

BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

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In English and Spanish

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EL PASO, TEXAS, Jan. 2nd, 1922.

Dr. J. F. Love,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother:

Your letter came several days ago, and I should have written you before this, I suppose, but I have been so very busy that I just put it off from day to day. Then too I have not been able to do as much as I wanted to, and so it seems that my work piles up on me more and more. Of course, if everybody else ~~were~~ not in the same fix, I might push some of it off on them, but we all have all we can do and then some.

I was glad to get the news that Mr. Boone had been appointed as a missionary. I notified him. I rather think he expected a letter from you, but I have told him you were very, very busy and for that reason likely you had not written him. He will begin getting the salary of a missionary from now on.

He should have \$60 per month rent money, I think, and his salary including that of his wife of course, will be \$1600 as I understand the matter, and one child over 10 years of age, \$150 allowance and one under ten, \$100 allowance. Now until I hear from you about the matter I will pay him at this rate. I take it that this is a reasonable amount for rent, as rent is very, very high here now.

Now, inasmuch as I am somewhat of an invalid--not altogether of course--and we are going to need another man here in the plant to help out with the work, I am wondering if you there at Richmond will not be willing to assume Mr. Boone's salary and rent, and leave us the full appropriation for publication work. If you can see your way to do that, it will make us all very, very happy here. Before you decide for against this suggestion, let me have your attention for a moment. Then after that we will abide by any decision you may reach over there. To get this before you it will necessitate the introduction of a matter that I will want to discuss more in detail later on in this letter.

My doctor insists that I can not live indefinitely in this place with the work I have on my shoulders. In fact, he will have it no other way than that I should leave here. But he is a splendid Christian man, and admits that there are times when we should obey God rather than man. He says that it is his opinion that there is no real immediate danger of my dying from this heart affection, but that it is ^a warning that I should heed. I have asked him if it might not be good for me to live part of the time in a lower altitude and

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part of the time here. He says that it would be better than to try to stay here all the time. Then he says that the load I have to carry he understands no man can carry and especially a man of my temperament. He knows me right well, and does not say for me to let up on my work, as he says he knows that would do no good. So he insists on my getting out of here and the work if I want to have my heart to act right. Yet, he recognizes that God can take care of me in spite of myself, the work and all the doctors in El Paso.

So it is my opinion that I will have to shift responsibility as rapidly as I can, taking time to get away from here from time to time to do my editorial work. I can not see my way clear to separate myself from this work altogether. Mrs. Davis is helping out and will continue to help. Mr. Boone needs time to look after several things that he could shoulder the entire responsibility for. Now, in order to adjust this whole matter, we need to get another good printer and we can do that, despite the bad conditions, if we can be allowed what I have asked for above--that is, that you take care from Richmond, or through Bro. Marrs, of course, of Bro. Boone's salary and expense. Have I made my case out so it is clear? I think I have. But if there is any doubt as to what I am driving at, ask me any questions you may have in mind to ask.

I think I can take care of the general management and still do a part of the editorial work I had planned to do, but it will be conditioned upon my getting away from here in the near future for a month or six weeks, and while I am away, I will do my expository work for the third quarter. I am well along with the work for the second now and want to get it done before I get away, unless it should become necessary to go earlier.

Here is my plan for the present: ^eGet the second quarter's lessons ready and the literature in the mails as soon as possible, then about the middle of February, take a trip out to California (my daughter lives out there now) and stay till about the first of April. I have my hardest time here in the Spring of the year. I have little or no trouble with my heart here in the summer, so that I can be here I think during the summer. In this way I perhaps will be able to tide over for a time at least. I am doing this on account of not wanting to fly in the face of what seems to be Providence. I have had a hard fight over this matter, and I can not see anything but the hand of the Lord in my returning to this work here. It must follow then that there is some way to get by till the Lord sees fit to release me from the conviction that this is my work.

But this entails expenses that I can not afford. I mean that it

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will cost my family about as much to live here without me as it would with me. It will not cost me anything much to stay with my children for a matter of a month or six weeks. But the trip to San Francisco and return will be quite a little. Then, later on there will be a trip likely for the Fall of the year, to Missouri, where my aged Father and Mother live. If I do not get relief then I want to go to the Sanitarium at Battle Creek and have a complete going over, as you suggested when I last talked with you in Dallas. But there is the expense question again. I have a boy in William-Jewell College and another one here in High School. You can see how it takes our salary to meet expenses. These extra expenses, I do not see how I could meet them. So I pass the matter on to you. True I have a small allowance for travelling expenses, but one trip will likely eat that up, or at any rate leave it greatly reduced. I feel that I need a word or so from you before making any definite plans further than that I am going to California as soon as I can arrange to get off without in any way crippling the work of the publications.

I feel that I am fighting a losing fight unless I can get away from time to time for recuperation. My heart bothers me some every day, and a great deal some days. I am reducing my flesh as rapidly as I can. But with it all, there is a consciousness of the fact that this plan outlined above is about the only solution of the problem, unless I just resign definitely and go to a low altitude and stay there. I have tried to do this already and could not get the consent of my mind to accept other work. I had intended to do it, but when they would approach me on the subject, it just seemed impossible for me to accept. They offered me several pastorates at \$3000 and more. They offered me a Secretaryship at \$3000. I turned them all down with a conviction that I was doing the right thing. Oh, well, why draw this letter out? You understand how I feel about it. If I consulted my feelings I would resign and not put in time explaining. I could get work. If I listened to my doctor, I would not stay any longer, in fact, would have gone on from here when I saw in Dallas--that is, gone on from there. My father--a godly man of sound judgment,--says for me not to tarry at all, but get away from here. Many friends advise me to quit this work and go into some quiet pastorate. I do not know but that cold reason says loudly that such would be the course to pursue. Yet, I hesitate. I must do His will if I can know it. If in five years even with suffering I can serve Him better here than I could elsewhere in twenty-five, then I think I ^{am} ready to be offered. Can it be His will that I be poured out as an offering on the altar for Latin America? If so, then so ^{be} it be.

Tomorrow, the first day we can do business at the bank, I will get together checks and everything and balance up the books. I do not know just how we have come out, but a rough calculation yester-

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day at the close of business showed us some \$300--a little more or less--to the good with all bills paid. This was encouraging, as bills never were harder to collect that I can remember of. Ours are all paid and besides some on next month--not due till the 10th. I say next month, I really mean this month of January.

As to the equipment fund I will get all this machinery installed and paid for, and have enough left over to make the necessary repairs and additions throughout the year. Bro. Marrs has sent me draft for what we asked for for the coming year, and I will deposit it here Tuesday the 3rd. Of course, you will honor the draft when it gets over there, as I will check on it immediately, though it is a ten days draft. No check will get back much if any before then.

My final reports will be sent in shortly, giving the totals of business done during the year, as near as possible. It will be a bit hard to get the first month's business into the report, as the new books which were turned over to me seem to begin with February, as I recall the matter just now, but I will explain all this when the report goes forward.

I trust you will pardon such a long letter. I felt that it was time to ~~be~~ say all this. More might be said. If there is anything else you would like to know just ask about it, and I will include it in my next. I have not been able to investigate some of the matters I had in mind to see about, but will try to get it all together and send it along with the report of the business of the plant.

I need your prayers. I think I have them, but I feel that I need in a very special way, your prayers, and those of my brethren.

May He be very near to you and bless you in a very special way during this New Year. Mrs. Davis joins me in wishing you and your wife a very Happy New Year.

Yours very sincerely in His Name

J. E. Davis

Jan. 6, 1922.

Rev. J.E.Davis,
El Paso, Texas.

Dear Brother Davis:-

Your letter of January 2nd received. We will take care of Brother Boone and the usual missionary allowance for his children, which is as follows:-

Salary for Bro. Boone and wife	\$1,600
Salary for child over ten	150
Salary for child under ten	150
Rent (amount he must pay)	\$60 per mo.

I hope this will enable you to take care of matters there and to spare yourself.

I could not urge you to stay in El Paso at the risk of your life, as greatly as I am interested in our publishing work there, and as much as I appreciate the service which you are rendering in this work. You and Mrs. Davis will have to pass on this question. I deeply sympathize with you and would do anything I could, but I cannot decide this question. I know that you want to do the Lord's Will, but I could not say that it is His Will for you to sacrifice your life, when you can, in some other form of service, spare and prolong it.

I did not write Brother Boone, but this was not due to indifference. I had conferred with you about the matter, corresponded with you and so handled the case through you. I hope you will explain to him that he has my best wishes and shall have my cordial support in this new relationship. I warmly appreciate his services.

Yours fraternally,

Corresponding Sec'y.

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EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A.

January 24, 1922.

Dr. J. F. Love,
Foreign Mission Rooms,
Richmond, Va.

Dear brother:

I am in receipt of a letter from Dr. Eric Lund of Los Angeles, California who, for many years, as you know, was a missionary in Spain. I feel constrained to pass on to you what he says about the work in Spain. Of course, I presume you know all about it and I am at a loss to know to whom he refers in his letter as the unworthy party.

He says: "Between us, it seems very strange to me that this committee (of Richmond) which has charge now of the Baptist Mission in Spain should entrust the direction of the work to a brother in whom the Swedish missionaries have not the least confidence and whom the Spanish workers of experience consider unfit for such a charge. I have received letters from these two classes of workers, confidential letters which fill my heart with sadness. The one I have just received from a colporteur says that the Baptist work is being placed in ridicule in a time of great opportunity to carry it forward.

"The situation has become so critical lately that, unless it is remedied, the Foreign Baptist Missionaries will declare a strike and the Spaniards--God only knows. It is to be supposed that other denominations will gather up that which is of service to them. I suppose that the Richmond Committee is not ignorant of this. I tell you this in order that we may pray God to intervene to avoid this difficulty because I know you desire, sincerely, prosperity and success in our work, not only in Mexico but also in Spain."

Inasmuch as this is a confidential letter I ask you to treat it as such. I feel constrained to pass it on to you in order that you might know about the situation over there, if you did not already know it.

I have been getting along fairly well since I wrote you last, in fact I have been much better than I was before; though the last few days the weather has not been just the kind that I like and have not felt quite so well.

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EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A.

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Our work is progressing satisfactorily. We have a part of our literature for the second quarter almost finished and will get it out in good time.

I sent you the other day a copy of our edition of Dr. Moore's little book "Points of Emphasis" for 1922. We hope to be able to get it out in even better shape next year. It seems that this little book will be a success among our people.

I will try to get my report in to brother Benson in a few days. With so much to see to, it seems that I never get through.

Praying that the Lord may lead us in this matter and all other matters and hoping for His richest blessings on our work everywhere, I am

Yours fraternally,

J. E. Davis

JED/H

Jan. 25, 1922.

Rev. J. E. Davis,

El Paso, Texas.

Dear Brother Davis:

I have just received the little book which Brother E. G. Dominguez has translated from Dr. Moore's book and write to congratulate you and the professor upon this piece of work. I feel certain that it will be a welcome and helpful publication among our Mexican friends.

Yours cordially,

Cor. Sec'y.

Jan. 30, 1922.

Rev. J. E. Davis,
El Paso, Texas.

Dear Brother Davis:-

I have your letter of the 24th, in which you quote from Eric Lund. I wish sincerely the communication were not confidential, as I should like to pass it on to Dr. Gill. Let me say, however, that no one of the missionaries in Spain "has charge." Dr. Gill represents this Board and all the missionaries are put on equality. I do not know who Mr. Lund's informant is, but whoever he is, he has shown such indiscretion as I would rebuke, if I knew who ~~is~~ guilty of it.

There was at one stage in the work a misunderstanding between a Swedish brother and Brother Vickman, who is also a Swede, though educated in America. I presume that the letter from which Mr. Lund quotes was written either by this Brother or some else before that Brother arrived at a full understanding of the situation. He was taken over from another Mission Board and ~~at~~ first misunderstood the relation of Brother Vickman to the general situation.

I thank you, however, for sending me the quotation.

Yours sincerely,

Corresponding Sec'y.