind. We have rent, ^{to pay} in the City which is high, and two living expenses.

I dedicate all my time to the work entrusted to me. I give this work of publications my very best attention and I feel that

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it was the Lord's leading that put me here, so I have no time for anything on the side. We were and are happy in the work, and even though it is discouraging now, yet after all, we are printing right now for the 4th Quarter 2600 copies of El Expositor Bíblico, which is an increase of exactly 100 % since we took over the editing and publishing of same. El Bautista is the hardest hit, though there will be a place for it yet.

You suggest that I present some special object which has been pressing on me, but I feel a delicacy in doing this, as I am not a ^{*}beggar ~~and~~ never have been, and I hate to say that I need so much for this or that object. To be very frank, and I want you to understand me in the same spirit that I make the criticism, I can't see why a man who gives his whole life and life's blood to the work has to have the same salary as one that puts in his time doing as little as he possible, ^{can} just so as to keep up appearances. I do not say that this is the case with any certain one, but I have no time of my own and not even have time for recreation. This I do for the Cause, and do it cheer-fully and repeat that I am happy in my work, but it seems to me that a missionary that can command a salary of \$2000 or more at home should have a better salary than a man who can not command more than \$1000 at home. But I know your rules, and of course am not warring against them. What I would ask for, were it consistent with the rules of the Board, would be a salary

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* This phrase sounds a little harsh, but I was writing on the machine and it was not intended to be that way. I am at stand with this explanation.
J.E.D.

equal to that paid other missionaries of other denominations and those of the other Boards of our own. Mr. Brewer gets \$1800.00 and all traveling expenses whether personal or for the work, when he goes back there--which he does every year--all expenses paid and not a word, as I understand it. He is furnished a nice house to live in also.

Now dont think that I am complaining. I was not even intending to ask the Board for a cent unless I found that I could not possible get along without it. These are merely personal opinions that I have. Whether you can grant me anything or not, I am going to try to stick to my bush.

I also want to say that the Board has ever been kind and considerate with me. In fact I remember when you wrote me after I had been in the Sanitarium and had been at great expense, and how you sent me a draft for those expenses. And too I remember how that help filled my heart with joy and thankfulness to the Lord, as I had been wondering how I was to meet my debts, etc.

This is how matters stand. If the Board desires to help, and I know you do desire to help your missionaries, and do help them in many ways, I shall appreciate the help. If there is no way, then I shall do my very best.

If you do help me and send me any money, please send it direct as I think it would work better than to send it through the Treasurer of the Mission. But that you can decide for the best interests of the Cause.

I want to go down to the City next Saturday to see how the folks are getting along. I get rates on the Ry. and travel very economically. We run an "ad" for the Ry. Co. and get our fare at one third regular rate, or 1 cent Kilometer.

If this letter is long, it is because I wanted to make a clear statement of the matter.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

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

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

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

J. E. Davis, Administrador,

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

León, Gto., Méx., Aug. 30th, 1913. de 191

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

My Dear Brother:-

Your letter came to hand a few days since, and I have been intending to answer but just put it off for a more convenient time. We have been right busy getting out El Expositor for the last Quarter of the year, and that is one reason why I have delayed a few days.

Now, I appreciate the fact that it is rather hard to decide just what should be done under the circumstances, and we here have a harder time sometimes than you up there. We have our plans and our interests here, and for that reason we hang on sometimes perhaps when it would be more prudent to give up and leave.

I have considered the matter carefully and have decided that I can not leave the work on account of scare-head news-paper reports. I do not think there is much likelihood of intervention, and so I think it is my duty to work on here till there is absolute need of getting out. Here I have many friends who counsel me not to go, and I feel that their counsel is good. When there is real danger, then I think I shall go, but not till then. This is one of the most fanatical places in the country, yet one of the most pacific, strange to say. I do not feel in any danger now.

Then too we have several men employed here and they would soon have absolutely nothing to do if I were not here to make plans. I would rather close up shop, almost, than to leave it for much time at the disposal, or rather, under the direction of these men. They are honest men, but would not know how to make things move, and so everything would be lost, except of course the property and stock we have. They could see that it remained where it is, but to get out the papers and other literature they would make an utter failure out of it, I fear.

My family is in Mexico City. The children are doing well in the American school there. I do not want them to lose time and also I do not want them so far away from me as the U.S. as that is a long, long way when there are no trains. So, for the present at least we will remain where we are, but if we should see there was real danger, then rest assured we would get away as quickly as possible.

I rather think matters are righting themselves slightly. Of course, I don't know whether this government can maintain itself even after whipping the rebels, but one thing sure, it is better than what we had before. I do not take sides in the present controversy between U.S. and Mexico, but one thing is sure and that we prefer even Huerta to what we had under Madero. True, from a humane standpoint, this people have a curious idea, and that is, that it is necessary to exterminate the enemy, and as the enemy has the same idea, you see that it is really necessary, unless they could be induced to see matters from a different standpoint.

Oh, that this people could get the true Gospel idea into their hearts and heads! They fight like they live, without any great degree of constancy, with ideas badly perverted, they are unpatriotic, even though they think they are patriots. They do not call robbing by its real name if they are the parties that get the rake-off. The other fellow always is a robber, but put almost any of them in the same situation and he would do the same thing.

God send the light! Only the Gospel light will change the benighted heart. And Romanism has left a blight on the people that it has cursed, as great and terrible as paganism has, I think. In fact, what is more dangerous to a people than a form of religion without the spirit?

Oh, well, let us hope that even in all this our God is opening a door for us to enter. Of better said, perhaps, is making the wrath of man to praise him. God grant it may be so.

The news of the last few days puts a fellow on a strain I can tell you, but we are trusting in our God, and believe He will help us. Then, if perchance something were to befall us, how much better it would be to go to Heaven right straight from one's post of duty, than to go in a shipwreck or train collision, running away from danger!

Write me from time to time. We need encouragement. I fear that were it not for the good people back at home, we would have quit long ago.

We are beginning today on the Gospel of Matthew in the Nuevo Pacto, that is, the Bible Unión Version, and we hope to continue till at last we have the whole New Testament printed, here in our plant. It is too bad that we are not better equipped so as to make plates of this edition at once, but as we can not, and as we must be doing something, we will do the best we can and let the rest come on afterwards. We are going to make 2000 copies of the whole book, and then several thousand extra as portions, especially of the Gospels and perhaps Acts.

We have no business now. All sources of revenue are cut off, as now the brethren do not even buy a book, and the papers are not paid as they should be, so we are going to come out short, unless there is a turn in matters. Of course, I do not mean in reality short, but as we have to pay out bills, and counted on sales to help us do it, probably we will have to ask for a lift toward the end of the year to help us keep our credit right in Mexico City. Will let you know when I know better what we will likely need, if we at last have to call for help at all. I don't like to do it, and won't if I can help it.

Now, why would it not be a good thing to avoid delay and apparent bad management to ask for an appropriation for the New Testament? The paper for the edition cost us \$5.00 Mexican and of course the work will cost as much more, but say we ask for \$400.00 gold for this edition, do you think there would be likelihood of the Board's granting it. That would help us to that point that we would not have to cry revolution and want of funds on that account. Let me know what you think about it, and I will try to act accordingly.

Am well, and have some of the finest chickens you ever heard tell of. Sold three this morning for \$17.50, small ones. Have a trio that I ask \$50.00 for. I may not get it, but in that case I will keep it. Have others just as fine that I have not put a price on. Plenty of little fellows also at \$1.00 per.

Well, I must close. May the Lord lead us all. Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis