

IMPRENTA AMERICANA

J. E. DAVIS, ADMOR.

APARTADO 90

LEON, GTO.

Sta. Julia, D.F., Mex.

May 3d, 1916

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

Dear Brother:--

I hardly know what to write you except to say that we had a good trip over the León and Guadalajara fields. We did not visit the whole field, by any means, as that would have taken more time than we had to dedicate to the visit at the present time.

At León I baptized 4 and others were approved for baptism, though for one cause or another could not be baptized when I was there. Hope to go back within about six weeks and perhaps baptize others.

In Guanajuato Bro. Flores baptized three recently and when I go up there again we hope to organize the church.

On the other fields I have not heard how many baptisms there have been, but we had more than 100 who professed faith in Christ in our meetings. The people are willing to hear the Gospel as never before.

I had a plan thought out for the reorganization of the work on those fields, but I went over to Toluca the other day to talk the matter over with Bro. Neal, and as usual we could not agree on anything. He is so opposed to any plan that I

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suggested that I have just given up any hopes of getting to anything of an agreement with him.

I presume that it was because my plans were self made and though I was convinced that I had made them according to the will of the Lord, it would seem that I was mistaken, or Satan has hindered them like he did some of the plans of Paul.

At any rate, I have given them all up and am beginning to think along some other line. I have written to El Paso with a view of getting data as to what it would cost us to publish our papers up there for the present. As soon as I can find out, then will let you hear from me. There is no one to take my place here or I would gladly get out of here now. I have been trying it a long time and things are getting worse and worse. I am discouraged and feel that I must get out of this altitude before very long.

I am getting the Sunday School quarterly out for the third quarter, and expect to go right on and get the last one out as soon as possible thereafter. Then I will want to make the ~~one~~ change, if any change is made.

At El Paso we could edit the papers and if the printing is not too high, publish them there till after the trouble in this land is settled. We do not expect it to be settled for a long long time. I can send my daughter to college in Missouri as we had planned, and my family can be with me in El Paso, and they can have the school advantages. I tell you we have to see to this matter of the education of the children, and I really have thought somewhat of offering my resignation as a mission-

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ary and returning to the States in order to educate them. It is a serious problem.

I am sending you the L.C. you sent me last year for the press. I drew \$900 of the amount and then paid the rest down here out of other funds, for when I could come to the City, I forgot the L.C. and left it locked up in León. When I was up there recently, I got it and asked Bro. Neal to draw this amount of \$100 but he did not want to. So if you will please honor my draft when it reaches you, this matter will be settled. I should have attended to it long ago, but you know how we have been shut in and everything unsettled. The press has served us well here in the City and will continue to serve us some time when we can get down to business again.

We are right now in a panic here. Everything has gone up and there is nothing in sight to live on. Do not know how it will be settled. I only wish we were out, but cant go now. Hope to get out however before matters get very much worse.

We are all well. The Neals are well also.

As soon as I hear from El Paso will put my petition before you if I think it the best plan to solve the question of our literature. You know we do not only supply Mexice but also many other countries, and I feel that from El Paso we can do as much good as from down here, except that I will be off the field. But that can not be very well helped these days.

May the Lord give you a great victory. The Convention will soon be in session. May it be the greatest in the history of the Southern Baptists.

Please tell Dr. Love that I congratulate him on his answer to the Standard. Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

May 10, 1916

Rev. J.E.Davis,

Mexico City, Mexico.

Dear Brother Davis:-

I am glad to get yours of May third.

I rejoice about the good work you were able to do on your trip to the Leon and Juarez fields.

I shall be very glad to see what you have to say about moving to El Paso. I really think the situation is serious. Of course, you know, as we all in this country know, that the intention of our Government is not to intervene in Mexican affairs beyond the suppression of outlawery in North Mexico. Our people will be very glad to get out as soon as this is accomplished. I wish the Mexican people could understand how clearly this matter is fixed in the minds of our people. I pray that the situation may soon clear.

We will honor your draft for one hundred dollars, drawn on L/C # 1770, whenever it comes.

I pray that God's Hand may lead you and care for you in all things.

Cordially 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. May 13th, 1916.

Dr. T. B. Ray,
Asheville, N.C.

Dear Brother:--

When this reaches you, the Convention will be in session. I am praying that it may be a gracious reviving again. May the Lord of the harvest guide and bless abundantly your deliberations.

I write especially to ask that special prayer be made for the work in Mexico. Pray for us who are out here on the firing line, and are unwilling to retreat. Pray that our sacrifice may not be in vain. Pray that the Gospel may be preached as never before in this land. Pray that we may be able to reorganize wisely the work. Pray that there may be no war between the U.S. and Mexico. Ask the Lord to lead us all for His own glory and the furthering of His Cause.

I have just received the Word and Way of May 4th and looked earnestly for a telegram from you saying that the great host of Southern Baptists had come up to the help of the Lord and covered the debt and all obligations of the Board, but I saw nothing. Perhaps the paper was printed too early for the good news to get into its columns.

My dear brother, tell them there is victory in sacrifice, and only in sacrifice, and that there is joy in suffering for the Cause. Tell them that only by quitting ourselves like men can we be of use in His service.

But perhaps this is not in line with the program of the Convention, yet I felt led to send this message. May it be from the Spirit.

Fraternally yours.

Greetings to the Great Convention.

J. E. Davis

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May 24, 1916

Rev. J.E.Davis,

Station Julia, D.F.,

Mexico City,

Dear Brother Davis:-

Thank you for yours of May 13th, which reached the Convention too late to be used, according to your wish. I am sure the message you had to bring would have been an inspiration. The Convention heard our missionaries this year with great joy and enthusiasm.

The Convention authorized us to go ahead in a sixty day campaign in an effort to raise the debt. I do hope we will succeed. If we can secure this money, it will set us free for a far better work.

May every blessing be upon you.

Cordially yours,

H/W

Sta. Julia, D.F., May 26th, 1916

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

Dear Brother:--

Some time ago I wrote you that I was making my plans and that I would let you know what they were as soon as I consulted with Mr. Neal. After seeing him and discovering ~~that~~ that it would be impossible to agree with him, or get him to agree with me, I began to study other arrangements. I hinted to you in another letter that I was making investigations, and would write you later.

Well, I have written to Bro. Lacy and others in El Paso, and I find that we could get our papers out up there for a reasonable amount of money--not exceeding the appropriation--and we could dispense with Sr. Valdés, that is, as a helper in the editorial work. Of course, would have to get a man to correct our manuscripts, but think that would not cost anything extra, or if it did it would be a small matter. Valdés wants to go up in that part of the country, and I am in communication with our men up that way to see if he can not be used up there, in which case he would do the correcting.

Mr. Lacy proposes to help me and in that way we can utilize him. He is helping us now with El Expositor, beginning with the third quarter. He will be dependable, and thus I can get off from time to time leaving him in charge, and thus get on my feet again without the need of a protracted vacation, and that is what seems to be necessary now. I don't see how I can leave the work for the present and no one to take the work up and carry it on.

The plan is simply this, that my family and I move to El Paso, temporarily of course, and while this turmoil continues, edit and publish the papers from there. When I get there, can decide what plan will be the most economical, but I have bids on the work that will make it possible to keep within the limit of the appropriations. I have paper already contracted ahead, so that will not be an item. We have quite a stock of papers here, and we can realize a part of them for U. S. gold perhaps, and in that way buy there at a saving.

It is necessary that we get out of here soon. I am holding on, but it is with a weakening grip. I am so tired of the turmoil and the worry of getting the papers out of this trap--for that is really what it is--and the altitude is too much for me also--that I sometimes am just about ready to quit. Then I think of the importance of hanging on, and the necessity of giving our people outside of this desolate land literature for their Sunday Schools. So it appeals to me that this plan I have studied out is the most practical for the present.

For instance, here paper is scarce and very high. I bought 150 reams the other day before it reached here--that is the only way of securing it--and it has not yet come. It is

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ordinary News paper. I had to pay \$1.65 Am. gold for it. Then wages have advanced greatly, and they are clamoring for more, so that even if matters should be settled soon, it will be very expensive printing here in this country for the present. Then we are in danger of being cut off from the outside world as well as from our Mexican subscribers. From El Paso we can at least ~~reach~~ reach the outside people, and will have the same chance of supplying these folks down here.

Then too, my family has to go the States for the advantages of schooling the children. They can be with me in El Paso, except Irene, and we expect to send her to college any way this coming year--and I can do the same work that we can do down here now, for our book work is all suspended and we do not feel justified in undertaking anything new under the present circumstances.

I am now working on the Expositor for the last quarter, and we hope to get this in the mails within two months, or say the 20th of July. What I want is to take my family then to the States where we want to visit our people a little while, getting back to El Paso and settled for the opening of school. We will close the plant at León entirely, and have this one packed up and stored here for the present. We will cut off all expense down here, that is, relating to the printing work, and the only expense up there in addition to the actual printing of the papers, will be rent for us, and I think that we can get a house up there for what is appropriated for us in that line.

So it occurs to me that this is the best plan for the present and it might lead to a better solution of the Publication House cooperation work afterwards. It might become clear that El Paso is the best place, or some other border town, for the House. There is a big work needed among Mexicans up there also, and at least the experiment would help us to decide a big question, that it seems impossible to decide right now.

I am going to talk with Bro. Brewer about this matter of the plans for the House and we will have something to write you about it in a few days.

My wife and daughter went to Puebla the other day, and Mrs. Davis will probably have to undergo an operation. Dr. Conwell is a fine man and surgeon--he is a Baptist missionary--and we hope that Mrs. D. will have better health afterwards. It is a matter of after results of child birth, which we have been putting off from year to year until it is now very necessary that it be attended to. Pray for us.

I trust to hear from you at an early date. This matter is serious, on account of my growing nervousness. And then the situation here is precarious, famine staring us in the face.

Fraternally yours.

J. E. Davis

Journal
Santa Julia, D.F., May 26th, 1916

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

"As Far From Rome as Possible"

My Dear Brother:--

I wrote you this morning, but I forgot to tell you that we have had four baptisms in Leon and four in Guanajuato recently. When I go to Leon this next month, hope to perfect the organization of the church in Guanajuato.

I have the following letter from Atoyac, which I will translate for your encouragement. It bears date of 16th of the present month.

"With joy I notify you that Sunday we had 20 baptisms and 25 more who will be baptized later on. We have a religious revival in these parts. In ~~the~~ Unión church I had great meetings. With the exception of three houses, all the ranches were ~~all~~ present in the services. I baptized 10 there. This is the field of Bro. Lorenzo Hernández. In San Sebastian we have established a Baptist church and are hoping that we may soon have a worker there. Very soon we can have a very fine work there. The Lord bless us. If you have time, come and help us and we shall have a great blessing. Yours etc.--B. Y. Rebollo."

I have not heard how many were baptized in Guadalajara but we had more than 50 persons that professed faith in Christ during our meetings. Of course many of them will not come out entirely and leave off their Catholic faith, but they will not be the same after hearing the plain old time Gospel that we preached to them.

Here in Mexico City there have been some 200 new converts. Of these more than 70 have been baptized. I am helping them some here. Have a big doctrinal class organized which meets each Monday night. It is the most enthusiastic class I have even taught. I will help them to be Baptists, and that you may be sure of. It is not hard to make good Baptists out of Roman Catholics, once get them converted. It is the natural thing for them to want to get as far away from Rome as possible, and that is with us.

There are some good reports from other parts of the field, but I do not have them at hand.

One thing I want to tell you. One of the Leon members, a poor man who can barely read, left there about a year ago, and went into a place where the people are very fanatical. Well, he writes me that he has gathered together about a dozen and has a Sunday School, and he teaches them the Gospel once each week --I forget the night. He writes me that he wants me to visit them. This is in the State of Guanajuato. I have written him encouraging him all I can, and assuring him that as soon as possible will visit him. It is not far from the railroad, and as I want to go to Leon this next month, hope to preach for them a few nights. This is a good work.

When there is peace here, we will be able to do a work such as never has been possible before, unless the reaction is

finally^{to} win out. There is no doubt but that it is strong, and that it will be a reaction very favorable to Roman Catholicism. But we hope that both intervention will not take place and that these men may find some way to maintain themselves. Not that it depends on men, for in fact there are very few of that kind of animal in this whole revolution, and country as to that, but these men are committed to the reforms that are favorable to our work. But after all, God knows and we cant make one single hair white or black. His is the work and His is the power.

The economic problem is the worst, and now this flurry about intervention. In fact, that would be the easiest way of solving the problem, but I do not believe in it. There is a great scarcity and it is going to be greater. The money is not worth anything hardly--less than two cents on the dollar-- I mean that the Mexican peso is worth less than two cents of our money, and that was worth before just twice what their silver and Bank notes were worth--so you see it is bad.

I will close now. Write me what you think about the plan I suggested in my letter of this morning.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

P. S. You may publish what you want to of the first part of this letter but don't publish anything we say about conditions down here-- I mean political or economic, as they have men everywhere up there looking up these things.

J. E. D.

Santa Julia, D.F., Mexico. May 27th, 1916

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

My Dear Brother:--

Your kind letter of the 10th came this morning. Was indeed glad to hear from you.

Yesterday I wrote you two letters, which I hope you will get promptly. Your letter was 16 days getting here. I suppose that it was held up on account of the present conditions.

Yes, since your letter was written the situation has been indeed bad, but it is somewhat improved now. The people are a little bit better satisfied, but after all, it is not to be wondered at that they feel the presence of our troops in their country. I rather think we would not like such conditions, were the tables turned.

Yes, I believe in the sincerity of our Government, but these people do not believe in it, and there is the rub. Perhaps the Government here does. I can not say as to that. But the people think anything emanating from Washington, or the United States can not be good. They have been taught that ever since 1847. The priests teach them that also. It is a part of the education they get in their schools and in their churches. And perhaps they may have more reason than we sometimes are willing to allow them. Of course they should not hate, but that is a part of their training. They are another race of people.

We have not wanted to run and we will not run as long as we feel it our duty to stay. I feel it my duty to get out the Expositor of the last quarter, and send it out just as soon as possible. In the mean time I can hear from you. If we continue, in El Paso, then I will have plenty of time to get settled up there and get the lessons ready and printed in good time for the first quarter of the next year.

My wife writes that she can not be operated now, as she will have to take some treatments before it will be possible to operate. So she will probably come home for the treatments, and then go back to Puebla, or go on to the States for the operation. I pray that the Lord will lead and make us do what is the very best and right thing under the circumstances.

I wrote you a letter at Asheville. Did you get it, or did it get held up also? Perhaps the latter.

I have a nice little amount of money belonging to the House that I will immediately invest in paper, if you decide that I can go to El Paso. I have paper here that I can turn back and invest up there. This will give us paper enough to tide over the paper famine up there. I am not afraid on that score. I have taken it in hand in time.

I am going to give you privately another reason why I would like for this plan to go through. I love this work, and feel that the Lord led me into it. I do not want to give it up, but if we can't get where I can educate my children and not be separated from my family entirely, I will have to give it up. This is just where I am at the present. Don't take me as boasting, and I think you will not, as my record is not in print over my signature, but I do feel that with all the adverse conditions and trials, the Lord has prospered the work in my hands. I can not think of giving up what He gave me to do, unless it appears clear that He has some other work for me to do.

Will close. Fraternally yours.

J. E. Davis