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725 The Paseo, Kansas City, Mo.
Jan. 25th, 1921.

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

Dear Brother Ray:--

I havenot answered your last. I did not have anything much to say, so just waited for something to happen. And, alas! it has and I am grieved and shocked more than I can tell. Of course, you had the news as soon as I. Perhaps earlier, as my telegram was delayed in delivery till yesterday morning--Monday. It was sent Sunday afternoon.

Cheavens was a fine man. He was one of my best friends. He just seemed to know ^{how} ^{to} sympathize with me, which some other brethren did not know how ^I felt. Well, he has gone to be with the Lord, which for him is gain, though for us it seems an irreparable loss.

And it brings to me the thought of what are we to do? There is no one to take his place at the head of the Publishing House, and here I am already beginning to feel like a slacker over it. I had planned things differently, but our plans gang aft alee, as you know. I have been supplying here for the Independence Ave. Church for a few Sundays and also preaching and helping out the Mexican church, as their pastor resigned recently. I preach there Sunday afternoons at 4 and lead the Prayer Meeting for them Thursday evenings.

I have agreed to hold a meeting for the Independence Ave. people which is to begin the last Sunday in February. Then they asked me to supply for them till that time, as they have no pastor and have gotten in a rather bad way. But of course I can cancel all that if it is necessary. I had planned to take some rest this Summer probably down in the Ozarks. Yet, I feel perfectly well and rested now. In fact, what I need is work and a chance to rest by running out from my work for a week now and then. That is the rest that counts for me.

Now, I imagine that the Expositor is not ready for the Second quarter of this year and it should be out and in the mails within about three weeks or a month from now. I do not know however how that is. I wonder what the Lord wants us to do about it. I am trying to find out.

He may speak through you as well as through other sources. So I am just disposed to write you the following: Though I did not think I would ever be willing to go back to that work, yet if He leads me I will do it, for I want to do His will in all things.

Yet, if I consulted my selfish ends I would not think of continuing in the mission work. I was offered the Kansas City Secretaryship of the State Board of Missions here the other day. I did not find it very hard to decline. I have had several pastorates offered me indirectly, and now one of the very best in the State is held out to me at a better salary than we get, with other advantages, such as a college for my boys, yet I had not decided to accept it. Now comes this new complication.

We are well and the boys are doing fine in their respective schools. Hoping to hear from you soon, I am as ever, fraternally
Davis

Jan. 29, 1921.

Rev. J. E. Davis,

725 The Paseo.

Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Davis:-

Your favor of the 25th to Dr. Ray has been received during his absence. We are expecting him to return to Richmond next Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Cheavens' death was indeed a shock. Mr. Hatchell telegraphed Dr. Ray here in Richmond and I forwarded the telegram to Mexico City. We have not heard from Dr. Ray since he received the sad news. Neither have we heard from any of the missionaries in Mexico.

When Dr. Ray returns I will refer your letter to him and he will write you.

Sincerely yours,

Sec'y. to Dr. Ray.