

Box 667

El Paso, Tex. 10/5/16
DENVER, COLO., E. U. A.,

Dr. J. F. Love,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Bro:-

I arrived here Tuesday night and spent the day yesterday in conference with the brethren - all of them I felt I could get any help from - and still have others to talk with.

I find that all are willing to cooperate with us in the Publishing work. Bro. Daniels is here. So is Bro. Buldwin of San Antonio. I have talked with them and they seem glad that I am here on the mission I am on, and promise cooperation.

Now as to the plans, of course I can't say much right now, for I have not had time yet to get them worked out, but feel that I shall be able to report soon.

You remember you wrote me for my opinion about the matter of the Cooperation work on the border, as recommended by the brethren in the

San Antonio mission meeting. I wrote you from Denver, that it appeared to me, but I find there is a lot of misunderstanding and considerable friction, and advise that you find out from the Home Board and the Texas State Board what they think about the matter, before taking any definite step.

Bro. Daniel is a fine man, but something is wrong and he is not feeling good about the action taken in San Antonio. I can not say who is in the wrong as I have heard the two sides of the question, and think there is a great deal of misunderstanding - some perhaps on both sides.

For this reason I think you would do well to get the straight of the matter from the Boards mentioned above.

It seems fortunate - maybe providential - that I did not get to the San Antonio meeting.

I do not blame our missionaries as they were & are absolutely innocent of any ^{intentional} wrong. They feel the matter very much. It may be that Bro. Copps has taken some steps that brought on this crisis. I am sorry about this and still think it can be settled though I confess that I do not feel equal to the task of mediation just now. Truly J. E. Davis

Point on me to do all I can to get a better understanding, and also for work for the Mission in our time.

El Paso, Texas 10/5/16

DENVER, COLO., E. U. A.,

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

Dear Brother:-

Yesterday Bro. Lacy gave me yours of the 27th and while I can not write you in full, yet am glad to say that all seem willing to cooperate with me in the Publishing work.

Had a conference yesterday with Bros. Lacy and Hatchell and they see things as I do and have been very kind to me so far in getting a beginning made.

They agree that I will need a good Mexican associated with me and agree that the man who was with me in the City - this year - Josue Valdes - would make a good man. I can get along with him fine and he is willing to come here to work with me.

His salary is not included in the estimate I sent you. He will have to have I am sure \$60⁰⁰ salary and house rent say about \$15 more per month.

Too we will have to pay his travelling expenses from Mexico City to El Paso.

Can I count on this? I must know as soon as possible so as to get him here before I go away for the month of November.

The brethren are in favor of this and recommend it—I mean, Brethren Halebell & Lacy.

Trust I shall be able by the end of the week to write you at least a part of the plan for our work.

May God bless you and may our efforts be successful in so far as they are in accord with His will.

Proteinally yours
J. E. Davis

Oct. 9, 1916.

Rev. J. E. Davis,

667 El Paso, Texas.

My dear Brother Davis:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 5th inst., and write at once. Let me say that I have sincere regret that any ~~misunderstanding~~ has occurred concerning the cooperative work in Texas. I have no idea what the nature of the misunderstanding is, but regret whatever it is. I know Brother Daniel well and love him tenderly. He is a true and heroic spirit, and I should grieve to know that any arrangement in which the Foreign Mission Board was concerned wounded either his feelings or the feelings of anyone of our own missionaries. I hope the matter can be straightened out without leaving anybody's feelings hurt. I feel certain that no intentional wrong has been done anybody.

We shall be glad to have further information concerning developments affecting your publication work. The uncertain state of affairs in Mexico make it important that we shall go cautiously about everything connected with our work there, and the great necessity of the Board for larger resources to meet the demands upon it make it highly important that we shall at every point consider expenditures.

I should say further concerning the matter of cooperative work, that all I know about it is that Dr. Gambrail wrote me suggesting that it would be a good thing to do while the missionaries were kept out of Mexico, and what I learned from the report sent in from the San Antonio meeting. I presented the matter to our Board, but no action was taken. The matter was merely left with me to act on as occasion and circumstances seem to require. We have not, therefore, gone far enough to create any serious complications so far as we are concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Cor. Sec'y.

DENVER, COLO., E. U. A.,

10/13/16

Dr. J. F. Love,
Richmond, Va.

My dear Bro:-

I wrote you this afternoon and when I went to the office to mail my letter, I found yours of the 9th. so I did not mail my other letter, and will now add a little in reply to this last letter.

I think Bro. Daniel is very much in the wrong in blaming Bro. Abnerus and Hatchell with complicity in trying to throw him out, but I rather think Bro. Copess can explain the matter to him, as I understand Copess met the brethren in San Antonio and told them that he would stand responsible for what he had to propose to them about cooperation.

I think Bro. Daniel is feeling a bit better now and I trust the whole matter will turn out all right. He is as you say a fine brother and has treated me perfectly fair and promised his cooperation to the fullest extent. I went right to him and asked him for his cooperation, stating the reasons I was here, and he received me cordially. Of this I am glad, as my work is not only for Mexicans in Mexico, but also for those who are on this side, Cubans & others as well.

I want you to consider that also when you read my letter of this afternoon. I do want to be conservative and spend as little money as possible. I only wish I could have seen some other way to solve our trouble, but I saw no other (and I have faith in the step we have taken).

How happy I would be if only I could see this work self supporting. Had it not been for the revolution in Mexico, it would have been practically so now. But that terrible "if" ruins so many of our plans and spoils so many of our dreams.

I hope also that the Cooperation plan can be worked out. It ought to be and Bro. Daniel, when he understands the matter, is too good a man to stand in the way. He does not understand, is the trouble.

I wrote you about doing some work in New Mexico. I am going to stop off in Albuquerque and see Bro. Atwood the State Secretary, and see what he thinks of the matter. I could help them out and keep my work going. There are many, many Mexicans in the State.

May the Lord lead us all constantly and help us to do just what He would have us do. I want to feel his leading, and am feeling it now. I believe we are on the right road. Time will tell.

I am fraternally & sincerely
yours in Christ.

J. E. Davis

DENVER, COLO., E. U. A.,

10/13/16

Dr. J. F. Lore,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother:-

I have been very busy these days here in El Paso and only after considerable work have I found what would seem to be a solution of our problem.

On investigation I found the following conditions here:

1. American printers would not bid on our work on account of having more work than they could do in English and also because they are not equipped for Spanish work;

2. Mexican printers are poorly equipped and on looking over what they have, I was convinced they would not do the work at all satisfactory, and too their prices were almost prohibitory.

That was the first result of my investigations.

Then I began ^{on} another line. I tried to rent a plant, but could make no headway at that as they asked prices that it was impossible to pay.

The third and last plan was the one that has seemed to us all as the only plausible one, and I will give it to you in detail as follows: (over)

1. I visited some of our good Baptist people here and found out that a brother had a small plant he would rent or sell.

2. I found that the printing business is a paying proposition here.

3. I found that quite a goodly number of our Baptist people own a good book and most deposit (English books, &c) here in El Paso, and are willing to cooperate with us in such a work.

4. The Calvary-Houston Church offers us for the present a temporary location that will save us rent - and rent is high here I find.

5. When they build they propose to give us a permanent home at small cost to us - and that will be a little printing now & then - and cooperate with us to the extent of their ability.

6. We are assured of a good business from the start and that we can soon pay for the plant we have bought.

7. They think we can make the plant self supporting here and make it pay before a very great while, the cost of our Spanish literature.

Others will tell you the same thing and I wish you would communicate with the pastor - ^{O. O.} Wade is his name & you evidently know him - about this whole plan which sounds good to me & I believe from what I can find out, is practical.

Now what I have done, with the hearty consent of Bro. Lee & the approval of Bro. Hatchell, is:

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DENVER, COLO., E. U. A.,

1. Buy the plant, consisting of two presses, not large ones of course - but big enough to do for the present - a stapling machine, paper cutter & type &c. &c. which invoices \$1200, for \$900, paying \$500 down and giving my note without interest for the balance, payable Jan. 1st.

2. To get this money together, I drew the appropriation for July, Aug., Sept., & October - \$333.³³ and the rest I took out of funds of the plant I have on hand.

3. We get possession at once and can begin work right away.

The plant we have bought at a bargain and could sell it tomorrow if we wanted to, for this Bro. gave it to us in preference to the other party who wanted to buy it.

Now, I wonder if you can let us have this amount out of the Judson Fund. We have only need. \$1000.⁰⁰ of the \$25,000.⁰⁰ and I feel sure that the money will be well placed.

I trust that our hopes will be realized & if they are, I doubt not but that this will be the future home of La Casa Bautista de Publicaciones. (over)

I shall be pleased to answer any questions you may have to ask.

Oh yes, I forgot to say that I have ordered the type we have in Mexico City shipped. This I did several days ago, as we saw it would be impossible to get our work done with what they have here. I ordered the type only.

Now, if things move on well & you can locate here the plant, we will then see what can be done toward getting our machinery out of Mexico & Lion.

I leave tomorrow morning for Denver after spending about two weeks here hard at work on the mission that brought me.

I will be with my family about a week or a little more and then will go to Mo. for the month of November. Then I will return here and get to work.

In the meantime Bro. Lacy will do the directing of the work.

Pray that I may lead many souls to Christ during November.

I can get passes on the Rys. in New Mexico just as soon as I locate here in El Paso & I hope to help some in this "wild & woolly" state & will at the same time give myself to our own work.

I just feel that we are on the right track & hope it will be the real solution of our problem.

Write me at Denver, 2737 Clay St.
Frothlessly yours J. E. Davis

October 16, 1916

Rev. J. E. Davis,
Box 667, El Paso, Texas.

Dear Brother Davis:-

Yours of recent date at hand.

We have talked over here in the office the question you raise about bringing Josue Valdes to El Paso to help you in your publication work.

According to the estimate you submit, this would involve an additional expenditures of about one thousand dollars. This fact, under our present financial strain, is a very serious one. You estimated in your recent letter that you would need \$865 for the publication work and at our October meeting our Board granted that amount. It, as you know, made the appropriations at the October meeting for 1917. The sum you request is an additional appropriation and we cannot pass upon it until the Board has an opportunity to act. This would not be presented to the Board before its meeting in November. The appropriations for 1917 are already made and it will be very difficult to get the Board to consider appropriating very much more for next year. We have considered all the appropriations and the Board has gone as far as it feels justified in going for next year. As I have already explained to you, we are instructed definitely by the Convention to keep our expenditures this year within the limits of the expenditures for last year and this means we shall have to cut everywhere we can. So, I must say that the hope of getting the extra thousand dollars for your Publishing House does not seem to be very encouraging, however much we might desire to follow your wishes.

So I raise the question,--cannot you find a cheaper man? The understanding is that the Publishing House work is to be held in El Paso only temporarily and the transporting of Valdes is an expensive proposition and, more or less, questionable on account of the fact that we are expecting the Publishing work to remain in El Paso for so brief a time. If you can possibly find a less expensive way of solving this problem, you will greatly favor the Board. You have our hearty sympathy and we want to do everything we can, but we are really laboring under a heavy strain and are compelled to be very cautious. I do hope you will be able to find a less expensive way in this matter. Please let me hear from you at your very earliest convenience.

May the blessing of God be with you in the making of your new plans. I assure you my heart and prayers are with you.

Cordially yours,

October 18, 1916

Rev. J. E. Davis,
El Paso, Texas.

Dear Brother Davis:-

In order to have before us all the facts with reference to the Publishing House, I raise another question or two.

In your letter to Dr. Love you said that you bought your plant in El Paso for nine hundred dollars, on which you paid five hundred cash and gave your note for the remainder, payable January first. This five hundred dollars was made up of \$333.33 which you drew on the current fund, and \$166.67 which you say you took out of funds in your hands which belonged to the plant. I want to ask whether it will be necessary to restore the \$166.67 which you say belonged to the plant. Can you get along without having to restore this amount. If so, it will be that much help to us, because, as you know we are trying to hold down expenses to the lowest limit.

I take it that the money which you have spent upon this plant can be provided out of the Judson Centennial Fund. It would, of course, have been more regular for you to first have consulted with the Board before you made an expenditure and we hope you will not make additional expenditures of this character until you do first consult with us, but we realize that you were, perhaps, up against a situation which demanded prompt action and we trust you have done the best thing under the circumstances. We will have the Board act upon the matter and let you know in ample time to take care of the obligation which you must meet in January.

One other question I would like to ask is, -What do you estimate the cost to be for the transfer of the type from Mexico City? Can you take care of this item out of the Publishing House funds which are in your hands? If so, we shall be glad. Please let me have answer to these questions right away because we shall soon have a Board meeting and need these additional facts before that time.

My heart and prayers are with you in your great work. We pray that His Hand may guide you in all you do. I believe mightily in you and in what you are trying to accomplish.

Cordially yours,

R/W

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

J. E. DAVIS, ADMOR.

2737 CLAY STREET

DENVER, COLO., E. U. A.,

Oct. 20, 1916

Mr. R. R. Gwathmey,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother:-

On reaching home, I find that we are without money, and as my salary for September is still unpaid, I am taking the liberty to draw on you for the amount of \$133.³³.

Trust this will be all right.

Frothermally yours

J. E. Davis

P.S. I have drawn in favor of the North Denver Bank. Next time I will send in my statement in time, but this time I was in El Paso and just neglected it.

J. E. D.

DENVER, COLO., E. U. A., Oct. 23, '16Dr. T. B. Ray,
Richmond, Va

Dear Brother:-

I have yours of the 16th, and will hasten to reply. Very well, if you cannot see your way clear to let us have Valdis, for 1917, we will try to get some one else to do our correcting. Lacy and I will have our hands full, but we can manage some way. I remember you said in San Antonio that you would not do what you could get a Mexican to do, but I find that we who are on the skirmish line have to do a thousand little things that sap out the vitality and take up the time and energies, which we need for other things, on account of not having money to pay for help. But remember I am used to it and men are not very costly these days - that is, I mean, life is about the cheapest thing there is. I am not minimizing at all. Lacy writes that we can do it and will do it. ~~So~~ I will write Valdis cutting him off from my list. I see he has been approved for Chihuahua, and perhaps that is the best place for him after all, if he will go.

Another matter: I bought the little plant we have now in El Paso, but I want to say that if you can not take care of that proposition, I will, and will do the printing for

the House more reasonably than any other house in El Paso, or at any rate, at the very lowest figure.

In short, I got \$1200 worth of material for \$900, and do not care which way you decide the matter. I drew \$333.³³ but will replace that, if you so desire, at an early date - in fact, just as soon as I know that you do not want the little plant I took. So don't hesitate about saying what you want done, and I will shape matters accordingly.

Don't imagine I feel piqued for I do not. I appreciate your situation. I know I have your sympathies. If I did not feel it, I certainly would have resigned ere this and instead of plunging into the thick of the fight, after but three or four months' rest, I would have accepted one of the several professorates that have been proposed to me in this time.

Have you had any other letters from El Paso, except the one I wrote Dr. Lane about the general situation down there? I was in hopes others would write you as they proposed to do about the advisability of doing just what I did.

But I want you to know that I will take the plant and hold it, doing our work at a lower figure than anyone else will do it for.

I have left matters with Bro. Loeg for the present. I expect to go back to El Paso about Dec 1st and there I will make headquarters and give my whole strength in the prosecution of this work. I wish I could translate for you the expressions of joy from Cuban and Mexican

DENVER, COLO., E. U. A.,

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brethren, on hearing that we were making arrangements to continue our publication work. I could translate them, but I have no time for it.

They need our cooperation in this matter of literature and without it they would be compelled to do without these helps.

I was in Albuquerque a week ago yesterday - the third Sunday. They asked me to preach, which I did at the morning hour. I left in the evening for home.

I stopped over two days in Colorado Springs and attended a part of the ^{sessions} ~~sessions~~ of the State Baptist Convention. They had a right good meeting.

I reached home Wednesday night in a snow storm. I have been almost under the weather ever since.

I leave day after tomorrow for Kansas City, where I will speak on Mexico before the student body of the K.C. Theological Seminary, Thursday evening. Then Friday I go on to Clinton to begin the meeting with my brother, W. E. Davis, the pastor there. From there I will go to Moberly for a little while and then return to El Paso to my work. All this if God so will.

As you did not send me any salary I was compelled to draw the other day on the Treas. for my September salary. If you will send

✓ The draft for Oct. direct to Mrs. D., at the address
given on this letter head, I will appreciate it
very much. I have made arrangements for
her to attend to that matter here in the house.

My expenses to El Paso and return were
as follows: R.R. fare & other extraordinary expenses
\$46.45 less what was paid me for supplying
one Sunday at Las Animas, \$20.00, leaving
\$26.45. So it will be as follows:

Sal. J. E. Davis & family for Oct.	\$133. ⁰³
Pat. traveling expenses	26. ⁴⁵
Total	\$159. ⁷⁸

I am making as strong an appeal
for world-wide evangelization as I know
how to make, wherever the opportunity is
afforded, and my message is appreciated has
never before, it seems to me.

I shall now close, wishing you
great prosperity and hoping to hear
from you soon about the matter I have
tried to set before you in this letter.

Write me at Clinton, Mo., care Rev. W.
E. Davis, Pastor Baptist Church.

Matters do not seem to move as
well in Mexico as they might. Hope there
may be a change for the better, but I fear
the consequences of the election, that is,
if Mr. Hughes should be elected, which is
very probable, tho I think Mr. Wilson has
a splendid chance. God knows best.

Fraternally yours

J. E. Davis

Oct. 23, 1916.

Rev. J. E. Davis,

Denver, Col.

My dear Brother Davis:

Your letters of recent days were acknowledged by Dr. Ray in my absence in attendance upon the Missouri General Association, and there is nothing perhaps to add to what he has said.

I note what you say about Brother Daniel and sincerely hope that he will come to such an understanding of the situation as will save his feelings and retain him for the great work he has been doing. As I have already written you, I believe in Daniel, and love him, and would not like him to think that I or anybody else had meant an injustice to him.

Either through you or your fellowworkers, I hope to learn more about your work and plans at the Texas Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Cor. Sec'y.

October 26, 1916

Rev. J. E. Davis,
c/o Rev. W.E.Davis,
Clinton, Missouri.

Dear Brother Davis:-

I am glad to get your good letter of October 23rd. I like its spirit. Indeed, I like very much the way you work at things and I thank God for the privilege of working along with you.

I believe still the missionaries shouldn't do anything that they can get the natives to do, but you understand now we are in such a strain financially that we have to break all sorts of theories.

I wrote you the other day, raising some further questions about the purchase of the printing plant at El Paso. I have no doubt that answer to these questions will soon be in hand. As I see it, there doesn't appear to be any reason why we shouldn't handle the financial end of your transaction in El Paso. I will be better for the Board to do so. It appears to be a good investment and in case the printery should not be left in El Paso, but should be moved to some other place, I have no doubt we could sell to advantage, since you have gotten a good bargain. I think you can count upon the money being in hand to meet the obligations you have undertaken by the first of June. I wrote you to get in hand the facts to answer all the questions that might possibly arise concerning the transaction.

I will say further that I feel you did a wise thing in what you have done and while it is usually best for the Board to pass upon the purchase of any property before the purchase is finally made, we must be reasonable and recognize that there arise emergencies such as you encountered at El Paso when you had to act. Fortunately, we have good business men in yourself and the other brethren in El Paso and so every interest was well cared for.

There have been some other letters in reference to the general situation down there. I hope everything can be worked out satisfactorily.

I am sorry to see things taking the turn they are in the general situation in Mexico. It does not look hopeful for the speedy reopening of our work. It may be that after the election,

--J.E.D--

things will settle down. We, of course, will devoutly pray that they will. However, they may eventuate, and however soon they may settle down, I think it is quite clear you have taken the right step in El Paso in reference to the Publishing House. We can go ahead with that work, I trust, in a helpful way. We certainly need literature for the spreading of the light. You will be in position now to provide for at least some of it.

I will send your salary and the \$26.45 due you on traveling expenses to your wife on the first day of November.

I shall remember you in prayer in behalf of the work you are to do in Clinton. I do pray that the blessing of God may be upon you wonderfully and that you may see many souls horn into the Kingdom. May God watch over you and keep you in good physical as well as spiritual trim.

Cordially yours,

R/W

133.33
26.45
159.78

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

J. E. DAVIS, ADMOR.
2737 CLAY STREET

DENVER, COLO., E. U. A., Oct. 31st, 1916

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

Dear Brother:--

Yours of the 26th came to hand yesterday afternoon. Was glad to hear from you. I had answered your former letter in the morning and received yours of the 26th in the afternoon.

I appreciate the words you use with reference to the El Paso matter, as I was feeling a little bit guilty about the matter after what you had written before. I appreciate your position, I think, and assure you that I do not want to do anything that would in any way embarrass you or cripple the work. I did what I did because I felt that it was the best thing to do, and with the consent and hearty approval of the other brethren there at El Paso. I feel relieved somewhat that you are convinced that I did the best under the circumstances.

I do not want you to misinterpret what I said in my letter of yesterday. I have been thinking over what I wrote, and I am sure you think the same thing, but I neglected to state that I know you have to deal with the churches and they are very averse to any sort of a debt, and the uncertainties of the present crisis make it necessary that you retrench to a certain point.

I certainly trust that some of these days the churches of the Lord will understand the great Commission and really do their duty toward the work of evangelizing the world, but the way it appeals to me there are many pastors that are like the younger son of the parable: they are saying, We go, and go not. How can they be brought to realize that they are falling far short of their duty? "Like people, like priests." And that seems to be the trouble in many places.

My address on Mexico Sunday night has been received very well and indeed, even better than I had hoped. Sunday afternoon I went ten miles up the railroad and gave a temperance address. Some have estimated that I spoke to more than 1000 persons Sunday.

Last night we had a large crowd and a good interest. They say that this church has not had an ingathering for many years. It would seem that there must be a change or the church will soon run entirely out. But we are trusting.

I have been asked to speak on Mexico in Sedalia, and if I can possibly get to it will do so. Also they want me to speak in Liberty on Mexico, as also before the student body of William Jewell, my alma mater. This I hope to be able to do before I return to El Paso, but it will depend on circumstances.

Thanking you again for your kind letter, and trusting that this may be the greatest year in the history of our work,

I am fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis