

725 The Paseo, Kansas City, Mo.
Feb. 2nd, 1921

Dear Dr. Ray:--

Well, I am back home. I did not tarry in St. Louis yesterday. I had no business there except with you and when you left then I began to arrange for my return trip. I got off on the Wabash at 2 P.M. and got here at 9.30 P.M. So in less than 24 hrs. I had made the round trip.

I feel quite relieved some way. I can now make arrangements for the rest of my furlough. I could not do it before. I will likely remain here till June, or July, and then take in the Arcadia meeting perhaps and after that stick around down in that part of the world till August when we will likely go back to El Paso to get settled for the school year and get in line to get to work again after so much "playing."

Today is like Spring. However the proverbial ground hog will see--or rather, has seen his shadow--and of course you know what that means. That is, if it hits.

My expenses on the trip were \$28.63.

I have nothing else to write for today. Will keep you posted as to my movements. Hope you are feeling well after your trip.

Fraternally yours,

Davis

725 The Paseo, Kansas City, Mo.
Feb. 4th, 1921

Br. T. B. Ray,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother:--

I wrote you yesterday but forgot to ask you to tell me to whom to write about the Margaret Fund support, or help for my boy in college next year. Please advise me, so I can write them and be sure of getting the help, for if I can not then I will find it very hard to get back on the job next September, for the more I think about it the more I am convinced that I must educate my boys, or at least give them a chance for an education.

I have a very flattering offer of work just now, since I saw you, but have advised them that I am thinking of going back to my Mexican work by Sep. 1st. I wonder what it all means any way. But time will tell the story.

Had a fine meeting with the Mexicans here in the City Thursday night. They are making progress.

We are now getting ready for our revival at Independence Ave. church. It will begin the last Sunday in February--the 27th. We are going to preach Christ and Him crucified with all the earnestness and faithfulness we can muster. I think we will have a great revival. That is certainly needed there.

May the Lord lead and bless you in your work.

Fraternally yours,

Lewis

Feb. 5, 1921.

Rev. J. E. Davis,

725 The Paseo,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Davis:-

I am much obliged for your letter of February
2nd.

It was certainly good to see you the other day. I was as happy as I could be to note the improvement you have made in your physical condition. In a few months more, you ought to be able to stabilize the improvement you have made and to go back to your work in fine shape. God be praised for His good Providence in this matter.

I have written Brethren Marrs and Hatchell about your attitude and I am sure the message will bring them good cheer.

Please find enclosed check for \$28.63 to reimburse you for your traveling expenses to St. Louis.

I had a very pleasant trip the remainder of my journey home and arrived here on time on Wednesday afternoon.

May God bless you and keep you.

Cordially yours,

R/W

725 The Paseo, Kansas City, Mo.
Feb. 8th, 1921.

Dear Bro. Ray:--

Yours of the 5th came this morning. I was glad to hear from you. For some reason the check was omitted, or had evaporated. I suppose you have discovered that however, and it will come along later.

Yes, my physical condition is much improved, but I have this last week discovered that I am not entirely master of my nerves yet. I hope however this will not recur.

But one thing I have been thinking about, and the more I think of it the more I am sure I ought to try to impress it on your mind and call it to the attention of the Board. Here it is:

I am such a consummate "fool" you know that I am sure that I can not go back on that work alone and hold up under it very long. It is heavy and I am so constituted that when I see a work that looks good to me and feel that it is a burden I should carry, I got under it all. Call this a weakness or whatever you want, yet that is my way, whether right or wrong, and I find it practically impossible to change it. Now in view of this weakness, I raise the following question for serious consideration by you and the Board:

Am I the man for this place? Can I carry both burdens? It is right that I should try? I was in the way there for certain reasons I can not give you in detail, nor would it be necessary. I felt ~~that~~ when I gave the work over to Bro. Cheavens, that it was a crime almost, and so told him the last talk I had with him. I told him it would kill him, and I believe that it did. I know how heavy it is. If I was not the man for the place of Manager last September, how can I be the man for that place a few months later? No, I have discovered that I am far from being an iron man yet. By taking all that responsibility on my shoulders it would be the equivalent of writing my own epitaph, I feel.

You may be amused at this, but I am writing in all seriousness. I would have started for El Paso immediately, if you had said they were in sore straits and I was needed to get out the literature. I have already taken first steps looking toward next year. I purpose to get a lot of the editorial work done before September. I want to get it well ahead. But that would not save me. That is, not very long. You may think I am blue this morning, but I am not. I am just stating hard, cold facts. Two men are needed for that work--one for Manager and one for Editorial Secretary. One man can not attend to all the work and do it justice. I have said this many and many a time before. ~~this~~. An editorial man would have time to do good work, and not rush uncorrected copy to the printer often without so much as a slight revision. This is an injustice. It is wrong, and I vowed when I came away that I would not be a party to that any longer. Yet, here I am putting my neck into the noose again. But it is not too late yet. This can be remedied.

What I want is to be made Editorial Secretary of the Publication House and that an editorial consulting Board be named to relieve me of certain heavy and unjust burdens, such as deciding on the kinds of lit-

erature, what new helps are needed and how to get them, what expense we can afford to incur to get them, etc. The Business Manager should be one of the important members of this consulting Board, as he would be there present all the time. Perhaps one other member would be sufficient.

I realize more than ever that this is a decisive moment in my life. I am almost 48 years old. I am still acceptable here at home, that is, in a way. I could get good work now. If I go back on the work there, it ~~it~~ will mean that the rest of ^{my} days are to be given to that. I think it but just that these things should be taken into consideration. Dr. Rothwell, my much respected and loved teacher of theology in college, used to have a theory that a man ought not to do much writing till he was 50. I see why he thought that. I am almost there. I have had a special training and preparation for this very work. I think I want to do it right, or not at all. I want to do justice to the great work the Lord wants me to help in, to our people for whom the literature is prepared, to myself also as a final consideration.

Now here is a way for the present. So far as I am concerned, make me the Editorial Secretary with a good helper, who would bear part of the editorial burden, and a stenographer. One person might serve as both if such a person could be found. Yet provision should be made for both. Let this department have its own offices away from the noise and rumble and interruptions of the mechanical part of the plant, in the same building or a near by office, of course, but separate from the other. This would take care of that part of the program. All books, tracts, papers and everything else for the work would have the O.K. of myself or at least our department, after proper consultation with the advisory Board.

Now for the Business Managership. Bro. Ginsburg has talked with me and I find he has written you. He would like to stay in the U.S. for some four years. He has had enough experience I think to take right hold of that work and make it go forward. He would be able to handle the language right soon. He can read it now. (I can read Portuguese and have translated several articles. It is very easy.) He would carry on the correspondence with the help of a stenographer. He could with the help of a proper foreman in the plant and when necessary by consulting with me, carry on all the local work, the buying and selling, the correspondence, etc. Later on, when the proper man should be found, appoint a young business man who wants to be a missionary, to be an "understudy" for a year or so, while getting the language and a knowledge of the work he would be expected to do, and let him be ready to take Bro. Ginsburg's place when he finally should want to return to Brazil.

Write me frankly and in detail about all this. I am in dead earnest in it all. I do think the time has come for plans to be worked out and approved in our mission meeting this coming summer looking to greater efficiency in this great work. Let us take it up right now and get to work on it. What say you? In the mean time, we will wait.

I certainly thank you for the kind interest you take in me and mine. I am glad you had the Mexican trip and feel that it will help you and us in directing the great work that still ought to be undertaken and carried on in Mexico.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

725 The Paseo, Kansas City, Mo.
Feb. 10th, 1921

Dear Dr. Ray:--

I am just in receipt of a long letter from Boone, and he seems enthusiastic over the chances ~~of~~ having me for a "boss" again. He wants me to come in a hurry, but of course, that is natural. Men do not like to have too many bosses.

But one thing he mentions I feel like taking up with you. He says that the new Linotype is to be stored when it arrives. Now, I do not see the reason for this. They have a lot of work on hand and their plans are good and sound, I think. They were working out the plans I had suggested and wanted to make before I left them, but I was too much handicapped with overwork. It seems to me that it would be best for them to go ahead and set the machine up, as we will need it just as soon as I get there. I do not want to have to fool with setting it up. Of course the Co's⁺ man will do that--I mean the Linotype Co's man. But there will be the installation, and all that detail work. Why not have that done at once and let them get all they can out of the machine? I think that would be good business.

If you think best, suggest it to the man in charge down there, and let him give instructions to Boone to have it done.

There is one more thing that I will mention. That is, Boone thinks he and I can do lots of things. He is a fine fellow, but is somewhat visionary. Yet, he is easy to handle. I have said many and many a time ~~th~~ that we would not be able to get the best results from the plant till we had it running at full capacity. We are closer to that than ever before. His idea has been the same always, but the way to get to that full capacity was a problem, on what we had to work with. We now have so much more than we had before.

That is, I wonder if we might make him Manager of the plant under my supervision, leaving only the bookkeeping--which we should put in the hands of a good man--and the general correspondence--which should also be carried on by some responsible man, not necessarily an American, but subject of course to the General Manager. This might be as safe and sane a plan as the one I mentioned in my letter which I mailed you yesterday or the day before. Then that would leave me with the general editorial management and the general oversight of the work of the others in charge of departments.

I hope you can see your way to get the machine in operation down there and plan something that will make it possible for me to hold up under that strain.

If needs be I can go back sooner than September. Boone thinks it will be necessary, and begs me to come next month. But I do not want to go next month. I might get off for El Paso in June, or for the good of the Cause even in May, but I would not want to take my boys out of school just as early as Mr. Boone would seem to want me to.

There is one other matter I might mention. I still have my car down there. It was run about 6000 miles on the pavements of the City for the most part--almost exclusively. It is a 1919 pr 1920 model Overland--you remember it. That trip to Cloudcroft was its only trip outside the city. It is in first-class condition. Now, I can not keep a car on my salary. Yet, I need one as Manager, and I believe it would be a proper investment for the plant. It would be for my use and of course for the use of the plant in general. I ought to have had \$800 at least for it, but cars came down and I will sell it to the plant--if you and the Board think it the proper thing to do--for \$750 and I am sure it is worth that if it is worth anything at all.

Please take this matter under consideration and let me know. I had not sold the car because I was going to bring it up here as soon as I located in a pastorate--that was my thought. I was planning it that way, but now it will be impossible for me to keep up a car out of my own salary especially there in El Paso, where everything is so high any way. And I really think I need a car. I could tell you why. It is unnecessary, I feel.

Well, I am improving pretty fast now. I almost had an attack of pneumonia the last few days, but I am much better now.

It is snowing. We may have bad weather yet. Though we have had none so far to speak of, and really we could not have chosen a finer winter to spend here than this one has been so far.

My daughter and her Captain and baby boy are coming through here Sunday. They will stop over a few days on their way to Camp Sherman. He was on enlistment duty in Denver but was ordered to report elsewhere. That is the way it is with them. We shall be glad to see them for a while.

Did I tell you in my former that we had last Sunday four professions and five additions? At the Mexican church we had a very large congregation and two asked for prayer and instruction.

The Lord lead and help us all. Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

Feb. 14, 1921

Rev. J. E. Davis,

725 The Paseo,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Davis:-

I am very much obliged to you for your letters of February 4th, 8th and 10th.

You should write Mrs. J. R. Fizer, 1302 Hampton St., Columbia, S. C., with reference to the Margaret Fund. I do not think there is any doubt about the aid of the Margaret Fund being extended you, if you will write and get the case before the Committee. Mrs. Fizer is the Chairman of the Committee that allocates these allowances. If you find you need a letter from me, please let me know and I will write it.

I have read with a great deal of interest both of your letters with reference to a Business Manager and to your being made Editorial Secretary. The second plan strikes me better than the first. You know Boone much better than anybody else and if you think he might safely be made Business Manager, I see nothing in the way of your taking such a course, provided, of course, you can handle the other details in the way you intimate. I think if Boone could be made Business Manager, that would be the most natural course for you to follow and I believe if you think that is the way the Plant should be organized, you would find us willing to cooperate with you.

In general, I will say I believe you should so organize the work that you would not have to be cooped up in a close and noisy office all the time. You ought to be able to give yourself more to the editorial end and by so doing you would be able to render better service and keep your nerves in proper kelter.

I will write to Marrs and tell him it is your judgment that new Linotype ought to be put up. I know the question was raised by Marrs when we were in conference in San Antonio and the inclination of both Hatchell and himself was to hold the House within as close limits as they could, while they, as a temporary Committee, were having to manage it. They feel they are such novices that they are not in position to handle the bigger enterprise. My recollection also is that you intimated, as we talked over the

--J.E.D--

enterprise, that maybe under the circumstances it would be better not to put the machine up, but I see there is much force in what you say and I will pass the word on to them and let them do as they think they ought, taking everything under consideration.

Concerning the automobile, I will say if you think the automobile you have can be used to take the place practically of a truck, we would have a pretty good argument to use in placing the matter before the Board with a view to appropriation. Is this your conception of the use of the machine? The fact about it is, we have appropriated money already for equipment and if you feel this is a necessary part of the equipment, the money is really already in hand for the purchase of the machine. You will recall we appropriated ten thousand dollars for equipment this year for the House and if you and the others feel a portion of it should be spent in this way, you would, of course, be free to spend it.

May Grace and blessing be with you in all things.

Cordially yours,

R/W

725 The Paseo, Kansas City, Mo.
Feb. 26th, 1921

Dear Dr. Ray:--

Your kind letter came to hand several days ago, but I have delayed writing on account of not feeling the very best in the world for a few days--a cold I took and which did not seem to want to part company with me--and too I have been interested in making a kind of program for next year's work in the Sunday School literature production, etc., etc.

I am also preparing a brief biography--very brief to be sure for the present need--of Bro. Cheavens. We have an edition of his poems printed, all but the introduction which I was to write, and had written as to that matter, but have to rewrite partly now. So I have been keeping myself busy along with looking after the Mexicans here who are out of work and some of them in dire need and preaching for the Independence Ave. folks every Sunday as supply. Then too we have been getting ready for the revival meeting which begins tomorrow. So you can see I have not had much time to get into mischief.

I was over at Liberty yesterday and spoke to the students. Had a fine time and am sure did good for the Mexican cause. There are a number of volunteers there and we ought to cultivate them I am sure.

My boy Frank seems to be doing pretty good work and I am expecting him to keep right on. So I have written Mrs. Fizer about getting help to keep him in college next year. She will probably write you about the matter, and of course you will know what to say.

Yes, when we talked over the Linotype matter, not having my hand on the situation, I did agree that perhaps it would be better to just hold the machine, but after getting the letter from Boone and thinking over the situation, it appealed to me that it would be preferable to get that set up and in working order as soon as possible, for we are going to need it in order to carry forward the program we have in mind to put over next year.

Then about the car. For more than three years my car was used there as a sort of dray. I refer to my old one and then the new one after I traded for it. The car would serve not only as a light dray but also to get around quickly when there is need for that. You know that these days in the West a business man who can not move quickly is not in the swim very much.

The thought I had was to bring the car up here as soon as I got a pastorate, and for that reason had not sold it before. But now we will have to forego the car if I go back to the work in El Paso. That is, unless the plant owns one. Then of course it would not be for joy riding in any sense. We never joy ride. We went to church in the car and the rest of its use was getting to and from work and about in the interest of the work. My thought was to purchase it with some of the equipment fund and not ask for special appropriation for it. I will look into this carefully and keep you posted.

Pray for the success of the meeting we are going into. I want to get this church on its feet again and with a pastor working in harmony with the State Association and of course that means with the S.B.C. It has been somewhat divided on the question. It will likely continue a month. Of course this will include some special work like a Training School for teachers, etc.

(over)

We are well. Are expecting to move next week to some other part of the City, but will advise you the new address as soon as I know what Mrs. D. decides on.

I am going to map out a program for next year and when I have finished it I will send you a draft of it so you can see what I am thinking about. Then it can come before the Mission Meeting. I hope to attend it and will I presume if it is held where I can get to it without too much trouble for Passports, etc. I want before then however to have something workable and that will have your O.K. if it meets with the approval of the Mission.

I will now close for this time. May the Lord direct us all to His glory, and our best good.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis