

Nov. 1, 1919

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

Dear Davis:-

Thank you for yours of October 16th.

Concerning the machinery, I will say that while we appropriated the amount for 1920, if you can buy to advantage before 1920 arrives, I guess we would meet your wishes and provide the money. I am mighty glad to hear that you have employed Mrs. Gordiano. I hope she will be a great help to you. With Mrs. Gordiano and Cheavens, you ought to be able to put things through pretty lively now.

I wish I could see you at the State Convention in Texas, but my duties are such I cannot get that far away from home now.

May God bless you.

Cordially yours,

R/W

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

J. E. DAVIS, Admor.

BOX 667

EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A.

11/13/19

Dear Brother Ray:--

I am glad that you wrote those Inter-Church fellows and told them where to head in at. They seem to have taken you seriously, as they called it off. We were being bothered to death with their questionnaires and requests, etc. I had made up my mind to pay no attention to their stuff, and so you have done us a great favor and them too perhaps.

I wish I could go to the State Convention, but will not get to go as I am planning a trip to Mexico for the first of the year. I want to talk to you about my plans, and trust that they will meet with approval.

Now, first of all, my Mexico trip. We are running low on books--bound books--and want to get a lot of them up this way so that we may bind them up. Then we are needing another large press and as we can not sell the one in León to advantage I am going down there and pack it and ship it out here at Juárez. Will get a car and load it with books and machinery. Will sell out the stuff we have no use for, and bring the rest out. I plan to make the trip about Jan. 10th, if possible to get off by that time. Of course, I am sure this will meet with ~~xx~~ your approval, as that machinery can be used here and not there.

As to other machinery, I am advised that the Miller Saw-Trimmed that we want is still the same price and that it is very likely that it will advance before the end of the year, so I am negotiating a purchase. I think however I can get it as a cash sale and pay for it by the 10th of January. I have not yet heard but I think they will say all right.

I am negotiating the purchase of a Book and Job Folding Machine the same way, and think there will be no trouble in getting it arranged judging from a letter I have just received from the Agents.

As to binding machinery I have not yet decided, but we will have to put in a good bindery. It will be impossible to do our work without it. We can not get good binding done now. So will have to do this. We will purchase some new Magazines for our Linotype and when we get our shop out of Mexico, then we will be face to face with the question of a place for the whole business. We have filled this second house up here completely, and even now are so crowded that we will have to look around for more room.

I think we ought to get a suitable place even if we have to lease it for a term of years. It costs lots of money to move a shop.

Now, these are the immediate plans as to the plant. Others will be made as we get to them and see what we have to do with after we get this in. In the mean time we have to look out for a suitable location. We are completely balled up here and no place any more to turn around.

On account of the paper situation I have been laying in quite a stock. We have a lot of paper now and the larger part of it paid for, by hook and crook. Perhaps I am behind on it some \$400 now with what they just brought in since I began this letter--a lot of book paper I found in Kansas City and got it here. We have paper now for several months I think. Of course not enough to run us a very great while, but it will be enough we hope to tide us over the crisis.

Now, I would be glad if you would talk to me a bit about these matters, especially about the building. There is a man here, the owner of these houses we are in--who proposes to build us a suitable place right close here--and the location is as good as we could desire--but we would have to sign a contract for a term of years. I did not talk very much to him about it, but he is ready. I told him I would write you and then would talk more about the matter. I think we should begin to set our stakes out further. We can do no better I think than plan to stay here at least for a while, as it may be a long time before we could go back into Mexico and really there are good reasons why we should not hold back on account of these conditions.

Have a telegram--cablegram rather--from Quarles asking for more of our papers. The time is not far distant when this House will be an important factor in our work. It is now, but it will be a far greater one soon.

Cheavens has been doing some good work. Our Expositor will be out this week for the first quarter, and I think it is the best one we have ever gotten out. Will send you one.

We are at work now on the Intermediate Quarterly which is a new venture. Have the Picture Cards ready now to print, and will send them out as samples--a part of them, at least, in a few days. The other denominations will look to us for these cards, as no denominations prints them in Spanish, as far as I know. We also plan a small S.S. commentary like Points for Emphasis, or the Gist of the Lesson, this for 1921. Lots of things we ought to do, and we will do them as fast as we can.

I hope to get up a report that will be worth while this time, and I expect to get it to you ON TIME, or at least in time for it to appear in the Minutes of the Convention.

I know you are busy, but take time to express yourself on these matters, and give me a hint as to what I might count on, under present conditions.

May the Lord bless you in your great work.

Fraternally yours, J. E. Davis

Nov. 22, 1919

Rev. J.B. Davis,

Box 667, El Paso, Texas.

Dear Brother Davis:-

Thank you very much for yours of November 13th.

I am sorry you cannot go to the State Convention in Texas. I wish I could go, but I do not believe I will be able to make it. There will be a number of missionaries present.

It seems to me that your contemplated trip into Mexico is a good thing. If you need that machinery down there and can use any of the stock to advantage, it will be well to bring it out, try to put the goods on the market and use the machinery.

I also have been having some thoughts about the expansion of your Publishing House. I have been wondering how you can get along in the cramped quarters you are in. I have known that soon we would have to face this question of larger quarters and I am not a bit surprised to have you mention the matter as you do in your letter.

For how long a time will the man to whom you referred require you to take a lease on the new building he will erect? What amount of rent would he charge you? Would it be within reasonable limits? I see no reason why you should not take a lease for a term of years, provided the time is not too long,--say for three, possibly five years. I doubt whether you should go beyond the five year period. I would like to see it for no more than a three-year period. Of course, if you had the house leased and you were quite clear that we ought to move before the expiration of the lease, we might sublet the building, but I do not think we would have to sublet the building on a three-year or possibly a five-year lease. If we can make satisfactory agreements as to the length of the lease, and the amount of rent, it appears to me you will be lucky if your friend is willing to erect a satisfactory building and lease the same to you.

I have been pleased with the improvement in the

--J. E. D.--

look at your periodicals. I congratulate you. Things are looking better all along the line and I am happy to realize you have gotten to a place where you can make such improvements.

May God bless you.

Cordially yours

R/W

BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

519-521 N. CAMPBELL ST.

BOX 667

J. E. DAVIS, Mgr.

El Paso, Texas, 11/26/19

Dear Brother Ray:--

I want to go into Mexico on a missionary trip, and will have to have a passport.

Will you write a letter addressed to the Department of State, Bureau of Passport Control, Washington, stating that I am going on business to Mexico City and León, Gto., and that I want to stop in Monterrey, Saltillo, San Luis Potosí, Mexico City, León, Torreón. I want to enter at Laredo and come out at Piedras Negras.

I would like to have the privilege to visit Guadalajara also while I am down there, if I have the opportunity. Also I might go to Morelia, though I rather think it is a little too far out of the way.

But the business I am going on is what I wrote you some days ago--getting the plant packed and shipped, unless I can sell it advantageously. But in any event I want to ship out a lot of books.

This letter should be sent to me and it will go along with the application for the passport to Washington.

We are getting along right well with our work.

You will understand that I will not take too great risks in going, as it would not be worth while. But I think it will get better in a few days again. In the mean time, I can get the passport and use it when it seemeth best, though I want to go early in the year.

Well, I have made lots of Campaign speeches, and will take part in the drive next week. Hope for success.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis