

July 2, 1921.

Rev. J.E. Davis,

Leon, Gto, Mexico.

Dear Davis:-

I am very glad to get your letter of June 25th. It certainly sound like old times to have a letter written from Leon.

I am glad to get a little glimpse of what took place at the Mission meeting. I am happy to know that all of you are in such agreement about the plans to be followed. From what I know of the plans, I find myself in quite hearty accord with them. I believe it will be well if the Atalaya can be turned over to the direction of the brethren by the first of January, but that doesn't mean that we get rid of that very heavy expense. I am sure we shall have to subsidize it very considerably if ~~we~~ expect it to succeed. This may have some influence on the amount that would be appropriated to the Publishing House.

Now I do not wish to anticipate about what the Board would do when the Committee to which you refer makes its report, but I do feel that at this writing it is not possible for us to indicate to you just what course the Board would take and because this is the case, I doubt very much whether it will be advisable for you to look for land in San Antonio or New Orleans. The Board hasn't yet settled the fundamental question, viz., as to whether we are going to make this House an International House and as to whether it is to be located on United States soil. Indeed, it hasn't passed upon the location at all, so until we get that question settled, I doubt very much whether it is advisable to do more than to make certain preliminary observations and investigations which would give a fairly accurate line on what might possibly be done. I do not think we would be justified in spending a very great deal of money or time in conducting these investigations until this more fundamental question is settled.

I do not think it will be possible to pass upon the question at all before our October meeting. We do not have a meeting in August. We cannot, of course, get to it by July and the meeting in September only transacts such routine business as must be handled and cannot be put over to the October meeting. We

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will put everything into the October meeting we can, because of the larger representation present at that meeting of the Board.

I don't know whether the Board is going to be able this year to buy the land even for this House. As we work out our Budget, if it becomes apparent such a thing can be done and we can settle upon the location, I should be mighty happy to see the thing go through.

Now, please don't let what I am saying throw any damper on your enthusiasm on developing the House. I am certainly not writing with that intention, but I am as calmly as possible discussing the situation just as it is. As I see it, I don't think we are in position to authorize any very exhaustive investigation of possible locations in any of the cities you have mentioned. We shall have to wait until the more fundamental question is settled.

I hope the rest of your journey in Mexico will be delightful in every respect.

Cordially yours,

R/W

Elkhart, Kans.
7-9-21

Dear Ray:-

I am just back from Mexico. I did not get any thing from you at San Antonio, Texas. On arriving here I find we have not received our check for July yet, and am wondering if it has been sent and is lost.

I will be here several days before going on to Kansas City, and would be glad to hear from you, and if you can send the check we appreciate that too.

We will write you fully a little later. I sold the breeding plant in Leon, but am not ready to report on that till the rest of the money is paid which is to be by the 15th of this month.

Frothy J. E. Davis

July 13, 1921.

Rev. J.E. Davis,

Elkhart, Kansas.

Dear Davis:-

Thank you for yours of July 9th.

We have sent you your salary on the first of July, as usual. It was sent to your old address in Kansas City. I hope by this time it has been forwarded to you.

I am sending you copy of the two letters I wrote you at Leon. I suppose the letters sent you at Leon will be finally forwarded to you, but I am sure you will get these copies very much sooner.

I am glad you sold the printing plant and will be happy to have a full report soon.

Cordially yours,

R/W

Lamar, Colo.
July 25th, 1921.

Dr. T. B. Ray,
Richmond, Va

Dear Brother:-

Your letter finally came and also the check for July salary. While the check is for \$108.33 and cents, I think I can cash it for the required amount. Thanks.

Send my next check to me at Fronton, Mo. of Arcadia Baptist Assembly. I will be there from Aug. 1st to 12th and if I get the check by that time, I can arrange it all on my way back.

The copy of the letter you wrote me at Leon came finally. The letter should have gone to me at San Antonio, Texas, but that was all right. I just decided when I did not hear from you, that it was the same old trouble, and sure enough that is the way it turned out.

Your letter was a hard "bump" for me. It made me almost repent of having promised to go

back to the Pub. House. And in fact I have been unsettled more and more, as I realize what I am going back to.

I am certain I can not do the work I will be expected to do there - for it is more than any man can do.

Your letter means we are to stay cramped up in those uninviting quarters we are in, and all uncertainty for - who can tell how long? All these things multiply worry and I do not feel equal to another program of worry and long hours I was trying to carry out before.

I expect to go back to El Paso next month and take hold Sept. 1st, but I am promising myself that if things take the usual turn I will turn the whole job back to the brethren as soon as I see what it is leading to.

You may not like this way
of putting it, but I know my-
self fairly well and the mela-
sure of my strength, having
reached it a couple of times.

It is all very nice to say
what we should have, but
when we can't have these
things, what encouragement
is there in it? I know the
very first thing we need and
that is a suitable location
with a feeling of permanence
for our machinery and pub-
lications. But, of course, we
will have to get along the
best we can.

I am really wondering
what it would be worth
while to do in order to get
the importance of this whole
matter before our Board.
But, I am not disposed to
go on in "overtime" getting up a
lot of recommendations and
things of the kind just to have
them be stuck in a pigeon
hole somewhere - we have

done quite enough of that kind
of work, it seems to me.

The folks seem to think now
that I am going back to the
Pub House, all will just be fine,
and "George can do it all" - at least
that is what I find so far in my
efforts to get help from the Breth-
ren - they are busy, I know, and
can not blame them but it does
not change the facts in the least.

I wish I could feel that we
had a real future to our Pub.
House - to tell the truth, it seems
to me that it would be well for
our Board to tell us very plainly
what we are to expect and
then we can decide what we
will do.

Now, please do not think I
am "sore" or anything of the kind.
I merely want to face the situa-
tion fairly and squarely and if I
can't fill the place, get out and
let you put some one in that
can. That is all.

I will report on the state of
the printing at Lion as soon as I
get final returns.

Frdly yours J. E. Davis

July 28, 1921.

Rev. J. E. Davis,

c/o Arcadia Baptist Assembly,
Ironton, Mo.

Dear Davis:-

Thank you very much for your letter of
July 25th.

I think you are a bit unduly exercised about the future of the Publishing House in El Paso. I can't share with you the doubtful view you take of things. Down in you I know there is a great desire to see the thing go, so I know when you get on the job things are going to look better than they do at a distance.

We showed our interest in it and desire to help it the other day when we voted \$100 a month to pay the salary of the bookkeeper. My own opinion is we have every reason to be encouraged. We may not be doing some things as quickly as you brethren would like to see us do, but a good many things have to be handled slowly. We simply haven't the point where we are thoroughly convinced that we can use one Publishing House for all the Spanish-speaking world.

We do appreciate the importance of the work you are doing in El Paso. Indeed, we esteem it most highly, but we have that question of uncertainty about the advisability of having one Publishing House for all Spanish-speaking people and until that question is cleared up, the Board will hardly feel like taking the decided steps you would like to see it take. We may come to the position you advocate in this regard. Indeed, I wouldn't be a bit surprised to see us do it, but give us old fogies time to work it out and we will come lumbering along to a satisfactory conclusion, I hope, before too late. Whether we have one Spanish-speaking Publishing House, or whether we have three or four, I believe the work of the Mexican Baptist Publishing House has a tremendous future. Never was that future so hopeful as it is right now. Never were the opportunities comparable to the opportunities for service through literature that now face us in the Republic of Mexico. This is undoubtedly our day of

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opportunity in that land. God be gracious to you in all things.

Cordially yours,

R/W