

Ironton, Mo., Aug. 3rd, 1921

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

Dear Ray:--

Yours of the 28th of July awaited me here. I reached this place Monday afternoon--Aug. 1st. I was glad to hear from you, though I very much fear you did not get the full force of my former letter.

I am just feeling some way or another that you ought to get my view-point better. I am not trying to get the Board to do anything it does not want to do. I want them to be ready for my next break-down unless things are changed up there and that right soon. I am willing to give myself if it is to any purpose. I want the sacrifice--if it deserves such a name--to be made to some end. Oh, I know what you are thinking--that I am unduly wrought up about the whole matter. I tell you I am convinced that within six months I will be well on the way toward where I was when I left there last Sept. That is what worries me. I am still wondering if I should not send my resignation making it positive and final. I do not want to do the wrong thing. I never have had such a hard time getting at my real duty.

I do not doubt for one moment that you are interested in the work in El Paso. You have shown that again and again. Nor am I asking that you kill off the other Publishing Houses. Why, making this one a sort of international one, which it now is, does not mean the others should go out of business. The success of the Sunday School Board and its publishing business does not necessitate nor even make likely the suspension of other similar houses--that is, publishing houses in the Southern Baptist Convention. But I am not disposed to argue the matter. I do feel that we should do what we do permanently, as far as possible. I feel it is a waste of time, energy and money to build a big plant in one place and then move it to some other place, unless such a move is a real benefit. But that is not my greatest difficulty, as I indicated above.

#### Mexican

I got \$5,200 for the plant we had in Leon, and it has all been paid from what Bro. Marrs writes me. It is in his possession. I feel we ought to equip our plant with a good bindery. But we have no room for anything not even an office for me. So while I am on the track of machinery, yet until I know where we can put it, there is no use of buying it. I will wait till later.

Dr. Gaines is here. I am hearing him every morning. I give the address tomorrow. Think I will call it: "The Old and the New in Mexico." Of course I may say many of the same things I have said before, but it will have a new aspect. And in fact things are changing but that very slowly. They are wanting revolution again down there. This time I fear it will have a religious aspect. Such would be disastrous in every sense of the word, but in the end would hurt the opposition more than it would us. In fact, we could easily recover from its effects, but they would never recover fully.

Well, my time is short. I mean time for writing. So will close. I suppose that I will head toward El Paso just as soon as this meeting is over. Will be on the road several days, but hope to get there by the 25th of the month. I speak at De Soto, about 45 miles from here, next Sunday and hope to do some good. Last Sunday evening I preached at Moberly.

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EL PASO, TEXAS,

Aug. 31st, 1921.

Dear Brother Ray:

I am writing about my salary for September. Bro. Marrs does not know whether he is to pay it or whether it will be sent on from Richmond. Please send it, less rent, or give Bro. Marrs instructions about it.

We will have to have more rent money. I have looked in vain for a house. The only thing we have been able to get is an apartment and the rent is \$65 per month. I hope we can find a place where we can get a better rate, but for the present we can not do any better.

Bro. Marrs will pay the rent for this month I am sure. But it will likely be necessary for you to instruct him about the rent for the rest of the year. I think we can not find a house for much less than this amount. So it would be well to change my estimate of \$50 to \$65. This is outrageous, but we can not help it. I think things will right themselves here after a while. They are surely carrying on with a high hand in everything. I think it costs at least 25% more to live here than in Kansas City now.

I am getting hold of the House and will begin to manage it tomorrow. I hope we shall be able to get it going along in good shape soon so I will not have to carry an impossible load, yet I fear that I do not know how to go softly. Wish I did know, but I never learned.

I have employed Miss Rowena Williams, the lady I introduced you to at the Convention, to take charge of the books and handle the money under my direction. This will relieve me of a lot of trouble.

We are going to look out for <sup>a</sup> better location--or get this one enlarged so we can have more room and besides have offices separate from the plant. Of course they must be close by. Well, will try to do the best possible.

I hope you will have a fine trip to the Orient. May the Lord make it indeed profitable.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis