

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

J. E. DAVIS, Admor.

2737 CLAY STREET

DENVER, COLO., E. U. A., Feb. 1, 1917

Dr. T. B. Ray,

Richmond, Va/

My Dear Bro. Ray:--

Your letter of the 25th just received.

No, I have not been drawing any rent for some time past, not since leaving Mexico. Except a very small rent we were paying in Mexico City for a few months.

So if this amount is available you need not appropriate more. We will make it do.

I am leaving again tonight for the border. I was called home on account of sickness, but all are about well again.

In a few days I have a matter to put before you which will be presented in detail. I think it will suit you as it will mean a saving of some \$1200 on my salary. In short I have been asked to take charge of the Deming church of New Mexico, and they will pay \$1200. I will supply for them next Sunday and the following Sunday. It is near El Paso and I can do the work I am now doing and do that also.

If the place pleases me I will write you the whole proposition in a few days. If it does not, then I will at least advise you of the fact. They called me without ever even knowing me or hearing me preach.

What perilous times we are living in! Here we are on the verge of war with Germany again. Well, God only knows what it all means.

(Over)

In case I should take charge of the Deming church, it will be as supply pastor only. But I probably can not take it up till about March 1st or perhaps towards the middle of that month. Will let you know all about it soon.

With my next check please send the rent for January. I mean with the January salary check. If that has been sent, then just wait till the next time.

May the Lord lead and bless you.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

February 5, 1917

Rev. J. E. Davis,

Box 667, El Paso, Texas.

Dear Davis:-

I am glad to get yours of February first.

In order to get the matter straight, I am enclosing you a check for twenty dollars for your January rent. As I have informed you, we have appropriated \$240 for your rent for 1917. Hereafter, we will include your month's allowance for rent in your monthly salary check.

I am sorry to learn that your family has been sick. I am delighted to know that all are well again.

I am interested to find what you say about the possibility of your serving the Deming Church and at the same time keeping up your work in connection with the Publishing House. I have an idea that you could do that, especially as Brother Lacy is rendering you such assistance as he is. Of course, if you could serve this church and relieve the Board of \$1,200 on your salary, it will be of that much help to the Board. I hope your arrangement will be with the understanding that your service to the Deming Church is only temporary, because when things do settle down we must be ready for full time work in Mexico. The opportunity will be wonderful. I haven't any doubt about its settling down. There may come a settlement sooner than we imagine. May God grant it.

We are certainly in grave peril now as a nation. There isn't any doubt in my mind about our soon being drawn into active hostilities

--J.E.D.--

with Germany. It is awful to think of, but I do not think we can go as far as we have without taking the remaining step.

May God bless you in all you do.

Cordially yours,

R/W

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

J. E. DAVIS, ADMOR.

2737 CLAY STREET

Feb. 24th, 1917

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

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

Dear Brother:--

Your kind letter of the 5th came to hand some days since, and I have delayed answering it, on account of not having decided to accept the care of the Deming church. I have not declined the call yet, but on the other hand, have not accepted it either. I am trying to know the mind of the Lord and so am just waiting a bit.

Oh, if only the Mexican situation would open up and permit of our returning there and getting down to work in dead earnest? That would help solve many problems. But it is not yet open, and I have no desire to go back till there are more or less stable conditions there. I did not come out till I had to, and so I do not care to go back till I see some prospect of doing the work that should be done.

I have some very good letters from down there. The work is moving forward in some places very encouragingly. I do wish we had more native men at work. Have you seen the way the Constitutional Convention shut us out? I want to get hold of a copy of the original wording, as often the translators do not give the exact sense, and I would like to see it. It begins to look as if we would not have very much ground to stand on as missionaries down there. I suppose however we will be able to dodge some things.

I do not think they have done anything to hinder the free publication of our literature, and that is what concerns my work individually most of all. I think we could be at work now, if we were there and had paper. I am going to find out all about this matter and will let you know what I think--that may not be worth much however--but at any rate we have to take our bearings anew.

Had a fine week down at Deming. I preached every night and we had several professions. On Sunday I baptized three. They are anxious for me to go there, but I am not altogether convinced that the Lord wants me to go yet. I do not know but what He wants me somewhere else. Time will tell. I pray for His leading. I know that I WANT to do His will and not mine.

I certainly am sorry about the death of Bro. Percy Stuart. I have just learned about it. I saw him in Kansas City about the middle of December. He was not well then. But it is a shock to me. We were in College together.

Bro. Lacy is getting the Expositor out. He is doing as well as both of us could do under the present circumstances. I have sent him my part of the lesson work, and he is getting along well from what he writes me.

Rest assured that if I ^hould accept pastoral work, it will be with the understanding that it could be severed--that is, the relation--on short notice. I am ready, when the Lord opens up the way, to go back to my beloved work. I trust that some way may be devised to do more work than we are doing, but I see no way just at present. I do not think it wise to undertake very much just now. I mean new work.

I helped Bro. Lacy reduce expenses to the minimum and he is getting the swing now and I think will be able to get along pretty well. I will continue to help him even though I may not be with him on the field all the time.

I will keep you posted as to my movements. I may go on a lecture trip through Missouri and Arkansas about the time of the Convention, and get over there. I am not sure yet what I can do, but want to be there if possible. I do not want to be a burden to the Board however, and will do my best to keep down expenses. I mean that I will not call on you for expense money, as I think I can make it otherwise. If I cant make it otherwise, will not go to the Convention.

My youngest boy passed the ten year mark the 10th of this month and so next month will draw his full allowance. On the other hand my daughter tells me that she is going to marry soon. I do not know just when. I have tried to persuade her to wait a year or two, but as they say, "nothing doing." So, I suppose her part will ^{be} cut off when that takes place. I will notify you when it takes place. Do not mention it yet.

Oh, well, there is so much to say, and I am sure that you are too busy to read it, so I will close. I inclose my report. It is short, but it is what we did last year as best I can get it together.

May the good Lord lead us all in these troublous times. Certainly we should be watching and waiting, for I think His return can not be far off. But of course I know not. Whatever else can be said about it, it does seem that the Word is being fulfilled in a very extraordinary manner.

Faternally yours,

J. E. Davis

P.S. Thanks for the
rent check for Jan.
J. E. D.

February 28, 1917

Rev. J.E. Davis,
2737 Clay St.,
Denver, Colo.

Dear Brother Davis:-

I am very much obliged to you for your newsy, brotherly letter, written on February 24th. I enjoy having such letters written me and I hope to get many such from you.

I pray that God will guide you in the course you should pursue in reference to the work in Deming. I believe He will make your path clear. I note, with pleasure, that if you do accept you will accept upon condition that you can be relieved upon short notice. I believe you ought to hold yourself in readiness for the work in Mexico whenever the opening is made.

I am glad to note about the good work Lacy is doing. He is a fine fellow and I am glad he can be engaged as he is, because he has been somewhat restless on account of the situation in Mexico. This opportunity of rendering a real service to Mexico through the Publishing House will comfort and encourage him. He is a splendid man and I am anxious to see him reserved for the great work I believe he will be able to do some time in Mexico.

I hope very much you can arrange to be at the Convention in New Orleans by the method you suggest. If you will let me know in ample time, I think I can secure for you free entertainment. It is customary every year for the local Committee to entertain our missionaries. If you say so, I will put you down now and report you to the Committee at the proper time.

I am very much perplexed about the Mexican situation. I am conducting an investigation to the best of my ability. From what I have had from missionaries, the general impression seems to be that we shall have to line up,--certainly for the North Mexican work,--along the border, placing possibly a Theological Training School in El Paso and one or two Girls' Schools at some other point. I see no reason why, if we have to work along the border, we couldn't carry out the plan we had with the Northern brethren for the cooperative work.

I believe that we will find a method by which we can render a great service to Mexico. The Constitution is a rather stiff one, but it is really not, as you know, designed directly at the Protestant Mission work. For this reason, we should be patient with it and since this is true, as you suggest, I believe there will be found meth-

--S.E.D--

ods by which we can go along, to a certain degree, at least, with the work we want to do.

What would be your judgment about locating the schools along the border, if we cannot have them in the Interior. Should there be a Girls' School at Nogales, which would mean the transfer of the work at Guaymas to that point, and another Girls' School at El Paso, which would mean the transfer of the Chihuahua to El Paso, another one at Eagle Pass, which would mean the transfer of the Madero Institute? Or, should all of these Girls' Schools be combined into one and located, say at El Paso? Could girls from the Pacific Coast field or the Saltillo field, be induced to come to El Paso? What would you think of locating at El Paso the Boys' School and the Theological School, which we had decided we would locate at Aguas Calientes? I should like to have the benefit of your judgment on these matters.

I enclose check for your salary for February, including the extra allowance for your youngest son, who reached the age of ten during the month.

May God richly bless you in all your days.

Cordially yours,

R/