

Nov. 23rd, 1917

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

My Dear Brother:--

I have been rushed about half to death, so I have neglected you. I suppose you are out of humor about it too, so I will try to write now that I begin to see my way out of the wilderness.

For greater convenience I will go about these matters as Nos. 1, 2, etc. Soohereegoes for number

1. I have employed Josué Bautista, formerly pastor of the Church in Juárez to work with me here in the editorial and general work of the House. He had made up his mind to leave Juárez, and so with the consent of Bro. Hatchell, I have arranged for him to begin work the first of December. I am sure this will meet with your approval. Valdés wanted more money than I could offer him, as the appropriation is \$75 per month, and he wanted \$85. I let him go.

2. This is perhaps the most important. Bro. Hatchell is about to move back on this side of the river, and I think it a prudent move. He has for some time been rather restless on account of having so small a field, and has ~~talked~~ about quitting the work, unless the way opened up for him to do more work. So I have proposed to him that he help us here in an unofficial way for some time to come. That will let me have my time for editorial work, which is very necessary. Under the present arrangement, I have very little time for that kind of work, and the real burden will fall on me. Of course others will help, but I am to be the editor of the papers, and want to see what goes into them. I mention the matter as "unofficial," because perhaps the New York Board would not want him or any other of our Americans to be connected officially with the plant, and he has decided that if it meets with your approval, he will help me. This will be a great help indeed, as I see that there is going to be plenty to do. I hope therefore that you can set your seal of approval on this arrangement, and that soon, so he can begin his work January 1st, if not before.

3. I wish I might have here some of the Mission books you have for sale. I think it would help out some, and perhaps stimulate the folks in this part of the land to buy them more and get better acquainted with our work, etc. What could you do for us?

4. We have the Linotype set up but not yet in operation, as the press came short a piece or two, and so we had to get out the Expositor for the first quarter in the old way. But we will have everything in operation before the time to begin

Nov. 28, 1917

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

Dear Brother Davis:-

I am very much obliged for your letter of November 25th.

I have been wondering what had become of you. I am glad to find you are still in the land of the living and that you are right on the job.

It is all right about the employment of Josue Baptista. This is a matter over which you had complete control.

Of course, if you can make any special arrangements with Hatchell which would not prevent him from carrying on the work he has in hand, I see no reason why he shouldn't help you.

I had a letter the other day from Cheavens telling about what you had suggested and I raised the question with him whether three missionaries actively working for the Publishing House wouldn't be a big allotment. He was talking about giving up his field work in order that he might write the lessons for your Quarterly, which now it seems you have decided to put into book form. I hardly see how we could spare Cheavens from his field work. Somebody will have to look after that and it seems to me he is the man to do it. Of course, if he can carry on his field work and at the same time give you the additional help I see no objection to his doing so.

I do not quite understand what you mean by your having some of the Mission books for sale. Didn't we agree when we were in conversation in El Paso that your energies would be devoted toward circulating literature in the Latin-American world and not to make any effort to circulate literature on this side of the border. Do you mean now to suggest that you think it would be well to have a Publishing House distributing books in English on this side of the border? Would that not bring you in to competition with the Publishing House in Dallas and with the State Board of Texas Book Department? I wish you would write me more explicitly on this point. I do not feel there is quite data enough in your letter to enable me to suggest anything very helpful on this point.

I am glad to note the progress you are making toward getting your printing outfit in shape. I know you will be greatly relieved when you get your Linotype and new Press into operation.

--J.E.D--

Please keep in mind that you are to write me that article I want giving your view of the importance and place of Publication work. I expect something worth while from you.

I shall be interested to see the circular in English calling for special prayer for your work and also the one giving a brief history of your plan. I take great pleasure in the wor you are doing . It is far-reaching and I am sure God will greatly bless it.

With best wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

R/U