

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

BOX 667

El Paso, Texas, E. U. A.

Chgd
Aug 13 1918

Aug. 8th, 1918

Dear Brother Ray:--

Please send me 12 copies of the Mission study book, The Romance of Missions in Nigeria. These are for a study class here in El Paso, and they asked me to send for them. Send me bill and I will remit for same by return mail. Send by mail to Box 667.

I have written to Miss Alicia Müller of Saltillo, and asked her if she would come here to work with us. She can not do the work there. I am counting on help from the Board, ~~but~~ I have prayed many days about this matter, and I think I have fought it through. I can get work that would be easier and yet, it seems that the Holy Spirit is not willing for me to go yet. So I am counting on you to make it possible for us to do the work needed to make our literature EFFICIENT. So I need her or some one else. I wrote you about this matter. Bautista, I think, will stay with me, though it is not yet entirely decided. He wanted to go back into the pastorate.

I wrote you about more room. I have already begun plans to get the house next to us here, but on the other side from what we had thought. I can get it for \$20 rent per month. I wish you would tell me to go ahead, as we must have more room, and that as soon as possible.

These are the urgent matters. Others will arise. But we must do this work, and do it so it will bring in the best/re-

turns. I must have adequate help, and we must have room. And we can not wait for these things. And we must have the two additional machines I wrote you about.

A letter from the Co. says they have disposed of the water damaged cutter, so there is nothing we can do along that line. You will remember I said that would serve us perfectly well, and it would mean a saving, but that will have to be passed up.

I am counting on you. In fact I am sure of you, and am going ahead, except of course in the matter of the machinery, as I want your O.K. on that matter. If the Lord wants me to sacrifice myself completely here, I want to make the sacrifice count for all it is worth to His Kingdom.

Never was there a time when we have had the opportunity that we have now for our literature. And we are planning and working hard to get it out ahead of time so it can get to the ends of the earth on time. We will be ready for them January 1st, and if the S.A. people order in time, they will have their papers on time.

So, I am counting on the Board.

May the Lord lead us all in these trying times.

Faternally yours,

J. E. Davis

*I mean South
American brethren*

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

BOX 667

El Paso, Texas, E. U. A.

August 27th, 1913.

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

Dear Brother Ray:--

I come now with a tale of woe that perhaps you would rather not hear, but I am resolved that this business shall not go bankrupt on my hands. Everything is going up so fast and expenses are increasing so rapidly that I do not think I can keep head above water very long, unless there is some relief. And I think this can not come except from the Boards, as the chances are that prices will continue to soar.

I am going to be left alone with this whole burden on my shoulders. That is the first thing. Bautista who has done such splendid work since he began with me here, and who has given me real efficient help in the editorial work, has decided to quit and go to Torreón as pastor. He leaves me Monday. That is, Saturday is his last day. I have no one in sight that could fill the place. Am hunting for some one, but nobody would accept the salary of \$75 that we offer. I mean no one who could be a real man on the job. Or at any rate, so far I can not find any one.

Then, see here what I have just figured out. My help which consists of the editorial man, a linotype operator and two printers--one press man and the other to form the papers and help in a general way, and a girl to fold papers, etc. which makes it necessary that I often quit my work to help mail out the papers--make a pay roll now of \$327 per month. This just for workmen.

Then I have figured out that rent, paper, power, gas, ink, postage and other incidentals will and do cost us in the neighborhood of \$150.00 monthly. This makes about \$475 per month to run this plant now. Our income is practically nothing aside from the job work we get once in a while. But that only helps a little.

Now, we get from the two Boards \$250 per month, and \$50 that comes in from the paper I sold down in Mexico. That makes \$300, to pay \$475 with. How to do this I find not. Besides this, I am short an office helper, which I can not afford to have, making the burden on me more than I can carry, it seems some times.

It is true that the New York Society paid me \$333.33 just a bit ago, but I had paper bills to pay and so I have now something short of \$600, but they will pay only \$166.66 each month and you have already paid to the end of the year and more than that, so where are we to land? I am looking ahead a little, as I am resolved to jump before the ship sinks. She is sinking rapidly.

The same is true with reference to my salary. You are as silent as the grave over there. Perhaps you have good reason for it. We have hinted and recommended, but not a word from Richmond. I am going behind each month, and in a few months more will be bankrupt personally. Living is exceedingly high here and goes higher every few days. I am doing some work on the side, for which I get a few dollars. Without this we would have gone under some time ago. Now it is not sufficient.

The pastor of the first church here gets \$3000 salary and is saying they cant live on it now. The Central church pays more than that, I understand. The city missionary, a single man with no one dependent upon him gets \$1200. Rev. Vermillion, the Sanitorium man that the Home Board sent here to do a work that is no more important than this one I am trying to do--working every day at my desk from early morning to late in the evening, and often then working till late at night over my editorial, or my Sunday School lessons, or correcting proof of the papers, etc.--this man gets a salary from the Home Board of \$3000 and expenses.

Now, it has come to the point of desperation. I must know something soon. Say the word, that you can not help us out any further and I will get work elsewhere. Say the word, and you will be relieved of my expenses. I can not help this. I pay my debts and will pay my bills in advance, the Lord willing, or know the reason why. So I am looking ahead a bit. But we must know something. This situation grows worse, and doubtless will continue to grow worse as long as the war lasts, and that may be a good long while yet.

I raise the question: Is it right that we should be a burden to the Foreign Board? It should not be so. But that is the way it begins to appeal to me--that we are a burden and the expense is too great. I trust I am not saying any thing that is not justified by the conditions and facts in the case, but I just feel that something has to be done and that without delay now.

Now the machinery I asked for a short time ago. I am convinced we need that worse and worse. I will have to hire a dray to take our work elsewhere and pay to have it cut and that after we get so far behind waiting for the dray and the use of the cutter that we can not send out the work on time. Oh, of course, we try to get it out, and we use this small one we have as far as we can. The stitcher also is a great necessity. But it would be better not to get them than to try to carry on this work without sufficient funds, and you will see how we stand for funds.

So, taking it all in all, I am "up against it" and have no solution of the matter to offer. For within 30 days things will be so changed we can not make an estimate of expenses.

So, I am anxious to know what we can depend on. I have opportunities now of taking other work and can not get the consent of my mind to quit this. But we will have to know what to depend on.

You will say that I am very frank. That is what I have tried to be. May the Lord lead us in these trying times.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

In a few days I will send you a balance sheet of the month and prospectus for the year up to the present time; if you find time for it. J. E.

100
20
80
5

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BOX 667

El Paso, Texas, E. U. A.

P. S. Another matter that has been pending for some time, and everytime I would write, it would slip my mind, but now as I recall it, I will mention it.

✓ Some time ago you suggested that I find out what some insurance would cost on this plant. I found out and have the data here--the rate is \$1.30 per \$100 per year, or for three years \$3.25. We really ought to have a few thousand dollars on the plant.

Another thing that you will be interested in knowing, is that the machine we bought a year ago--the linotype--is doing fine work, and that now the same model that cost then \$2700 is priced at \$3400, an advance of \$700 in the last few months.

✓ While I am at it, will say that the Western Woodenware people--the local paper house--has a large paper cutter that they offer at \$400. It is in good repair and has power fixtures and all complete. I think we could get it for less if we had the cash to offer. I mention this as it may help solve the problem. In fact I think it is well worth the money they ask for it, taking into consideration the prices of things today. But I will talk to them right now.----- I can't get them down any, and as the cutter cost in pre-war times \$1200, and now are worth around \$1800, they say that \$400 is a low price--which it is.

✓ I would recommend buying it. While it is larger than we would ordinarily need, yet it would be a great time-saver and that is what is needed these days, as well as labor-saving, for labor can not be had here. I have had to raise the wage of my men every few days to keep them at all.

Well, I think these are the "weighty matters" for the day. You will likely say that it is enough.

Faternally and sincerely,

J.E.D.

Aug. 28th, 1918

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

Dear Brother Ray:--

Yesterday I wrote you, but forgot to present a matter that has come up with reference to the plant we have in León.

Sr. Carlos Sotomayor, now of Guadalajara, but who once was my head man at León for several months, or perhaps a year, wants to rent the plant. I have thought it over, and wonder if we had not better have a man there, as we will have to have more of our books bound there, or ship them out and have them bound here. Sotomayor is a book binder himself, and the rent we would receive from the plant would pay those expenses and perhaps more.

I think he would take good care of the plant--he is an evangelical--and would be a good man in a good place there.

I ~~wrote~~ wrote him I was taking the matter up with you and would let him know. Of course, Bro. Neal could meet the man at León and arrange the contract that the law requires. He would have to do it in my name, as otherwise the plant would likely be placed in a dangerous position. The law of Mexico considers that plant as my personal property, and by the way that leads me to suggest that some kind of papers of ownership ought to be made out here--not there--and such documents as would authorize you or some one else to dispose of the property in case I should die, etc.

But I think this would be a good thing to do for the present. I only wish we had the big press here. But we do not have it here and so the best way would be to rent it there to a responsible man.

I am at work on the report I promised you in my letter of yesterday, and hope to have it ready shortly after the first.

Pray for us here. We hope to in some way pull through. "Prayer changes things" is a little motto I have here pasted on my desk. I believe it.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis