

535 Benton Blvd., Kansas City, Mo.
March 25th, 1921

Dear Brother Ray:--

This machine needs cleaning, but I have no time for that just now, and I think you can read what I have to say any way, so I will write and clean the machine tomorrow--mañana, you know.

First, I will tell you what I have done lately. I held the meeting for the Independence Ave. church here in the City. It went on three weeks and we ^{have} had so far 48 additions to the church--in fact since I began there have been 59. This is in three months. The Lord gave us a gracious meeting. The church is greatly revived.

Next Sunday we are to have a fellowship meeting and are hoping for a great time. This will close my work under the arrangements we had, but now they think they want me for pastor and in fact last night the church extended me a unanimous and hearty call at a salary of \$3000. I am to give them my answer Sunday. Many of them will be disappointed, for they did not seem ~~to~~ to want to believe they could not get me to stay up here for a good salary inasmuch as I have the education of my boys to look after. But I will decline, this much I have decided.

Of course I know to go back to the editorial work in El Paso means that I will never return to the pastorate, for it will be harder and harder now, so I will have to make up my mind to that. I could return now and get good work up here, but I feel more and more that I am to go back to the Publishing House--if the brethren see fit to say the word in our Mission meeting.

I have thought this: I will propose to help this church here for two or three months more, in enlisting their forces and getting them together on a pastor, and then just after our Mission meeting go to Mexico--to León and get that stuff ready for shipment--our published books must be gotten where we can bind them and sell them. Then I will pack and ship certain material we have there which will help us greatly in our work in El Paso.

This will mean that I will go back to the work not later than July 1st, and spend about two months in Mexico. I will thus get to rest some, for if I stay here through the summer I will be preaching all the time and will get no rest at all. I can kill two or three birds with the same stone by going to León about the last of June. Then when I get the stuff all shipped, I will visit some of the churches on the way out.

Will then turn up at El Paso about Sept. 1st and be ready to assume the Management of the House.

Now, does this meet with your approval? I wish you would write me about this proposition.

I go next week to a meeting over on the Mississippi river to speak. Then,--think of it!--I am to take up Dr. Mullin's trip where he leaves it off--here in Kansas City--and speak at Sedalia and Joplin for the State Board, Apr. 12th and 13th. Have several other appointments.

I have baptized 8 at the Mexican church and each night this week and a part of next I will preach there. Many are coming to hear the Gospel. I never saw anything like it among Mexicans. Have from 100 to 150 each night to hear me. One young man who wants to study for the ministry. Certainly the Lord is visiting Zion these days.

I would like to attend the Convention. Will see if I can get some one to pay my way. In that event will be there.

Let me hear from you as soon as convenient for you to answer.

With the very best of wishes for your health both temporal and spiritual, and praying the Lord to lead us all,

J. D. Davis

March 28, 1921

Rev. J. E. Davis,
535 Benton Blvd.,
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Davis:-

Thank you for yours of March 25th.

I am very happy to hear about the fine success of your meeting. The Lord's Hand was certainly upon you and you have reason for great thankfulness.

I am glad to realize it is easy for you to turn down the call to the pastorate of that church. I haven't any doubt about the larger field being open to you in connection with the Mexican work. It may not be you would receive as much salary as a missionary as you would as pastor, but you would be doing the broader thing and I know this appeals to you mightily.

I have just completed an article on "The Religion of Mexico". I have sent out several articles to our papers and a good many of them have been printing the articles. I am sorry the articles have to be as long as they have been, as this, no doubt has caused some papers to fail to insert them. However, they are getting a pretty wide reading. The one on "The Religion of Mexico" makes me realize afresh that there is desperate need of a pure Gospel being preached in that priest-ridden and idolatrous land. Nothing will be able to dispel the ignorance and superstition more rapidly than the printed page.

I do not see any need of hesitation about going back to work in El Paso. The Mission at its meeting last June voted to ask you to do the editorial work, so I do not think you need to stand back on the matter of another vote. I am sure the brethren would vote without hesitation to go ahead.

It looks to me like a good thing for you to go down to Leon and get out such material as you feel you must have for the work and have it sent to El Paso. I believe the brethren will do this very heartily.

If you care to attend the Convention, let me know, so I can secure entertainment for you. The Local Committee will provide

--J.E.D. --

homes in Chattanooga for you and Mrs. Davis, if you will indicate definitely whether you expect to attend. I shall be mighty happy to see you there.

May God bless you in all things.

Cordially yours,

R/W