

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

J. E. DAVIS, ADMOR.

2737 CLAY STREET

DENVER, COLO., E. U. A., Mar. 14, 1917.

Dr. T. B. RAY,
Richomnd, Va.

Dear Brother Ray:--

Your good letter of the 28th of February came to hand promptly, but I have delayed answering that I might give you the result of my inquiry into the Constitutional exactions, but up to the present time I have not received any thing in the original on the subject.

One thing I have resolved and that is the Deming matter. I felt decidedly led of the Lord to decline it. I dont know just why, but you know how that is. I was also led to decline a proposition made me by the Las Cruces church--this church is also near El Paso--though they had not gone so far as to call me to be their pastor.

I have had some propositions here but am not going to tie myself up in any way for I think the Lord is putting a solution of the whole matter into my heart. I think that by September I will feel able to go back on the job, and if we cant do all we would like to do in the publishing work, we can do a great deal more than we are doing, and I know I can keep busy. I think we will move to El Paso before September, and in the mean time we are making plans for the coming year--1918. These plans will likely be in pretty good shape by the time we see each other--God willing--at the Convention, and I will show them to you. I feel that they will meet with your approval. Of course this is with reference to publications, etc.

Lacy is doing well and as you say it is a good thing for him. It keeps him busy. And he had not been quite so much under the strain as I had been. It gives me a chance to get the rest I just had to have. I feel much better than at any time since leaving Mexico, and think that by September I can take hold of the plant in good earnest again. Am beginning to plan to that end, and if God so orders that is what I will do. I do know that I want to do His will, whatever that is.

The second Expositor for the year is much better than the first. Of course, we got the first one out under great difficulties. Now we are better situated and then we did better work in the editing. I am glad of it, as the first number was not all we could have wished, though under the circumstances it was a wonder. I am getting my part of the editorial work ready now as ~~so~~ fast as I can, so that I can have time to go to the Convention and make the lecture trip I am beginning to plan to begin about April 15th. I think I can get my work done by that time.

You say that you are very much perplexed about the Mexican situation. So am I. I rather think it will drag along all through the years till finally some European power will drive the United States to intervene. But I am no prophet. The fact that there could be elections and that Carranza was elected may mean something. And yet I remember the election of Madero. It was but the signal for more revolt. And this may be the case now. The masses do not have any use for Carranza, but he may be able to

hold his own and finally dominate the situation. For my part I think they would do well to rally round him, but they do not always follow my advice. If they would I would soon get them settled down.

Now, I come to the questions you ask me. I will give you my opinion as best I can and you can take it for what it is worth.

I think we are going to have to do a great deal more from this side of the border than we did before, and I am rather of the opinion that we are losing time by postponing the arrangements. I think that we can solve the school problem--I mean the problem of higher education for our boys and girls--by establishing the schools agreed upon down along the border. El Paso is one of the very best places. Now, of course you will have to consult with the New York folks. But my idea is that some three schools could be established that would serve for the entire Republic--not merely for the border work. I can not see why these schools might not all be located at El Paso. We have to help pay the expenses of our boys and girls in getting to and from the college points any way. It seems to me that we could make these schools more efficient if they were consolidated and correlated. I do not mean coeducational. That would be rather hard to do perhaps. But they could all be located at the same place and perhaps that would be more economical. But of course this is only my opinion.

I think that the printing plant should also be located there in El Paso, and that as soon as we can get to it we should bring out of Mexico all our equipment for it and set it to going, as we are going to need literature as never before. I do hope this whole matter can be worked out soon and that we can get a chance to go to work in earnest again.

I shall be glad to answer any questions you may desire to ask me. I also would be glad to know what you are planning if there are any plans on foot--that is if it is consistent with your policy and I can assure you that whatever may be said to me in confidence you can count on its remaining so. One thing is sure and that is that my heart is set on getting that Publication Plant established and in good running order.

Oh, yes, a suggestion before I forget it: You ought to talk with the Home Board people before doing anything at all toward establishing the schools along the border--especially in El Paso. Also the State Board of Texas Convention, if the schools are established at any other point along the Texas border. The Publication work can be established without any danger of friction. I attended to that right at the beginning and it is all right.

Well, I will be 44 years old a week from tomorrow. Time does fly. The sun do move, sure.

I received the salary check, but the rent for February was not included. Suppose you forgot that item.

You will pardon such a long letter, but I wanted to say these things and now they are said.

I authorize you to take out of my March check \$25 as an offering to Foreign Missions. Don't forget this. Wish I could make it more, but can not just now.

God bless you and may you come out this year without any debt, and that we may set in motion some plan for Mexico.

Oh, yes, I was about to forget. Put me down on the list of missionaries to the Convention. I intend to be there, D.V.

Faternally yours,

J. E. Davis

March 21, 1917

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

Dear Davis:-

I am very grateful to you for your good letter of March 14th. I am glad to get the news it contains and ~~here~~ the hope that is breathed through it. I do not think we should despair because of the present situation. We have met difficulties before, and we shall meet them again. I haven't any doubt in my mind that we shall be able to render great service still in Mexico. God help us all to have far-sighted judgment and may He help us to accomplish the work I mention.

I have had the feeling all along that the Publishing House if possible, ought to be located within the bounds of Mexico on the theory that all institutions which are to serve the Mexican people ought to be within the borders. It can become more intimately a part of the people when it is in their midst than when it is on the outside, even though it may be right on the border. However that may be, I think the thing to do, for the present, is to wait and see how the ~~present~~ constitution is operated and be alert to our opportunity to do what we can in the publishing business. I do not think you would be very much constrained in your publishing work, even if you were in Mexico. You could not discuss political affairs, but you would not want to do that anyhow. There is another big question with reference to the ownership of property. That, I think, ~~could~~ be handled through some sort of native holding corporation. This, however, is a detail which we can thrash out later. It may be the best thing to do to locate in El Paso. We shall keep our minds open on this point.

One of the objections urged against having the schools on the border is that we should have to be lined up with the Home Boards and the State Boards and, therefore, have such a numerous handed management that the schools might not be able to be as efficient as they would otherwise be, when they are answerable only to one and, at the most, two Boards. I don't consider this an insuperable objection, but it is worth thinking about when we take into consideration all the facts that bear on the case.

I beg your pardon about the oversight of your rent check. I enclose twenty dollars to cover this item. Hereafter, it will come all right.

We are grateful for the twenty-five dollars which you give to the current fund, which you authorize me to take out of your March salary. This will be done and a check sent you for the remainder.

--J.E.D--

I shall be mighty happy to see you in New Orleans. I want to talk to you a lon , long time.

May God bless you.

Cordially yours,

R/W