

December 1, 1915

Rev. J. E. Davis,

2 A. De Bolivia No. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Santa Julia,

D.F., Mexico

Dear Brother Davis:--

I am glad to get your letter of recent date.

Concerning Josue Valdes,--

We will leave it to you to determine what advantage you shall give him on the matter of exchange. You should keep in mind that exchange will get back nearer to normal some day and if the salary of the native has been too much inflated by cheap money, you will have difficulty in arranging matters with him when it comes to future contracts. I realize, however, that you will have to use your judgment as to what should be done. You, of course, will pay him in native money and his salary will not be on the Gold basis according to the Rule which we have recently adopted. If you think it best to offer him one hundred dollars a month, (Mex), and supplement this somewhat by the advantage you get in exchange, you will feel free to do it, always keeping in mind the suggestions I have made above.

Concerning Appropriations for 1916

When the Appropriations were made, we had no communication from you brethren and sisters in Mexico as to what your plans were for 1916. We knew that the salaries of the missionaries would have to be taken care of. We knew also that you were trying still to carry on the printery. So we provided for that. We did not know what was Brother Neal's purpose concerning the School at Toluca, nor could we see how he could expect to carry on the work at Toluca as he had done. The matter was so indefinite that we could not make out a better list of Appropriations.

Now the thing for you brethren to do is to make out your requests for appropriation on a definite basis. I don't see how it will be possible for Brother Neal to expect that a full appropriation for the School can be made for 1916 when there doesn't seem to be any probability of his being able to conduct the School on the scale on which it has been run. If a request is made for the school, it should be upon what would reasonably appear to be the actual work that will be undertaken. I do not see how he can expect to do anything more than run a Day School. If this is the case, he will not need anything like as much money for the school as was formerly appropriated.

To repeat, I will say send in definite estimates. Of course, you will feel authorized to draw for the absolutely necessary work until the matter is finally settled about the appropriations. I think Brother Neal has a L/C that will make money available to him.

I am glad to note that you are already working on the matter of an Annual Report. I hope you will be able to get it in promptly. I am sure you will be able to do this since things are in so much better condition.

I do not forget you. I pray for you often. May God's rich Grace be with you.

Cordially yours,

R/W

December 9, 1915

Rev. J. E. Davis,

Calle de Bolivia 1 $\frac{1}{2}$,

Station Julia, D. F., Mexico.

Dear Brother Davis:-

Yours of November third at hand.

I think I must have covered, in a recent letter to you, practically all the points you raise in this letter which meant that in general we shall be compelled to leave you missionaries to adapt matters in Mexico on what seems to be the most satisfactory basis, letting everybody understand that the arrangements are purely tentative. We, of course, are not expecting you to pay any native contracts in United States Gold, but to pay them in Mexican currency. The other day Mr. Hatchell suggested that we might accept the Mexican Silver Dollars as a basis. What would you think of that? I understand that Mexican Silver around El Paso is worth about forty cents on a dollar. Will it help any to take Mexican Silver as a basis for the present? Really, as I say, the exigencies on the field are so great that we do not feel like being as dogmatic with you Mexican missionaries over the payment of your native contracts as we would in a field where conditions are more settled.

I note what you say about the Panama Congress. I should like very much for you to go to that Congress. I think the more Baptists are in it, the better it will be for the Congress, and I

--J.E.D--

believe also the Congress will have inspiration in it for our people. I have an impression that the Congress is going to be very thoughtful and will make an effort to be temperate in its utterances. There will be some persons who have extreme views, ~~who~~ even these, I anticipate, will be careful not to have the Congress give expression to anything that would embarrass certain members present. Of course, you can never tell what the enthusiastic Brother will do when he gets in a meeting. This constitutes the greater reason why more people should be present whose heads are level and who will not be swept off their feet by some impulsive person.

As I understand it, it will cost you about two hundred dollars to make the Panama trip. You would have to go to Havana and catch the boat going South from New Orleans. I enclose some figures which may be of some value to you.

With all love and good wishes, I am,

Cordial y yours,

R/W

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones,

DIRECCIÓN PROVISIONAL:

2ª CALLE DE BOLIVIA, NÚM. 1½.

Sta. Julia, D. F., Méx.

Sta. Julia, D.F., Mexico.
2 Bolivia, 1 1/2.
Dec. 16th, 1915.

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

Dear Brother:--

Yours of Dec. 1st received this morning. I had been looking for it for days, and wondering what had happened, but at last it got here.

While the mail service is much better than it was before, still there is much to be desired yet, but we cant expect too much from a country that has been torn all to pieces by revolution for five years.

I note what you say about the appropriations and have written to Neal to get busy and make out an itemized request for the amounts we are going to need for the work. Will send it in just as soon as possible.

I have not had time to make any arrangements with Sr. Josué Valdés, having written to Neal about that matter also, though I am sure that he will not be willing to approve what I want, and I hate to have any difference of opinion between us, but *we* will try to get together on some program and will write you again about the matter.

What I want you to do now is send me an order on him for the payment of the two months salary that I had arranged with Sr. Valdés before I knew anything of the new rules. I had made him the proposition to pay him \$50.00 ^{per month} for two months only, until I could know what to depend on. I made this proposition in good faith and Neal refuses to pay the salary. I asked him to send the salary for November, but he says no. Then I paid it myself. And will pay the December salary myself rather than break my word, though he has been at work not for me, but for the Board here in the editorial office.

But I am sure Neal will not pay this unless you approve of my act for the two months, and order the amount paid. In fact it is not the full amount that could be used from the appropriations, as there are \$30 gold for Castillo and \$25 for office help, so I was well within bounds when I made the proposition to Sr. Valdés, and I had to have help and that at once. He has been employed by the New York Society and they paid him \$50 gold and house rent and other expenses.

We are well. There is said to be 26,000 cases of typhus here in the City and in some other places it is worse.

We appreciate your interest in us and our work. May the Lord bless you and make your work prosperous.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

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

J. E. DAVIS, Admor.

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DIRECCIÓN PROVISIONAL:

2ª CALLE DE BOLIVIA, NÚM. 1½.

Sta. Julia, D. F., Méx.

León, Gto., Méx.,

Dec. 21st, 1915.

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

My Dear Brother:--

Yours of Dec. 9th reached me yesterday.

I note all that you have to say and thank you for the interest manifested and the good judgment you have with reference to the situation down here. Some people who are here on the field do not seem to understand half as well as you the conditions, but it will all work out right.

Now I have several things to place before you, and feel that you will give them your attention, as I try not to be eternally bothering you with my troubles. I only write what I think is best for the Cause.

I. How I have tried to arrange with my men.

I mean those employed on the field that I have the oversight of in the absence of Mr. Benson. I have proposed to pay Sr. Josué Valdés the amount of \$100.00 or ~~365~~ equivalent in paper money, taking as a basis the Mexican Silver Peso. I have proposed to Sr. Treviño Flores, of Guanajuato, his former salary of \$65.00 on the same basis. I have not yet arranged with Sr. A.M. Alvarez of Panindícaro, but will in due time. Have written him and hope to get a report from him soon. For the young man who is now at León, I think that the best way is to give him a provisional salary of \$100.00 of this paper stuff, giving him to understand that it is till we can get onto a better basis. I am advising you of this, as I know Mr. Neal will not like it, and will probably make a fuss about it, but it is the only way I see to solve the difficulty for the present. Mr. Treviño Flores has a family and I know that his \$75.00 per month can not possibly pay his expenses. That is but \$4.50 of our money, to keep a family on, when everything nearly is now on gold price basis.

II. A petition for a vacation.

We came to this country 11 years ago this month, arriving in this City on the morning of the 4th, and at Toluca at the same night. We have made but one change and that was when we went to León the following year. Mrs. Davis has been back to the States but twice in all that time, the first time being in 1907, when she visited her family for about one month. Then she came back. The other time was in Oct. 1908, when I went to St. Louis for an operation for appendicitis. She was with me till they pronounced me out of danger and then returned to León where she kept things going till I got back in January.

I have not had a vacation since I came down here. I have been to the States on short trips three or four times in all these years. We have not asked for "a change of altitude" or of work, and have been as little bother as possible to the good brethren of the Board. In a word, we have stayed at home and sawed wood. And while I should not boast, yet I feel justified in saying modestly that our work has not been in vain.

Now what we want is the following: Permission for Mrs. Davis to go see her family in May or June, thence to go to Mexico, Mo., where we want Irene to enter Hardin College in September, and the boys to be in the public school. I want permission to join them in the Fall, say about September, to be with them and have a vacation of a few months, a year, if conditions permit of my staying away from this work that long.

We are tired and worn to a frazzle. It is but natural after this trying year of separation and self denial. We all feel that we should have a vacation, and we respectfully ask for the first one in all the years of missionary service.

III. I have a letter from Mr. Brewer in which he says he will be back here about the first of next month. He also says that you were in New York not long since and that we are to have a talk, or several of them perhaps, on his return, as to the working out of the cooperation plan with regard to the publication work. Now, please tell me if this is sanctioned by you, and just to what extent we are supposed to plan. This is very necessary I think.

IV. The Panama Congress.

Of course, I agree with you in all you say, and I would be more than glad of this trip, but if the family go to the States in May or June, I can not spare the money for the expenses of the trip. Now if some good friend should take it upon himself to pay the trip expenses, I may get to go yet. I think there are some Missouri brethren that would not be any the worse off for paying it, but it is a delicate matter, and can be gotten at only through my close friend Dr. Kelly, of Moberly. He might and then he might not arrange the matter. I shall let you know about the matter again.

V. The National Paper and Type Co.

I wish you would write to Mr. H. C. Lewis, No. 31 Burling Slip, New York, who is the Treasurer and General Mgr of the Nat. P. & T. Co., thanking him for the many kindnesses they have shown our work through their generous treatment of me in the business relations we have had. This probably will be a help. I think it would cost you but a few moments of your time to dictate a short but earnest letter to them, and I shall appreciate it greatly. They are a fine lot of people. Kindly mention Mr. I. H. Jacobs, their representative here in the City, and thank them for what Mr. Jacobs has done, etc. Will you? It pays to be gentlemanly and courteous, as you know, and they should not be allowed to be more so than we, do you not think so? They sent several cablegrams to my wife and also to me when we were cut off, and in every way have befriended us.

Will close. Best wishes. Fraternally

J. E. Davis

Dec. 29, 1915

Rev. J.D.Davis,

2 Calle de Bolivia # 11,

Station Julia, Mexico City.

Dear Brother Davis:-

I am in receipt of your letters of December 16th and 21st.

Concerning Josue Valdes

On December 17th I wrote to Brother Neal, giving him a copy of the paragraph I had written you on December first. I take it that Brother Neal will accept the position stated in that paragraph. Your further statement about your men in which you say that you are taking the Mexican Silver Peso as a basis, seems to me to be all right. I repeat what I said before, we shall have to leave this matter to the judgment of you men on the field. I notice that you do not follow the uniform rule, but get the settlement of the case. You will be clearly within the rule when you use Mexican money as the basis, - whether this money be silver or paper rather than the Gold basis.

Concerning Vacation

I will present to the Board at its next meeting the petition you make for a vacation. There is great force in what you say and I am sure the Board will give it sympathetic consideration.

Concerning Mr. Brewer's Visit

Recently I was in New York and had a talk with Brother Brewer and also with Dr. Barnes of the Northern Board. I discovered that the Home Mission Society is willing to go into full cooperation with the Publication work. I sent you a copy of the tentative Constitution which Dr. Brewer and I made out one day when he was in my office. I have not said much more about the matter, for the reason that things were still so unsettled that I thought we should have to wait until matters had quieted down more before we did come to a final, definite agreement.

As to the basis of cooperation, -I wish you would talk with Brother Brewer very freely about the Articles of Agreement, call-

--J.E.D--

ing his attention to the suggestions you have written me and possibly some others which have occurred to you in the meantime. I am sure we would be influenced very greatly by whatever plan you and Brewer might agree upon. The Home Mission Society and our Board have both committed themselves to cooperation in this Publication work, the Schools at Aguas Calientes and Saltillo. It is now a matter of working out the details of how this cooperative work can be carried out successfully. This is the time for any man who has any constructive suggestions to make to make them so we may have all the facts in hand when we come to the final consideration of the plan we shall pursue. I believe that in the spirit of brotherly cooperation, we can solve all the questions that may arise. I believe the Northern Baptist brethren recognize that we Baptists must stand together in Mexico and they are ready to stand with us to the extent of their ability. I remember that one time you said that under whatever arrangement we might make for cooperation, you would wish to still be considered a missionary of our Board. I think there will be absolutely no difficulty in this matter. We can make such a division of the work that you can be considered as a full-fledged missionary of our Board, whether or not we have a full-fledged missionary from the Northern Board associated with you.

Concerning the Panama Congress

I do hope your Missouri friend will respond and enable you to go to the Panama Congress. I very greatly desire to see some of our strong missionaries present at that Congress. I believe they can render a very helpful service.

The National Paper and Type Company

I am writing the National Paper and Type Company, according to your request. I am very happy to have this opportunity and thank you for calling my attention to it.

I hope you have had a happy Christmas. I believe things are getting better down your way and that while there are many very difficult problems still, the future has much in it to encourage.

With all love and good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

National Paper & Type Company

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Dec. 30, 1915.

Mr. T. B. Ray, Secretary,
Foreign Mission Board, of the
Southern Baptist Convention,
Richmond, Va.

My dear Mr. Ray:

I appreciate to the fullest extent your cordial letter referring to our relations with Rev. J. E. Davis formerly of Leon. Don't think for a moment, however, that you or Mr. Davis are under the slightest obligations to us. Our people in Mexico City are personally fond of Mr. Davis and under the conditions which have existed in Mexico during the past two or three years, it has been our duty as well as a pleasure to do whatever we could for all friends in that country. Your letter, however, will be greatly appreciated by our Mexico City branch, to whom I am forwarding a copy of it.

Wishing you and yours a very happy new year, I am

Yours very truly,

H. C. Lewis
Per M. M.

P. S. Permit me to say also that Mr. Davis is a brick. He has shown splendid nerve and good sense when many were without the first and have lost the second.