

December 11, 1914

Rev. J. E. Davis,

Leon, Mexico.

Dear Brother Davis:-

Yours of November 10th at hand.

I am really very much at a loss to know what to say to you about your becoming pastor of the church at Moberly, Mo. Of course, I realize that your work is very difficult now in Mexico and is reduced to the minimum. The situation is more chaotic now, probably, than it has been for some time. If we were sure that it was to be as chaotic during another year, the answer would be easy, which would be, "accept the call to Moberly."

On the other hand, if things should clear up within a year, we should need you very desperately in the work in the Mexican field. Our earnest wish is that you will not become so entangled in your alliance with any church that you would not be free to return to Leon on short notice. Couldn't you accept the call under an agreement similar to that between Brother Mahon and the church at Lake Charles, La? That is to say, accept as temporary supply, with the understanding that you could leave for your Mexican field on a very short notice. Wouldn't it be better for you to accept the call of the church, ^{as} not pastor, but as permanent supply? Of course, you, in your ministrations, would labor as a pastor, but there would be a difference in the agreement.

Sheet # 2

--J. E. D--

I would say that we feel that when things do clear up in Mexico, we must have you back on the job, and we should be very much grieved to discover that you had become so deeply rooted in a pastorate that you could not return promptly to your work in Mexico. You seem to have the genius for making the Publishing House go, and any other man would be an experiment.

So, my final word would be, "If you feel that you must accept the call to Moberly, accept it as a permanent supply, with the understanding that you would not stay more than a year and with the understanding that you could return to your work on very short notice. I think such an agreement would be best for the church and also make it easier for you to hold clear and distinct your call as a missionary to Mexico. A man's attitude of mind has a vast deal to do with his actions.

I am not putting this matter before the Board, for the reason that it will be a month now before the Board meets again and also because the Board has left it for each missionary to determine when he should get out of Mexico. The situation has been so unsettled that we have felt that the missionary, alone, could judge about his movements. Down deep in my heart, I wish you could stay on in your work, but I feel that I must leave ^{it} to you to decide this matter through prayer in the light of all the facts before you. I pray that you may be conscious of the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

C ordially yours,

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

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

J. E. DAVIS, Admor.

Progreso Núms. 52 y 54.

Apartado Postal Núm. 90.

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

León, Gto., Méx., Dec. 20th, 1914

Rev. T. B. Ray,
Richmond, Va.

My Dear Brother:--

Long did I wait for the reply to my letter of Nov. 20th, and at last--yesterday evening--I received yours of Dec. 11th. This date explains the delay. I was afraid my letter had been caught in the landslide, and now I am sure that it did get caught.

Well, I would not accept the call of the Moberly church without knowing your feelings in the matter, and that was one of the things that helped me to decide what to do. I suppose it must have been Providential, I am not sure. Then, besides that, Neal, who is the only man down here that could take charge of the Plant at the present, bucked up as he does not seem to want any provisional or supply jobs.

Besides all this, I was in such trouble about what to do, that it finally became almost unbearable. In prayer the Lord seemed to make my duty clear to me. I have never been a Demas, and am not willing to become one at my age. The Lord has made me see again and perhaps more clearly than ever before that He is able to take care of me and mine, that He has a work for me to do here in México, and that it is not the time for me to even think of taking a vacation, however much I should like to. You know I have been here ten years and have never had a real vacation, not even the pleasure of taking my family over to some pleasant place here in the country to spend a week with no cares on me. I have never been away from this plant when I could feel that things would move along as they should. In short, I have never had the backing and support that the work I try to do demands. But if the Lord can use a dull tool, here I am at his disposal.

I answered the church more than a week ago and gave them my reasons for not accepting the call. There is no use writing them here, as the principal one is that the Lord has been leading me--however the church up there thinks He was leading them also, and perhaps He was, as I really needed some encouragement, and it is a real pleasure to think that a church of some 1000 members of which I was pastor when I was appointed to Mexico should give me a spontaneous and unanimous call to return to be its pastor. I hate to disappoint them, but they can get some one else.

On the other hand, what am I to do with my family? If I did not love my family it would not make so much difference, but it is a real cross to be separated from them. Think of it! For almost a month we were separated without being able to communicate one with the other. War here and then war there. Railways cut and bridges blown up and telegraph wires down. No, I assure you the glamour of missionary life has all worn away. It is real hardship now. But THE WILL OF THE LORD BE DONE! We need the live coal from off the altar applied to our lips once in a while. Then we can see and speak. "Here am I, send me, send me!" And then comes the joy midst difficulties. Then is when the secret, hidden wells of refreshing, healing waters overflow; and the rebellious heart becomes submissive.

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--T.B.R.--

Now, I am going to go right ahead and am not going to balk any more. I am getting matters arranged so as to have a little more freedom. I declare it is not right to be a perfect slave, as I have been for a long time, and I am trying to get things arranged better. We have been so limited that I have had to save the money to print the large editions--for us, they are large--of books and tracts we have gotten out during the years. You will see that it is a small amount of money that we ask for from the Board to run the plant with. Now I feel that we can do better, though I am not sure, but I trust in the Lord and go forward.

Now I come to another matter. We need another press. There is one in the City that was bought by some concern and the very first edition of their paper was suppressed by the Government, and the National Paper and Type Co., who favor us always, has it. Mr. Jacobs the representative of said Co. offered it to me for \$950 gold--it costs \$1080 at the factory in Conn., E.U.A.--and so I put at him to make us an offering, a contribution, and he offers to give me \$50 gold on the press. Now, what I ask for is this: Give me \$1000 gold of the Judson Memorial Fund, so we can take this press and get fixtures and ~~etc~~ set it up here along side of our other one, which is just exactly like it in every respect--same make, and all.

We need this press very much. We cant do the work on the one we have, I mean all that there is to do. This will help get things in shape for the fusion, or joint management of the plant, I think. If I am wanted to stay with the business it will have to stay here, as I can not live in Mexico City. This seems to me to be the place for it any way. But of course those are details to be worked out.

I beg of you to let me have \$1000 of the amount settled on for this plant. I ask for no more just now ~~on~~ conditions in the country do not justify it, but this amount I do need, and must have if possible. If I make all the sacrifice I do make for this Cause, it is only just that the brethren back me up in it as far as they can. I ask only a modest amount now and that for a specific purpose, and at a big saving of money. Will the brethren hold the rope while I go down? In fact I am already down and have the sword unsheathed, so will you give me the word of encouragement I need just at this point? Never have Mexicans wanted literature more than now. They read everything the can get hold of. Tell me as soon as possible what to do, so I can give my answer to the Co. I feel almost tempted to buy it any way, but am a little afraid, as I want to keep this plant out of debt.

I am well and at work. Hard at work. May the Lord bless you and the brethren of the Board. Pray for us.

Yours fraternally,

J. E. Davis