

PROBATE COURT
OF MAGON COUNTY, MISSOURI

B. R. WILLIAMS, JUDGE

HELEN WILLIAMS
CLERK AND STENOGRAPHER

TELEPHONE 305
RESIDENCE PHONE 39

TERMS: SECOND MONDAY IN
FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST AND NOVEMBER

MACON, MISSOURI

June 5th, 1920

Dr. J. F. Love,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother:--

Your letter concerning the Fraternal Address was received but I was so busy and at the same time was making arrangements for this trip up here for a couple of weeks, that I postponed writing you in reply.

I wanted to visit my father and mother a few days and as these good people over here at Moberly and Macon wanted me to preach for them a few times, I came out here and will return to K.C. Monday and will visit my parents a few days before going back to El Paso. They pay me here for supplying two Sundays and that takes care of the expenses of the trip, so I count it quite a fortunate coincidence, as I needed the rest--just had to have it in order to tide over.

Now I am going to have the Fraternal Address translated and we will publish it in Spanish and get it out to the ends of the earth where Spanish is ~~represented~~. We will have this done just as soon as possible. I had intended having it done sooner, but we have had such enormous expense to keep up our regular work, I had put it off from time to time. Yet I know it must not be neglected as that is a document that will be historic some day.

I wrote you once that I was in perfect accord with it. We keep our literature in accord with it. We are orthodox at La Casa Bsatista de Publicaciones in El Paso. And furthermore our constituency is in the main orthodox. There will be no interchurch for them.

I am very tired and need rest. I feel somewhat rested from the week I have been here, but not enough. I have never been myself altogether since I came out of Mexico. I need an interest in your prayers, and feel that I have it though I need a special interest.

May the Lord lead and bless you. I have heard that our Mission meets June 21 and on. I will be back long before that. Glad Dr. Ray is to meet with us. Only wish you could be there too, but I know how hard it is for both of you to get out at the same time.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

BOX 667

EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A. 6/29/30

Dear Brother Ray:--

I am drawing this time on you for the amount the Home Mission Society should have sent us for May, June and July. Also of course the amount that we have to have from you for the month.

This will enable us to tide over. You will doubtless see that the Mission recommended that the full amount asked for last year be allowed, that is \$8,000. Our Board allowed their proportionate part, but we ask that the Board allow us the other part and let me draw on this as soon as feasible. I hope you will take the matter up without delay and let me know what is the decision of the Board.

I am in a great quandary. It is almost a dilemma, though I have not allowed it to come to that yet. But the whole thing tends in that direction. I will make it plain to you.

The First church of Sedalia, Mo., wrote me some three weeks ago about taking the pastorate of the church of 1100 members. They pay a good salary--paid their last pastor \$3,000 and furnished him with a nice modern home free of cost. They intimate that for the right man they can do even better. I answered them that until after our Mission Meeting I could not say a word one way or the other, as I was in a strait betwixt two--bound here and desiring to go there, is about the straight of the matter, for why deny it? It appeals to me very, very strongly. After our meeting I wrote them saying that I would visit them if they still desired it, and I have a wire asking me to be there next Sunday. I have answered them that I can not go next Sunday, but if they so request, will go the following Sunday. You see how I am situated.

Then on the other hand there are so many things that are unfavorable. The Board is not willing to locate permanently the House. We are plowing with a crooked stick--just like Mexicans plow, when these days, ~~we~~ need to get busy and put on an up-to-date tractor with all necessary appurtenances. I say this because I know whereof I speak. I can not sit down and be satisfied with this condition. And if I can not be satisfied with it, then I had better go somewhere I can be better satisfied with the tools I have to work with.

Then, while I do not want riches, I do want a living salary, and want to be able to educate the boys the Lord has given me. I must act promptly. I intend to put Frank in college this Fall if I have to borrow the money to do it with. I do not have to beg, as you know. I know how I can make the money necessary to pay the bills. It is not hard for me to do yet.

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

BOX 667

EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A.

222--

Now this I have to decide soon, or just sit down and let it decide itself, which to me is a curious theology. I never got it that way. Many seem to have it thus, but while they sit down and wait, I am always hearing the command to go forward. I must obey.

Now, I have a matter to mention to you in all seriousness, and I believe it is vital. It will have more to do with my decision I think than any other. We asked for \$12,000 for the plant for next year, which will enable us to get out the papers and publish a dozen or more new books. If we can get this, it will be looking more like business.

Then, another thing. The Knights of Columbus here in El Paso have a splendid building right back to back with the First Baptist Church. It is a fine building that could not be built today for the money they want for it. It can be had for \$35,000 or \$40,000. It can be paid in four or five yearly payments. Now this is just what I want. It will give us a place to do business in, it will give us a prestige we need, it will put us on the map. Why wait longer? The fact of the business is the Mexicans are going to want to publish their own paper next year any way. They are not going to be satisfied otherwise, and so why not put this house on a firm basis, and let it be known as our Sunday School Publishing House? I feel the time has come to insist on this with all my heart. If we do not do this soon we will find it will go back instead of forward.

I have one of our deacons, a real estate man looking into this matter, and will put it up to you shortly in a tangible form, for you to approve or turn down. This is not an ultimatum, nothing of the kind. It is just the way I see we should do and that without delay. The night cometh when no man can work. Let us be up and doing.

Bro. Cheavens is still sick. I do not think he will be able to do very much work. I trust that he will soon recover but for the present I am trying to make up for his absence working overtime. We will try to put the program over. I do not intend to make any change from this plan till about September 1st, if at all. I am seeking His will to know. In the mean time I am planning and trusting, and believe all will work out right.

I am now in communication with a young man who probably can be had. I offered him \$100 per month with promise of a raise January 1st if he should prove to be the right man. It is Efraín Domínguez, son of Samuel Domínguez, one of our former preachers. I think he will come. It is an ill wind that blows nobody good. He seems to have run out of the country because of having been connected some way with the old government. This is enough for this time. Pray for us.

Fraternally

J. E. Davis