

Sept. 4, 1918.

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

Dear Davis:-

Thank you for your letters of August 27th and 28th.

Down in the dumps! Cheer up! While the worst, I hope, is not yet to come, I am sure you are due a great many more struggles in connection with the Casa Bautista de Publicaciones. Don't give up the ship. She'll sail on smooth seas some of these days. Even if she doesn't sail on good seas, I believe she is seaworthy enough to pass safely through stormy waters.

I am sorry to realize you are having such a struggle to make ends meet. I realize that we must find some way of helping you solve this problem and you may be quite certain we will consider it faithfully and try to do our very best.

Before making more definite suggestions, I will wait until I get the complete financial statement which you have promised to send me.

One thing I think is clear above everything else, - the worst thing that could possibly be done by you would be for you to give up the work. To return to the figure I used above, the worst time to desert a ship is when she is in a storm. At such a time she needs to be guided in order that she may successfully weather the gale. Please put it out of your mind that you are any burden to the Foreign Mission Board. All of the missionaries are a burden in the sense that they cost money, but the Board is committed to your work and believes in it and wants to see it carried through. Somebody must be in charge of it. We believe you are the best man we can find and so we want you to continue in the work. While it costs money to pay your salary and other expenses, yet you are no more burden to us than something like three hundred more missionaries are a burden.

Concerning the salary matter, I will say that it may be possible to consider this at our September meeting, but I am not certain we can do so. It may be we shall have to consider this matter at our October meeting, because at the October meeting we shall have the full Board present and such matters are usually considered when the full Board is here. I am hoping some relief can be offered to the Mexican missionaries.

--J.E.D--

I will present at the September meeting the matter of appropriating \$400 to purchase the Paper Cutter you desire. I hope this paper cutter is all right and that you are getting a great bargain. I believe the Board will make the appropriation and you can get the machine.

It would also appear wise if you can arrange to do so to advantage, to rent the house at Leon. You know Carlos and we would have to leave the matter for you to determine. If that plant in Leon can be made to serve and would possibly add a little bit to the income of the Publishing House, it would be well. Of course, you would have to take proper precautions in making contracts and you would be very careful about the man to whom you let the building.

In just what form are the Deeds to the property held? Where are they recorded? What would we have to do in this country in order to secure this property to the Board? Could we transfer the property in the United States? Would not the transfer necessarily be made in Mexico? Then, another question arises,--could you transfer the property to the Foreign Mission Board? The Board, as you know, is one of the corporations which is outlawed in Mexico.

How much insurance do you think we ought to take out on the printing plant in Villaseca?

I pray that God may bless you and keep you in the work. You know my heart is with you.

Cordially yours,

B/W

Sept. 10th, 1918.

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

Dear Bro. Ray:--

At last your letter of the 4th came. It got here yesterday afternoon. Thanks.

Say, it is easy to tell a fellow to cheer up, but I am here to tell you it is harder to do it under certain circumstances. I have not been so badly in the dumps, after all. I have been fighting away single-handed, even against odds, and am about all in. When a fellow has to get down town and open his business at 7.30 a.m. and stick to it till 6 p.m., he has to hustle. I do not even get home for dinner. But that is what thousands of men do every day, and I do not care for that.

What gets on my nerves is the fact that I have to do the above and at the same time, amidst many interruptions hourly, edit three papers, manage the plant, attend to all the correspondence and between times read the last proof of all the papers that are printed. For when I do not get to see that last proof, then the papers go out full of typographical errors and sometimes others kinds, that make me ashamed later on when some good brother calls my attention to what others should have seen.

Well, that is neither here nor there. I am going to write you in a few days giving full details, and send the full report, which I have about finished, though it is lots of work, and I have very little time to attend to it. If I had an adding machine I ^{could} probably get it done easier, but that is a thing I have not and can not afford. But I will get it off soon and at the same time give you an outline of things, and what seems to be necessary under present conditions to make this work go, as it should.

One thing is certain and that is I can not hold up under the load for a great while. But will do my best. I would go to a doctor, but I know what he would say, so why go to him? I would not--could not--take his advice. He would say: "Rest." That is what my whole system is calling for, but there is not even a chance to get out and take a little much needed exercise. But if the Board is going to stand by this work through thick and thin, which I think they should do, then I will stick as long as I can work.

I am going to write at once to Carlos Sotomayor and see what kind of an arrangement we can agree on about the renting of the plant in León. There are some fellows that want to purchase the plant, but I do not know whether they have

any money or not. If we could get about what it is worth in CASH, would you think it a good proposition to sell out the plant? It is of course very doubtful if we ever go to León with this plant again. In fact I think it more than likely such a move would not be contemplated by any one now, since we have abandoned that place. So, if you think well of the idea, I will, at least investigate the matter, and when I get the data necessary, will advise you details.

Now, I am advising the paper House here that has the paper cutter for sale, that it is likely that in a few days I will take the cutter. We certainly do need it. I do this to hold them back from selling to any one else, though I do not think they have but one buyer besides us, and he wants them to pack and ship it. They do not want to do that. They agree to put it here when I get ready for it--that is, deliver it without extra cost to us.

I hope you will not overlook the wire stapling machine that I spoke of. We also need that. But we need the cutter more, that is true. Still if we could get the two would be glad, as it would save time and labor, which means money these days.

Now, I think you did not "get me" on the ownership matter of the plant in León. I do not refer to the house. The deed to the property is here in my possession. It is registered at León. It is in your name, that is the Board's name, with Bro. Mahon as 'apoderado.' I meant only the plant. The Board could not hold that property. So as I bought it and all bills were made out in my name, before the law, I am the owner of it, and if I should die, there would be complications, as my children would be the heirs and they are minors yet. The only way would be for us to arrange some way in this country to show your ownership. But even then, I do not know how it could be made to stick there.

The House is not in my name in any way. Would you like for me to send you the deeds?

As to how much insurance we should carry here, I can only say that we have machinery worth well over \$4000, and I have a stock worth several hundred dollars. Of course that varies, and perhaps it would be as well to carry only on the machinery and installations, etc. The stock we are moving over into the new house we have rented, which joins the one the machinery is in. We can put all the stock here and that would not be taken into consideration in the deal.

As to salary, I trust that I did not in any way make demands on you, in my former letter. I merely felt that it was time to begin to get this matter before you in a way that would make you take notice. I am not asking that you consider it before your meeting in October, but I felt and do yet feel that it should be considered then and that in a way to give us the relief we will have to have.

I am asked to go to Italy with the Y.M.C.A. and they readily assured me they would have no trouble in taking care of the salary I get. And then they would give me my living which would be considerable. Yet, while I was thinking seriously about it, I have not been able to get the consent of my mind.

Faternally yours, J. E. Davis

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

BOX 667

El Paso, Texas, E. U. A.

Sept. 10th, 1918

Dear Bro. Ray:--

A little later on ⁱⁿ the day, after writing you, I am reminded that I omitted one important matter.

The representative of the Graham Paper Co. here who is a good friend of mine and keeps me posted on paper prices even before they go into effect, advised me a day or so ago, when I met him on the street that news paper was going to take a big jump soon, and that as they had a car load which would only last them a few days, and their two last cars they had ordered had been held up by the Company on account of shortage of stock, he advised me to lay in more stock if we wanted to be sure of getting paper to publish our periodicals.

So, I took the matter up with the House and they make me a price of 6 1/2 cts. Think of that! Six and a half cents a pound for that old rotten news paper! Well, he assured me the price would not be that very long, and it was that only for their friends now. I told him I was in a close place and was waiting to hear from you as to your policy in this crisis, so they proposed to protect me on the price for 3,000 lbs of paper. That is, they will reserve that much for me till I hear from you.

Now we ought to have 60 more reams for Atalaya and 45 for Expositor. This will make the 3000 lbs. This will give us paper for ~~the~~ greater part of the coming year. I mean for these two papers. We have for Nuestros Niños, and for several books--two or three which we are going to go to work on soon. It will take about \$200, and I wish you would take the matter up and let us have that in advance so we can handle this paper proposition. I am telling them at the paper house, that I feel sure we will take the paper they proposed to hold for us.

Well, "you see how large a letter I have written with my own hand"s. Trust all this will be in order.

Faternally yours,

J. E. Davis

Sept, 13, 1918.

Rev. J. E. Davis,

El Paso, Texas.

Dear Davis:-

The Board yesterday passed a Resolution granting \$400 out of the Judson Centennial Fund for purchasing the Paper Cutter for the Mexican Publishing House.

This letter will authorize you to draw for the amount here named for this Paper Cutter. Of course, if in making the trade you find you will have to pay a few dollars more, draw for the additional amount. In drawing, be sure that you make it clear that the draft is on the Judson Centennial Fund. I hope you can get the Cutter you want.

The Board also passed a Resolution, increasing the salary of each Mexican missionary \$100 a year, making the total annual salary of a missionary to Mexico \$700. So, for yourself and Mrs. Davis there is an increase of \$200 a year. This becomes effective the first of September and you are authorized to draw either now for the extra amount due you for September, or you may include this amount in the draft which you will draw on your salary account for October.

I am going to be in New York next week and hope to see Dr. Brink. I wish I could have in hand that full statement you have in mind in order that I might go over with him the financial re-

--J.E.D--

port of the Publishing House. However, I think I can make the situation clear to him with the information I have in hand.

I am glad we can make this little increase in the salaries of the Mexican missionaries. It always rejoices me particularly to be able to render any service to you friends at the front.

With every good wish I am,

Cordially yours,

R/W

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

BOX 667

El Paso, Texas, E. U. A.

Sept. 17th, 1918

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

Dear Brother Ray:--

I will now try to give you the result of my investigations and calculations. There is a slight error in the totals, but I only have a little time to look after these things, so it may take me some time to find the trouble, but I send them on any way. The error is slight, and is favorable, there being more money in the bank than the books show--the only trouble is that the excess is not very great. I will find the trouble one of these days and get it straight.

Now, we have received money as follows:

Cash on hand Jan. 1st, 1918.....	\$ 297.01
From our Board 7 mos.....	1750.00
N. Y. Board, 5 mos.....	833.33
From work.....	679.53
From Expositor Bíblico.....	254.07
From Atalaya Bautista.....	277.39
From Nuestros Niños.....	76.23
From sale of books (our own and others).....	330.96
From other sources, including sale of stock in Mexico which comes in monthly.....	565.72
Refund Postage (from deposits while getting our papers registered as second class....	24.96
Total received	\$ 5089.20

Disbursements as follows:

Rent and Phone.....	\$ 230.00
Postage.....	127.77
Books bought.....	159.97
Stock.....	1397.90
Workmen.....	2180.00
Incidentals, etc.....	359.66
Total.....	\$4505.30
Balance on hand Sep. 1st, ..	583.90
	\$5089.20

We have stock on hand that is worth several hundred dollars. It would seem useless to take an inventory now, as we will have to do that at the end of the year. But it is worth quite a nice lot over and above what we paid for it. And it is for use here in the plant.

2

Now, this morning I have a letter from Mr. Clagett Skinner, of Richmond, asking me to go to the New Mexico Convention. I have just written him that I would go. But I want you to send me a statement that I am to go in representation of the Board, which I can use with the Ry. people here, and perchance I can get a pass. In fact I feel that I can on the E.P. & S.W. which will take me quite a bit of the way. Of course, I may not make it, but nothing like trying. You will understand what I want.

You should be greatly rejoiced at the way the work is prospering in certain parts of Mexico. It does one good to get these good reports. Bautista, who was with me here for nine months, and who went to Torreón the first of this month, reports a great work of grace beginning. From many parts of the country, the revival spirit is manifest.

I have before me the Methodist paper and in their church in the City of Mexico, they had 99 conversions in two weeks. And our paper is often the inspiration of these things. I mean, the spirit is catching, and we are the ones often to set things on fire.

I am drawing this time \$188.53, which is the amount of our salary for ~~next~~ month, plus the \$16.66 for this month less \$4.80 which I want you to pay into the Educational Fund there to square this debt for books. (I see I say above, the amount for "this month"; I should have said for October, of course.

Extra for September.....	\$ 16.66
Salary for October.including.rent.....	176.67
Total.....	193.33
Less bill.....	4.80
Amt. drawn.....	\$188.53

Now I do not think of anything else for the moment. I will say that I wrote Dr. Brink and promised that I would write him again when I had carefully gone over the suggestions made.

May the Lord lead us all,

Faternally yours,

J. E. Davis

Sept. 20, 1918.

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

Dear Brother Davis:-

While in New York this week I had a conference with Dr. G.N.Brink, of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. We talked over Mexican matters in general and the Publishing House in particular. Dr. Brink is very sympathetic with the work of the Publishing House, though he has had some difficulties in getting appropriations from his Board, on account of the fact that some of the members on his Board think the Publishing House being located within the bounds of the United States may poach on the territory belonging to the American Baptist Publication Society. Dr. Brink doesn't think this, but some of the other members do.

We went very sympathetically over the letters you have written concerning your condition and we came to the conclusion that what you need to solve your problem is about six thousand dollars a year. Of course, it was easy to form that conclusion from the figures you made and from the estimates made by the North Mexican Mission for next year.

Now Dr. Brink says they have used up all their reserve and he does not see how it will be possible for him to get additional appropriation from his Board before next April. He says, however, he will try to put into the appropriation for the next year's Budget three thousand dollars for the Publishing House. The appropriation will be made the latter part of October, but it cannot apply until the beginning of the next fiscal year, which is, as you know, in April. He asks that I write him fully about this matter after I receive from you the detailed report which you said you were to send me. So please finish your report as soon as you can and let me have it so I may pass all the facts on to Dr. Brink.

Now, in case the American Baptist Home Mission Society should appropriate three thousand dollars which would become effective April first, and we appropriate three thousand dollars for 1919, our share becoming effective January first, would that solve your problem? That is to say, you would draw from January to April from the American Baptist Home Mission Society at the rate you are now drawing and you would draw on our Board at the rate of three thousand dollars a year

--J.E.D--

throughout the whole year. Dr. Brink said he would be glad for you to draw in advance for the amount included in their Budget, ~~if~~ you should need it for instance, in taking care of the purchase you are to make of paper. Of course, if you were to draw in advance you realize you would have to come to a settlement of the matter at the end of their fiscal year.

Dr. Brink raised the question as to whether we might possibly secure to help you Rev. Eric Lund, of Los Angeles, Cal. I understand he is now on the retired list of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, whose missionary he was for sometime in Spain. He is Editor of some periodicals, a magazine in particular, which he publishes in Spain. He seems to be a good writer and could possibly render in a literary way an excellent service. He thought that possibly his Society might be able to secure Dr. Lund and not have to pay as large a salary as we do have to pay to a regular missionary, because Dr. Lund receives a pension now from the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. Neither one of us were quite certain whether your particular need was for a man like Dr. Lund or some man who could look after the physical end of the plant.

I said to Dr. Brink that I thought we might possibly be able to provide you out of the Judson Centennial Fund the \$379.50 you say you may need for the purchase of the Wire Stitcher. He was delighted at the thought that we might grant this amount and hoped we would do so. I think we might possibly do this for you at our October meeting, if you so desired. The money would have to come out of the Judson Centennial Fund.

Now, write me your reaction on all the suggestions made here and let me see whether we are getting any nearer to the solution of the difficulties that face you.

One other thing, I wish you would send to Dr. Brink copies of the periodicals and papers you bring out. I think he would appreciate seeing the work you are doing.

Indeed, I think you are going to find that Dr. Brink is very thoroughly sympathetic with the work you are doing.

With every good wish, I am,

Cordially yours,

R/W

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

J. E. DAVIS, Admor.

BOX 667

EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A. 9/26/18

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

Dear Brother Ray:--

Now I am in possession of yours of the 20th and it sounds pretty good. But I wonder why you had not received those figures I sent you, but the mails are slow, and I presume that you have it ere this.

Yes, I am quite sure that Dr. Brink is a good friend and expect to cultivate that friendship a bit more when I get time for it. As it is I have fifty letters that need attention here right now. Of course we manage to get the names on the lists and the books sent out that we have orders for, but the clerical work remains unattended to while I edit the papers which is all in my hands just now. I have not yet secured an editorial man.

I will send him proofs that he can show his folks that ought to convince them beyond a shadow of a doubt that we will never encroach on the territory of the American Baptist Publication Society, as we do not expect to print books in English nor even sell books in English except as we may have special orders, which we would have even if we were in México. Even then we buy them from the Society, that is, their publications and pay them their prices.

I am going to look into this whole matter and write you again within a few days, so you can have the estimates for your October meeting. I will let you know just what I think about the whole matter, as I do not have enough time for it to-day. Then too I will have to think over some matters a bit, as there are some problems that I will have to figure on. Then in these times I will not guarantee figures even. But I want to make the calculation about as near as I can to cover the work.

However for your immediate satisfaction I will say that your proposition looks pretty clear and safe, and I think you have figured the matter out better than I have, as I did not know what to figure on. I do now, and I see you are with us and that is worth a whole lot. To know that our efforts are looked on by you folks in the proper light, makes it easy to struggle on and wait as patiently as possible for the solution of problems that have arisen on account of present conditions. I will set down a lot of figures and write you a bunch of plans within a very few days.

The Lund proposition was made before by Bro. Brewer. It might be a good thing, but I fear it would not solve our problem, yet I will give it careful attention and write you at the same time as I give you the other data.

Glad you mention that I put Brink on the mailing lists. Our papers and publications go to the Society Rooms, but of course he probably does not see them. I think they go to Dr. Barnes, as he is a good friend--personal and otherwise--of mine. Some of these men are royal men. I met Dr. Brink once in Denver, but he does not remember me. If he comes this way ever, I hope he will drop in, and I am going to so write him. I will try to cultivate him more.

Now if we could get that Wire Stitcher we would be as well equipped as we could want to be. But I have been thinking that we could get along for a few months yet if needs be. Still everything is going up and we may not be able to get that machine at that price now. However the advance would not be more than a few dollars, and the first of the year everything will go up again. So if you can spare it let us have it and we will have then all the machinery we need for our work and that for a good while to come--till after the war is over, I think.

I have purchased the Paper Cutter though I have not yet drawn the money. Thought I would wait till about Saturday when I draw my salary and draw that too. The purchase is made and they would like to deliver it this minute, but I have not got arrangements made to set it up and do not want it in the way here. But it is a trade.

I think I will buy that paper now also and have it sent over here, and will write to New York about drawing a month or two in advance for the money. This I feel will be safe now that I see what you are thinking over there.

This bill for books you inclose, I was only waiting till I drew my salary to deduct it and send the bill ~~in~~ with instructions to pay that amount into the Book Department, where we owe to bill--I say we, I mean I, for I ordered them for a church missionary class here where we are members.

Now you may count on me to get this all threshed out in a few days at the most and you will have all additional plans for next year in ample time for your October meeting.

May the Lord bless you richly. If I were like some men, take a good part of my time translating letters and other good things said about our literature--I only wish I could do a bit more of it, as it is interesting--we might be better advertised both at Richmond and New York.

I will send you inclosed a translation of a letter I got this morning from CUBA.

Fraternally yours,

Davis

We have printed and sent out
free within the last two months
160,000 papers - large paper - of
your trade. We also sent
several hundred three month
subscriptions of our paper to
good people for propaganda work.

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

J. E. DAVIS, Admor.

BOX 667

EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A. 9/27/18

Dear Brother Ray:--

I have been looking over your letter and making certain calculations, etc. I feel that you have about figured the matter out right. That will enable us to tide over, I feel sure. It will give me the help I have to have in order to keep my head above water.

If you folks make it \$3000, and the New York folks begin with that amount April 1st, I feel that we can make it through, for almost all the subscription money that amounts to any thing, comes in during the months of December and January--quite a bit in February. After that we get mighty little. That will tide us over.

As to Rev. E. Lund. I do not see that he would take the place of the Mexican help I must have. I presume that he ~~will~~ submit his copy to some competent man who can correct ~~it~~. I do, ~~not~~ except when I can not help myself, as at the present time. We can write correct Spanish, but we often do not get the style that pleases, as you easily can imagine, so we have to have a good corrector.

To be sure he would write some, though he wrote me recently that by the time he got the material ready for his quarterly Homiletical Review--which is good, by the way, in the main, and ought to be kept up--he was completely exhausted. He is old and feeble, I take it. Perhaps childish in a degree, judging from some things he writes me from time to time. We have corresponded for a good while, and he is sound doctrinally and spiritually minded, but I fear he would only be in the way.

Of course, that matter can be left to work itself out. If we can not find helpers that would be better for our needs, then we might take that matter up later.

On the strength of what you wrote me, I have taken the paper they were holding for me, and have it here in the House. We can not lose out on that proposition, and whatever arrangements you may make, I will be safe on that, I feel sure. We now have about 125 reams of Atalaya paper, 60 Expositor paper and 60 Nuestros Niños paper. This besides paper for two or three books we have ready to publish. All paid for but this last \$200, which I have arranged to pay within the next 30 days, if possible.

Here I give you estimated cost of running this plant to end of year, at the lowest figure possible, without any additional help in editorial work:

For workmen.....	\$ 1434.00
Rent (increased on account of taking other house)-	* 200.00
Stock, minimum.....	* 250.00
Postage, estimated.	80.00
Incidental expenses, estimated.....	150.00
Total expense.....	\$ 2114.00

Estimated income to end of year:

Home Mission Society.....	\$ 666.64
Stock Mexico.....	200.00
Cash on hand, Sep. 1st.....	583.90
Periodicals, estimated.....	150.00
Book sales, net.....	50.00
Other sources negligible	
Total income.....	\$ 1650.54
Deficit.....	463.46
	2114.00

This does not take into consideration the advances that are likely to take place. Not only likely, but that are almost sure to take place. I can not help it. If I could, I would be happy. I am doing my very best to make things go and that as economically as possible.

I have no editorial helper yet. Do not seem able to get one though have offered the work to one or two, and have some others in mind.

In considering this matter, take into consideration that it is going to be almost impossible, if not altogether so, to get a man here for the \$75 comprehended in the amount appropriated for the year.

Here comes the mail and I find your good letter of the 13th. I find that you have granted us a lift. Now I want to thank you for this. It did not come any too soon. Things were looking rather bad for us, but with this we hope to worry along a while longer. I will not draw till October 1st. Please tell the Board that Mrs. D. and myself are very grateful for this raise. We feel unworthy of it, but needed it. We try to live as economically as possible, and expect to continue to do so. Only wish we could have avoided asking for more.

Also thanks for the \$400 grant for the paper cutter. The installation will cost something. I will get it down to the lowest figure possible, and we will utilize our big motor we have here for the big press. Will attend to this shortly.

(over)

See note at end of letter.

Well, I am almost knocked out with all this work, and these constant calls for additional strength. I will have to employ a man and get him soon. But do not want the wrong man.

Pray for me and that the right man may be found.

Mrs. Davis is helping me here some these days. I mean in the plant to keep expenses down to the minimum.

..... May the Lord lead and bless you.

..... Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

Note. On the other page, I call attention to the amount estimated for stock. This is a lot of news paper I wrote you about the other day. Besides this a little margin for other stock needed such as cover paper for Expositor, etc. This would put us in a nice stock in advance, almost sufficient for the coming year--that is for our papers. I strongly advise that this be authorized as soon as possible, as I have the refusal of the paper and do not know how long I can count on the paper and price.

These are indeed perilous times. But the Lord will get great glory unto Himself. Who can doubt it? May His name be praised.

If this reaches you too late to lay before Dr. Brink, I trust you can send it, or a copy of it on to him. I would send him a copy, but I prefer that you be the intermediary in all the relations with the N.Y. Board, as that is the orderly way, so I will leave it for you to work out.

J. E. D.