

July 3, 1920.

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

Dear Davis:-

Thank you for your letter of June 29th.

We, of course, will meet the draft which you are making to cover your expenses through May, June and July. I suppose you will be sending in soon a full statement about expenditures for us to take action upon. I believe that the Board will recognize it has obligated itself to make good the part the American Baptist Home Mission Society has not sent.

Concerning the purchase of the property to which you refer, I will not say much now, but will wait to see just what the proposition is with reference to the house just back of the 1st Church. I do not know whether the Board will be willing to buy in El Paso and it is necessary to settle that question before making any appropriation. It might be your concrete proposition might precipitate such a decision, though I am afraid it will not be possible to settle on this before our October meeting. The Board is trying its best to keep from dealing with large financial matters scattered along through the year. We very much prefer to have all of these requests for appropriation before us and pass upon the program as a whole. This we wish to do at our October meeting. Of course, we will try to handle emergencies, if a real emergency arises.

Now I do not know what further to say about your personal problem. I spoke out of my heart the other day in El Paso. I most certainly hope you will stay by the Publishing House. I believe it needs you. I hardly see how you can find a work anywhere in which you could do as much good. I have a sort of feeling if you were to go into the pastorate, you would be hankering after the Publication work so strongly you would have difficulty in being completely satisfied in the work of a pastor. You certainly have abilities that have fitted you quite splendidly for this Publication work. Such qualifications are difficult to find. The very fact that you possess them may indicate the direction in which Providence is leading you. I feel I should not urge you because this decision is one through which you will have to pass alone. There come to us times when

--J. E. D.--

we must tread the wine press alone in reaching such grave decisions. I pray that God may lead you and that His light may shine brightly on the right path.

It was a great joy to see you on my recent trip. The fellowship was delightful in every way.

Cordially yours,

R/W

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

BOX 667

EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A. 7/6/20

Dear Brother Ray:--

I am going to write you again, though as yet I have not received a reply to my former letter.

I have found a man that seems to bid fair to be the right man for this place. But he will accept a salary of \$100 for the present only. He says he is offered \$300 pesos in Mexico. He says he wants to work with his own people. He is a son of Samuel Domínguez, of Saltillo, who used to be one of our preachers.

He wants rent ^emony also and a lift on moving expenses. I of course can not make arrangements with him as I have not money enough to run things and pay another salary.

So I pass the matter on to you. In the mean time he may ~~accept~~ work somewhere else, but if he does, why let him go. I have written him that I am taking the matter up with you.

I will have to know something about this at once. I fear to go ahead with it unless I am assured that provision will be made for his salary, if necessary.

I am beginning to cut expenses along other lines, for if I do not, we can not meet our bills.

I leave Thursday night for Sedalia, Mo., where I am to preach Sunday and look over the field with a view to the pastorate. Of course, I do not ^{know} what will come of it. But we shall see.

A telegram to Bro. Cheavens about the Domínguez matter perhaps would be a good thing. I will have him then instruct Domínguez. I will return immediately after next Sunday. I want to return by way of Dallas and attend to some business there for the house. But I will get back by the middle or last of next week.

May the Lord lead us all, is my prayer.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

July 16, 1920.

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

Dear Davis:-

You will note from the enclosed copy of Resolutions passed by our Board on yesterday that we agreed to appropriate sufficient amount to cover the deficit in your Publishing House. You had better draw the draft to make up the deficit which the Society has failed to provide you for the months previous to this, from May through July, and then after this you had better draw through Brother Marrs, the Treasurer, in the regular way. This will greatly simplify matters for us and I hope it will be just as convenient for you.

You will note also that we provide the \$100 requested for the man to help you in your Publishing House. I hope you will be able to secure him.

I am anxious to hear the result of your trip to Sedalia. I have been very anxious to see you go ahead in the Publishing House, but I have felt we had no right to insist on your doing it against your conviction that the Lord wants you to do something else. I pray that the Lord may lead you into a clear path. I know you will follow where you see His light shining.

Cordially yours,

B/W

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

BOX 667

EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A.

7/19/20

Rev. T. B. Ray,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother Ray:--

Yours of July 3rd came some days ago while I was out of the city. I had so much piled up to attend to when I got back that I just left yours till last. I am about to the bottom now and will reply.

Thanks for your kind words. Do not think that I imagine you are not for us in this work. I know you are. I did not really want to draw so much but I had to to keep from going under. I have to pay my men and the bills. This made it possible for me to tide over.

I know you spoke sincerely to me when you were leaving us. I did not doubt it at all, nor do I now. I know you have been and are a true friend to this work. That is one thing that makes me want to get it off onto other shoulders now. I know this work will go forward. It has to. And one man is not essential to its prosperity.

I did not know it was up to me to send in the estimates for the house and the special resolutions. I take it that they will go in with the report of the Secretary of the Mission. I suppose it is all in your hands by this time. So I will wait till you get your bearings up there as to what we should have to make this work go forward for the rest of the present year.

I was in Sedalia a week ago yesterday. Had a fine visit and was impressed with the conditions and the prospects. I do not know what they will do. Likely I may never hear from it again. Yet if they were to call me heartily and unanimously, I would certainly take it as a strong indication of the leading of the Lord, as everything seems to point to the fact that I must get out of this place. I suppose it will be time enough to set before you what I have planned, when I have ways and means of working out the plan. Yet, it seems to me that some relief must be provided and that soon.

I will want to get away from here for a rest not later than September 15th or October 1st. Now, this can not be turned over to just any Tom, Dick or Harry. What have you thought about it? Some man ought to be here soon to begin to learn the ins and outs of it. Bro. Cheavens can not do the work. He would be committing suicide to undertake it. Then the question is, Who?

Trust that I will receive a reply to my second letter soon, as the man that we are wanting to employ is waiting for an answer. Fraternally

J. E. Davis

(over)

Important.

What about our recommendation as to the employment of Mrs. Gordiano, of New York City? She is now getting \$75 per month from us for her work, and I think she should really be employed and put where the plant is. Her work is good and she could do even more if she were employed for all time and given a better chance. This was recommended by the Mission in its meeting.

J.E.D.

Rev. T. B. Ray,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother Ray:-

Yours of July 3rd came some days ago which I was out of the city. I had so much piled up to attend to when I got back that I just left yours till last. I am about to the bottom now and will reply.

Thanks for your kind words. Do not think that I imagine you are not for us in this work. I know you are. I did not really want to draw so much but I had to keep from going under. I have to pay my men and the bills. This really is a big job for me to take over.

I know you spoke sincerely to me when you were leaving us. I did not doubt it at all, not do I now. I know you have been and are a true friend to this work. That is one thing that makes me want to get it off onto other shoulders now. I know this work will go forward. It has to. And one man is not enough to take it to its prosperity.

I did not know it was up to me to lead in the election for the house and the special resolutions. I take it that they will go in with the report of the Secretary of the Mission. I suppose it is all in your hands by this time. So I will wait till you get your bearings up there as to what we should have to make this work go forward for the rest of the present year.

I was in Seattle a week ago yesterday. Had a fine visit and was impressed with the conditions and the prospects. I do not know what they will do. Likely I may never hear from it again. Yet if they were to call me heartily and unanimously, I would certainly take it as a strong indication of the feeling of the Lord, as everything seems to point to the fact that I must get out of this place. I suppose it will be time enough to get before you what I have planned. When I have ways and means of working out the plan. Yet, it seems to me that some relief must be provided and that soon.

I will want to get away from here for a rest not later than September 15th or October 1st. Now, this can not be turned over to just any Tom, Dick or Harry. What have you thought about it? Some men ought to be here soon to begin to learn the ins and outs of it. Bro. Chasman can not do the work. He would be something outside to undertake it. Then the question is, when?

First that I will receive a reply to my second letter soon as the men that we are waiting to come to Seattle for an

answer. Very truly,
J.E.D.

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

BOX 667

EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A. 7/20/20

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

Dear Brother Ray:--

Your kind letter of the 16th to hand.
Gracias mil. I was glad to get it.

Now, I do not quite understand perhaps about the draw I should make. You say: "You had better draw the draft to make up the deficit which the Society has failed to provide you for the months previous to this, from May through July, and then after this you had better draw through Brother Marrs."

Now at the first of the month we drew the \$239.17 per month for the three months. Are we entitled to draw the rest to make up to what our Board had agreed to allow us? I take it that we are, inasmuch as you assured me that you would pay my draft of the last day of last month, or the first of this one, I do not just remember. So I have drawn today the amount of \$282.48, and will hereafter draw \$666.66 through Bro. Marrs, unless you set me right, if I am wrong, in the interpretation of this matter.

I am going to look for a place for the plant. We will just have to move it somewhere else, if we can find a place. Or will have to work under unfavorable conditions here where we are, and that at a loss to ourselves that would soon cover the cost of moving, I think. I will look around soon.

I have not heard anything about the Knights of Columbus Building that I wrote you about. The people who were interested in the matter were to report any progress made, and they have not reported anything so far. Will advise you from time to time, as I receive information.

I assure you that it is my purpose to stick by the goods till I can get away. I am not going to throw the thing overboard, but want some one to be prepared to take it over, whatever I may do afterwards. I must have a vacation in justice to myself even though I do not take a pastorate. That I wrote you yesterday.

I appreciate your kindness. Many thanks.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

P.S. Please let me know whether I have drawn any traveling expense money this year. I have lost my notes on the matter or misplaced them. I need to know by return mail, if possible.

J. E. D.

July 28, 1920.

Rev. J. E. Davis,

El Paso, Texas.

Dear Davis:-

I am much obliged for your letters of the 19th and 20th.

I have been very anxious about you and these letters do not settle the question about your relations to the Publishing House. I take it you are holding the matter open for a while. My heart is with you in the struggle through which you are passing and I pray God may lead you to a correct decision. I have felt deeply all the things I have written you, both personal and professional, and I trust that the Lord may lead you.

Your interpretation of the recent Resolution I sent you about drawing is correct. Before we were paying half the expenses of the Publishing House. Now we understand we will have to pay the entire expense, so you are entitled to draw \$666.66 per month, or such a part of the same as you may need. Of course, if you don't need that much, you won't draw.

You have not drawn any on your traveling expenses, so far as our records show.

I do not know what to say about Mrs. Gordiano. This is a matter you brethren will have to settle amongst yourselves. I have a sort of feeling it may be best for you to wait until you come to final decision as to what you are going to do. It will cost a great deal to move her to El Paso, but you would have to work out the whole matter of expense before we reach decision. If she can serve you cheaper and remain in New York where, perhaps, she is doing something else, you, of course, ought to have a good and specific reason for bringing her to El Paso.

I hope very, very much you will be able to get away and take a little rest. I know you need it.

May God bless you.

Cordially yours,

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

BOX 667

EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A. 7/30/20

Dr. T. B. Ray:--

Dear Brother:--I have been waiting patiently for some solution of my troubles, but as yet nothing has come to light.

I am not worrying about that in the least. I have fully decided that I must get out of here for a long time, and so I ask you to designate some one to whom I should turn this work over. ~~to~~. I am planning to leave here about August 20th. I do not want to have to come back till after I get over this nervousness.

Please ask the Board for me a furlough for some time, on salary or without it as the circumstances may determine. I do not want a salary if I can make my way. Yet, on the other hand, I do not feel that I have been a burden to the Board ever. I am due another year's furlough, as I have been in the work sixteen years now, lacking a few months, and I have not had a years vacations all told in that time. I have worked like a slave a great part of the time, ----- but why mention these matters? I think there is no need of it.

Please attend to this at once. Get the importance of the whole thing:

I am going to begin a meeting with the Mexican Baptist church in Kansas City the 22nd of August. My family is going to leave here for Colorado about the 10th of August. I want to stay up there somewhere, and want to be relieved entirely of this plant, as I can not rest with it on my mind.

Before I go I want to turn it all over to some one. I do not know whether Bro. Cheavens would think of taking it over or not. I do know it would be a great injustice to him. But I am ready to turn over everything. I hope you will take me seriously, and not lose time writing about it, for I am at the breaking point, and am determined to act without further delay.

I MUST GET AWAY SOON.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

P.S. I am drawing for the month of August, as Bro. Marrs is not where I can locate him and he has not understood that it devolved upon him to begin this work immediately. Others have drawn and so I will have to also. I am drawing as follows:

My salary and rent.....	\$ 198.33
Plant for August.....	<u>666.67</u>
Total.....	\$ 865.00

J. E. D.