

February 6, 1915

Rev. J.E.Davis,
Leon, Mexico.

Dear Brother Davis:-

I am enclosing you a copy of the Tentative Articles of Agreement on the Publication work in Mexico, which Brother Brewer and I have drawn up. I am sending these Articles to the Committeemen upon the Publication work, appointed by our Conference in San Antonio. You are one of the members of this Committee, as you will recall.

Any suggestions and amendments you have to make, I shall be glad to get at your early convenience. Let us pray that God's blessing may be upon the new line of endeavor that seems to be opening up before us.

Cordially yours,

Foreign Sec'y.

February 13, 1915

Rev. J. E. Davis,

Leon, Mexico.

Dear Brother Davis:-

Yours of January 20th at hand.

I am sorry to say it, but the paragraph in which you discuss the amount you desire us to allow you extra for rent is not quite clear to me. Suppose you drop the terminology of Mexican and talk only in Gold, and tell me how much you think we should add to your rent account. We now have the Appropriation fixed at twenty dollars a month (gold). How much more do you want in gold? If you will write me on this point again, I shall be much obliged, and I am sure that the Board will consider sympathetically whatever you have to say. I am sorry to cause this delay, but you can make the thing retro active, and, therefore, you will not lose on account of the delay.

Concerning the rent for the new pastor, you intimate that you can take care of this rent item out of the Appropriation already made. If you can do this, you are hereby given the liberty to make a transfer of such moneys as will take care of this item. You say it will amount to about \$126 (Mexican) per month.

I am sorry to hear that you are cut off again from your family. It certainly must be very trying to all of you. May God give you Grace and protection.

I wonder if, taking into consideration the fact that you have to educate your children, the removal of the Publishing

--J. E. D--

House to Mexico would not be a God-send to all of you.

I think I omitted to say in my last letter, when I wrote to you about the Constitution of the Publishing House, that the Northern Board is ready to begin April first paying half the expenses of the Publishing House. They are willing to do this, even to the paying of half your salary, because they say it is nothing more than fair for them to incur half the expenses of the Plant.

With best wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Foreign Sec'y.

"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., Feb. 13th, 1915

Dr. T. B. Ray,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother:--

Some time since I wrote you, but I think that the letter remained here in this office--Post Office--for about a month. Just about that time, we were cut off from everywhere, and were in that box for almost a month. We are still cut off from the City of Mexico, and chances are good for that condition to continue for some time to come. They are fighting between here and there.

I have no word from my family for that length of time. I was in hopes that some way might be opened up to hear from them, or get to them, but my work here is important and I have not been able to leave it, as Sr. Castillo went to the City on a two weeks vacation and was caught there, so I have several mens work to carry and it is important that I hang on. Otherwise I would run the gauntlet and get through to my family. I feel that they are perfectly safe.

I have been cut off from the Traasurer, Bro. Neal, but have been managing one way and another. I have to pay the men over on this side also as one of them has telephoned me that he is without money and has to have the money for the rent also. I told him that I would see how I could get money and send it to him. I have been taking from the income of ~~the~~ this plant, to replace of course as soon as Neal can get some drafts to me.

I am sending, by order of the Agent ~~on~~ Mexico City, Mr. Jacobs, a draft for \$900 ~~on~~ the L. C. you sent me for \$1000, (It is No. 1770) to the New York House of the National Paper and Type Co. to pay for the press. ~~There~~ has been a little misunderstanding between us, and so I do not know just what will have to pay for the press, though I am sure that Mr. Jacobs will remember that he offered it to me for \$950 and then offered to make a donation of \$50 toward the buying of the press. I will find out as soon as we are communicated again, and will write you fully about the matter.

I hold the L.C. yet, as it is for \$1000, and will have to wait to get in touch with Mr. Jacobs before I can close the business up.

You should hear the good things they ~~had~~ to say about you and the way you ~~trated~~ your missionaries. I was proud to send Mr. Jacobs, who is a very ~~particular~~ friend of mine, your letter, and then he turned it over to my wife to save for me.

We do not know when we will be able to get the press here, but hope to some day. Right now we do not need it, as we are running short of paper. I have ordered some paper from the U.S. and hope to hold things together till it gets here.

Well, this is great down here. It seems to me that something will have to be done to get these people in line. Oh, well, let that go. It is not our business, and surely the Lord is going to work out His own will in this land.

Nothing else for the present. Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

Departamentos de

Imprenta,

Rayados y Encuadernación

para

trabajos del público.

"El Bautista,"
"El Expositor Bíblico,"

"Nuestros Niños,"

Libros

y Folletos Evangélicos.

J. E. DAVIS, Admor.

Progreso Núms. 52 y 54. Apartado Postal Núm. 90.

León, Gto., Méx., 2/22/15

Rev. T. B. Ray,

Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother:--

Yours of the 13th came today. Sorry that you had to ask for explanations, but it is not to be wondered at, as things are in such a chaotic state down here, that we ourselves hardly know what to do or how to understand money matters.

But as to the matter of the rent. My! if I were receiving the \$20 gold per month, I would not ask for a cent of rent money. That would be a lot in Mexican now, much more than I asked for. I asked for a very small amount. I was receiving \$40 Mexican all along till January, and have not had anything for that month nor this, as I have been cut off entirely from the Treasurer, but will get it some time perhaps. That would be the amount of less than \$5 gold per month as exchange is now. I have not received more for rent at any time. Please bear that in mind. I do not ask for more in gold. I asked for much less. What I wanted was \$75 Mex. for a house in the city. We have been paying the extra rent all the time down there, as I hate to ask for extra money for myself and family. But it may be that I will want more as I presume that rent is evidently going to be more down there, as that is what has happened here, but it will not be \$20 gold: So if you authorize me to use more, so as not to exceed \$20 gold, why as long as the exchange is as it is now and as it is likely to be for some time to come, I have nothing else to ask. It will cover any increase in rent that we might have to pay.

Also you are mistaken about the rent I ask for Flores. It is but \$12 Mexican per month that we want here, or perhaps a little more. The house question is rather difficult right now, but as long as exchange is favorable I can use this amount from other appropriations, such as the appropriation for rent in Guanajuato. That is more than we are using right now, and I can find the way, say in the appropriation of the salary of men, which we have not had to increase in proportion with the increase in exchange.

We have some good indications of a revival spirit here in this old fanatical town. I think people are thinking as never before.

Listen to this. I was talking the other day about what we suffered in the sacking of this town Aug. 1st. A person who has always been an ardent Catholic, said that it was because God did not want this house destroyed, that He was with us. I invited that person to church, and yesterday morning what was my surprise to see him march right in to Sunday School. I made hay while the sun shone, and used the punishment of the three priests, Eli, and his sons, Eli because he was neglectful of his duty, and the others because they were bad ones. Then the application. Might it not be that God was punishing Mexico? Where were the priests? Some were bad, as I had been told by Catholics, I said. Others might be better, but they were not doing their duty, for they had been negligent about preaching the Word of God. I watched the effect on that person, and it was good. I asked: Where are the Bishops? If they were the real Pastors of the people, why did they run away like hirelings? The wolf had come, and they being hirelings had all run

off to Cuba and other places, leaving the sheep to wander and die, etc. It was accepted. He said he was pleased and would come back. Others will come. This afternoon, a well educated merchant came here to talk with me. I asked him why he did not come to church some time. He said he would if I would invite him. I told him he was invited, and he said he would come next Sunday sure, as he probably could not get off Wednesday night. He was seven years in the Catholic Seminary, and left them disgusted, but never abandoned the faith. We have talked before, and he steadily affirmed that he was a Catholic but could not believe all that they teach. He subscribed for our paper, and is reading it. He will come with us, I feel sure.

I have not been so hopeful for León in all the nine years that I have been here. We are going to work the field more. The trouble is, I am so busy with the field--no, I should have written, the plant, the Publishing House--that I cant get out much to wrk the field. *Wish Benson were here now.*

Have not been able to get replies from all the fields: so as to send a report, but will ~~try~~ to get off something soon.

No, my brother, I can not approve the removal of the plant to the City and the reasons I will give in a letter apart from this. I hope and pray that my reasons will have weight with you and the Board, as I feel that it will be wrong and perhaps the ruin of the work. I do not want the machinery of the only work that I have been able to plant, to take up all the means that should be used to put out literature. I will show you this in the letter that I will write you carefully tomorrow. Then, too, I can not live in Mexico, and if you and the Northern Board want me to continue at the head of the plant, or a department of it, --which I may be pardoned for saying, it seems to be my God called work in this land--then that plant should not be taken there. I assure you that I would resign immediately ^{as manager} as I can not live in that altitude and work. I might live there and ride around and take things easy, BUT I AM NOT BUILT THAT WAY. I CAN NOT LIVE THAT WAY. I HAVE TO WORK AND THAT HARD OR I AM NOT HAPPY, and so it would be absolutely impossible for me to think that it might be a God-send to us.

My children will have to go to the States now right soon, as the school in the City is not good enough for them. It has been all right so far, but my family will have to go to El Paso, or San Antonio perhaps for next year, and if not then, why the following year, so it would not be worth thinking about. No, please hear me, I feel that you must hear me. Read prayerfully and carefully my reasons that I give why the plant should remain here. It surely will not fail to interest you. I did not answer your letter when it came for I have been praying and studying the question. I feel that the plant must not be taken away from here to the City. If I could see it that way, I would be glad, but it is impossible.

I am getting next to the Government. The State capital has been moved here. I was to see the Governor, a General of the Revolution, and invited him to the service. He was very nice. We have the only plant here now that has any paper, and we are running low on some kinds. *We do all the work for the Government.*

Well, I will finish this letter in the morning, as I have an appointment now in a few minutes, and will have to suspend.

Later. I would be willing to be a neutral missionary, that is, receive my salary half from one Board and half from the other, but I assure you that you should get together and pay me a better salary. Now, that may not sound good to you, but it is a shame for other business concerns to know what I get as a salary, but they ask me right out and I have to tell them the truth. I have more work ten times over to do than the Mgr. of the Electric Light plant here, and his people pay him \$400 gold salary. His family is smaller than mine. They furnish him an auto--it is not in commission right now, as the revolution has put out of commission most of them--and give him many other privileges. His education cost him less than mine did me. Now, I do not kick. I am not a beggar. I only think that a man that WORKS--SLAVES for the Cause should have a salary in accordance with his work. The Northern Board pays its General Missionary a much larger salary than I get, and he ~~rides around and goes to bed~~

"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.,

2

rides around and goes to the States every little while at the expense of the Board, etc. I do not ask so much. All I want is justice, nothing more.

Then too, it should be understood that I can not be under any general missionary. Mr. Brewer can not exercise his authority over me. I am a bishop in the Church of the Savior. He is nothing more. I would want it distinctly understood.

Many of the points in the agreement are good. You will see that I sanction some of them. Look the matter squarely in the face, and remember that I have nothing at stake. It is ~~the~~ Cause of our dear Savior, who has revealed Himself to me more and more. Oh, how His face has come to be dearer and dearer in these trials, in these hours of lonely waiting and of sad separation from all that I love, except His Cause, which I love more than anything else. His presence has never been more real. His help never more sure. It is His Cause that I am jealous of. My family I put on His altar years ago. My life I put in His hand. My property-- which is but little--has been placed in His care. Glory be to his holy name. I want you to see that I am in earnest. I must convince you that I am. Brother, brother, let us be careful.

Say, Bro. Ray, write Mrs. W. A. Elliott about that money for the Judson Fund. Her address is Moberly, Mo. She will help and has taken the matter up there. They only need a little help. They will give the \$1000, I think.

I wish I had time to write more. I can not. My time is limited.

Now, one request. This is private. Satan has tried to sift me, and hard has been the struggle. When I get to the point where I feel that I am victor, he comes again, and sometimes it seems that I can't endure. I know what it all means, but I have faith in you. I want you to know that I fell in love with you, and feel that you are one of God's men, and so, I want to feel that you are remembering me personally in your prayers. The issue will be all right. The fight is hard. God is with me. But pray for me.

Dont think that I am raving. I am sane yet, and have not lost my mind. Have been in the valley and on the mountain top. These experiences enrich the life, but sometimes they are hard to endure.

We are working right along on El Nuevo Pacto, the Testament we were printing on. The paper, we have in stock, as you remember the Board helped me buy it nearly two years ago. That same paper that cost me \$5 or \$6 Mex., today would cost \$30. We will have the book out by May, I think.

I am translating a book called: "Psychic Power in Preaching," by Kennard. The book was a revelation to me years ago, and it is just what we need in Mexico. I have just a few minutes a day for it, but one of these days it will be finished. Only in this way can I get anything done on the side.

Ye see how long a letter I have written unto you with my own fingers, and when you take into consideration that my time is almost all taken up with other duties, you will appreciate the fact that I have given you a good lot of my time. But I feel repaid already.

May the Lord lead and bless us all. His work is the only thing worth while. It seems to me that His Hand is in it all, and His Glory will show forth anew when the wrath of man is made to praise Him, and that soon.

Truly J. E. Davis

February 22, 1918

Rev. J. D. Davis,

Leon, Mexico.

Dear Brother Davis:-

Yours of February 13th at hand.

I am glad to get the news from you, and find that things are as well with you as they are. I certainly sympathize with you in your being cut off from Mrs. Davis, though I rejoice that they are in Mexico City, for I feel that it is much better for them to be in Mexico City.

I hope that you can get in touch with Brother Neal soon, because we have sent him L/C for all the South Mexican Appropriation. Of course, if you can't get in touch with him, and can draw on us direct, we will honor your draft.

May every blessing be on you.

Cordially yours,

Foreign Sec'y.

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

"El Bautista,"
"El Expositor Bíblico,"

"Nuestros Niños,"

Libros

y Folletos Evangélicos.

J. E. DAVIS, Admor.

Progreso Núms. 52 y 54.

Apartado Postal Núm. 90.

Departamentos de

Imprenta,

Rayados y Encuaderna

para

trabajos del público.

León, Gto., Méx., 2/24/15

Dear Bro. Ray:--

I will try to give my reasons and opinions on the plan for the consolidated publishing work.

As to Section I, I am perfectly in accord with the contents.

Section 2 is all wrong. The plant must not go to the City. It will be a great mistake. I can not live there, but others can. That need not enter into the consideration of this plan. One man is not the whole thing. But for the following reasons we must not move the plant from León to Mexico City:

1. In Mexico we would have no prestige, while here we would be the biggest and best plant in the whole State.

2. In the City, there are several religious publishing houses now; here there is not even a respectable printing plant outside of ours. And this is the Capital of the State now. We are doing the printing for the Government.

3. Here we can have a big influence with the people; there scarcely none at all.

4. Here it has been a success; there it would be an experiment.

5. Here we have a good property; there you would have to purchase.

6. Here work is much less expensive than in the City.

7. León, Gto., México, is now known all over the Spanish speaking Baptist world. We have agents and correspondence from almost all South American countries. A change would not help in that line at all, and at first at least, it would be a hindrance.

8. American Managers--and you would have to have one or two of them--can live here in this climate--altitude--whereas many of us can not live in the high altitude of the City. I get sick every time I go up there. When I get back near León, I am recovered. This has happened so often that it is not a mere theory. I know that I can not move to the City. Other Americans would find the same trouble.

Section 3 is all right, except that the idea of moving the plant should be eliminated.

Article II, Sec. 1 may be all right, but I am not absolutely sure as the Convention has no means to put into the work, still it may be the proper thing. Inasmuch as the Boards reserve the right to approve all that is done, or disapprove as they see fit, it can be made to work that way I think.

Section 2 is very good.

Section 3 is all right, if you can manage it that way. Even you might get them to turn over to you the half of my salary. I still want to be your missionary however. But that may be only sentiment.

The rest of the sections of Article II are very good.

Now, as to Article III. I am afraid of the machinery of this Article. We must not get too much machinery. It will cost too much to keep it oiled. I do not think we need Secretaries. I think we need a Business Manager, and he can name his men, or arrange for them be named and approved by the Board of Managers. A Treasurer is an unnecessary expense. You do not need but one American, and he should be the main man--the Manager of the plant.

He will have to have book keepers, etc. He can manage the funds and reports and inspections can be made as often as you may require. He can use Mexican helpers, and I tell you he must have them under his supervision, or there will be nothing done. I have been here quite a while--more than ten years--and I know these people, for I have made it my business to know them. We want a Business Manager and he can respond to the Board and the Board of Managers, etc.

Instead of an editorial secretary, we need an editor. He should be a Mexican, a well educated Mexican. He would not have to live in the same place where the plant is, as far as that goes. The management would be responsible for the paper, except the material--I mean the papers. But you do not want to put too much power in the hands of the editor. He should be a Mexican as I have said, and for that very reason he should not be on a par with the Manager. The Manager should have the general supervision of all, under the Board of Managers.

He would be responsible for all moneys. True, he should have an efficient lot of helpers, but they would be under his orders. Now, I feel that in these two points I am right. All the rest of the plan I can approve, but you should reform it in these particulars.

Let us not get too much machinery. You do not understand the situation down here, and Brewer is not up on printing matters, as he does not know how to pay his part. They turned us completely down the last year we published the Bautista, even after giving me to understand that they would do as they had been doing the two or three years before. Not a cent did they put up for 1913 and 14.

You should find out from the missionaries about him and his tricks, or rather, ambition, perhaps is a better word.

I trust these reasons will appeal to you and if they go before the Board, to them also. I am honest in my convictions, and am sure that this is better than the plan you have outlined.

May the Lord lead us all. Fraternally,

J. E. Davis