

July 30th, 1918

Dear Brother Ray:--

Several things I have to say, and I trust that you will bear with me while I say them. I have been trying to get to this ever since our Mission Meeting, but I got so far behind with my work that week that I have just caught up. So will try to write all I want to this time.

1. I have received from the Home Mission Society their draft for April, May, June, July and August, in all \$833.33 which comes in at a splendid time, as I have to pay a paper bill that is due day after tomorrow, and other expenses, and at the same time tide over till we can get things evened up. I have not yet made the "evening-up" calculation, but will do so when I get a bit of time.

2. I am drawing this time only my salary and rent, that is, \$160.00. Before the next time, I will have made the calculations as to how to draw on you hereafter for the part that is to come from our Board. It will not be so much, and it will be some time before you will have to help us with your part.

3. Now, I come to a matter of much importance. I am going to be very, very frank and tell you just what I have been thinking and why. I have been thinking of resigning this job and getting clear out of the way. I sometimes wonder what I am fit for and what I am accomplishing. Things go so slowly and everything costs so much. The reason for this thought is that I am fearful of the consequences of continuing if I have to KEEP ON DOING THE WAY I AM HAVING TO DO NOW. I mean, with so much to do and worry about. I am perfectly willing to work all that any man ought to do, but I am not as able to work as I once was, and every once in a while I feel that old nervous demon creeping up on me. I just feel that it is all wrong to have to completely sacrifice myself. If it were not wrong, then I would be willing to do it. I do not think it is necessary.

(1) So we must have more help here. True, I have been thinking that the way it was recommended by the Mission is not the best organization of the work. Like Moses, we must have this work organized and I then could see to the work and make it go without killing myself. In order to do the work we have laid out and must do, if we do anything like what ought to be done, we need two editorial helpers (I have one now) and a man that can be depended on to run the plant. I have been thinking since the brethren made the recommendations at our Mission meeting, that we do not really need a man (such a high priced man) for the plant. I think perhaps I can get a Mexican who would do the work. I have in mind a man I had for many years in Mexico, and I have written to him, or rather have had a man to write him, so I would not get mixed up in any way with the labor laws. I have not heard from him, nor is it time yet to get a reply. Then, I think I can get Srita. Alicia Müller, of Saltillo to come and take a part of the work of editing the

childrens' papers and other work in connection. She has been helping with the children's paper this year, but she is too far away to make it go as it should. I think we can get her here for about \$50 U.S. money per month.

(2) Then, we are so crowded up here that we have to have more room, if nothing else but office and store rooms. This has been comprehended in the estimate. The brethren suggested this, though I had thought of it before, but hated to ask for so much money. There is a store room right by the side of this place we have and if we can get it, I am sure the owner would fix it up for our office and store rooms.

(3) With this we ought to be able to organize the work and get it on a footing that will enable me to do my work and see that my work is done properly. Often my work is left undone while I do the work that others should do.

3. Now, there is another matter of great importance and should be attended to at your earliest convenience. Here it is. We have great, very great need, of two machines. One is a power paper cutter. The one we have is very small, just a toy you might say, and we lose all kinds of time tearing paper in two, and then we have to tinker along cutting paper a few at a time, as also our quarterlies, etc. We waste too much time, and so this cutter is an absolute necessity, and urgent. I have quotations guaranteed only for 15 days from yesterday, and they are as follows: 1. 34 in. Chandler & Price power cutter with fixtures except motor a little water damaged in their fire in Dallas, which they guarantee as good as new, \$470, f.o.b. Dallas. Another the same size and make, not damaged by water, \$518. I really think the water damaged cutter is just as good, as the guarantee of Barnhart Bros. and Spindler is back of it, and their man says the only damage is that water fell on ~~the~~ ^{it} when they had their fire. They went over ~~the~~ ^{it} and they are just as good as if they had never been water damaged, so far as their usefulness is concerned.

The other machine we need is a wire stitcher. We have a toy that was with the plant we bought at first here. It has served us after a fashion, with much waste of time and plenty of worry, as I have to doctor it every time it gets stubborn, and that is often. That kind of a stapler has a reputation for perpetual stubbornness. Now we need a Boston wire stitcher, that will stitch from one sheet to 1/2 inch. This equipped with motor ready for use costs \$379.50. This is f.o.b. Dallas.

This with a motor for the paper cutter and expense of getting them here from Dallas and installed would make a bill of just about \$1000.00.

Now a suggestion: Why not give us this money from Judson Memorial funds and relieve this need? I think we have that much to our credit, have we not? This is not a whim on my part. It is a real need.

4. We are having to pay much higher wages than we did, but our income is better than we had expected it to be, so we are making ends meet so far. Of this I am very glad, for I hate to have to call for help when all had been calculated before, but these times are so uncertain that calculations "gang aft alee," as doubtless you yourself know.

Well, this is the burden of The Southwest Desert at the present time. Hope it will not bluff you out right at the very start. At lease read it through.

Faternally yours,

J. E. Davis