

BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

519-521 N. CAMPBELL ST.

P. O. BOX 667

BOOKS

BIBLES

TESTAMENTS

In English and Spanish

Publishers of
Spanish Denominational
and S. S. Literature,
Tracts and Periodicals

EL PASO, TEXAS,

Jan. 1st, 1923

Dr. T. B. Ray,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Ray:

I am in receipt of your good letter of the 26th of last month, and thank you for it. I had written you already about the money I was going to draw, so will leave that as it stands at present. Will draw tomorrow \$2400 and with what I have here will pay for the folder in full, and thus save the discount and interest, insurance which I would not stand for unless we had to pay in instalments, etc.

Yes, it is for me a necessity from time to time to get out and "shell the woods" for a while. It does me a great deal of good in a spiritual way. This eternal grind here gets on a fellow's nerves after a while, and also he feels his spiritual temperature getting lower and lower till he needs a tonic for it. However this time I am not going to hold a meeting, just going to supply for a little church which I was pastor of 27 years ago, at Kingsville, Mo., where I have some kinsmen living. I will get a nice place to stop and my board paid for the service I render them and that will help out, for I find myself obliged to get away from here from time to time--in fact, it is getting worse and worse all the time. So in this way I can write my lessons and then return to help out for a season again.

I do hope that Business Manager will show up by next summer at the latest. I feel myself gradually slipping, slipping, slipping. Of course, the way it is now arranged, it is not as hard on me as before, for then I did not know what was the trouble. I mean before I went away for the year. Now, I am looking forward to a great time in the editorial work of the house. This seems to me to be the reasonable solution of the matter. It is easier to find a business manager than an editorial man, eh? I should think so.

As I wrote you a few days ago, we are fairly swamped with orders for literature. It would be interesting to give you a few extracts from letters, but there is no time for it just now. We have had to increase our issues on everything for the second quarter. The Lord be praised for His blessings.

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EL PASO, TEXAS,

--2--

Well, the First and Central Churches of this city have at last merged into the First. They are planning great things and among them is a location for the Baptist Publishing House. If they should proffer to the Board such a location, I suppose it would not be rejected. They are going to buy and build great buildings and are looking at property right here within a half block of where we are situated at the present time.

I am going to encourage them all I can in the matter. I am sure that our Board will give us the building as soon as they can and if we have a fine location given us, that will be a big start, eh?

Say, when you think of it and get time, if it appeals to you, I wish you would write Mrs. Davis a short personal letter assuring her of your appreciation of the help she is rendering in this time of (dis)stress--I mean this crisis when I have to be away so much. She has just stepped in and taken my place almost and kept things going in fine shape.

I will not write more now. May the Lord lead and bless you all through the year just starting in.

Yours most cordially,

J. E. Davis

January 6, 1923

Mrs. J. E. Davis,
Box 667,
El Paso, Texas

Dear Mrs. Davis:-

I want to write you a letter to express our deep appreciation of the way in which you have stepped into the breach and helped to hold things together as you have done at the Publishing House. Thank God that you were so well prepared for this work that you could do it as acceptably as you have done. I want you to know that we appreciate it keenly. I know too that you do it with a loving hand, both for the work's sake and for your husband's sake.

I am hoping that we will find another worker so that we can relieve that old gentleman of yours of some of his burdens, and give him a free hand for editorial work, and so that we may also take some of the burdens off of you that you have had to assume of late.

Be assured of our appreciation. I pray that the blessing of God may rest upon you in the greatest way during 1923.

Cordially yours.

R/F

January 19, 1923

Rev. J. E. Davis,
Box 667,
El Paso, Texas

Dear Davis:-

I enclose a copy of a letter I have just written to Marrs which will explain how we are handling the draft which you have made against us for the equipment of your publishing house. We had to do this in order to keep our books straight here, and also render a proper exhibit to the Auditor. Appropriations must be covered with proper letters of credit, and because of the kink which I put in the appropriation sheet for Mexico for 1923, I am having to take this round-about way to get the transaction straight.

I didn't know you were to draw the draft. It was all right for you to draw it, but we had expected it to come through Brother Marrs' hand, and therefore would expect it should have a number of a regular letter of credit upon it.

May God favor you in all things.

Cordially yours,

R/F/
Enc

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

EL ATALAYA
El Expositor Bíblico
Revista Juvenil
Nuestros Niños

519-521 N. CAMPBELL ST.
P. O. Box 667

Revista para las U. B. de J.
La Revista Homilética
Tarjetas y Rollos Ilustrativos
de la Escuela Dominical
Libros y folletos.

EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A.

Jan. 26th, 1923

Dear Brother Ray:

I am sorry that I did not understand about the matter of drawing the money. But as it is all right, I will not worry over it. We got the folder paid for and you would say where you here that it is worth the price. We had gotten to that point that we just had to have it.

Bro, Marrs will send me the rest. I have a place for it as we have to have some things to tide over with.

Mary Cheavens died night before last. But I suppose you know about that. It is too bad. But these things can not be helped. We all have to go sooner or later.

I postponed my trip to Missouri for two weeks, so we can get our work in better shape. It would have been too hard on Mrs. Davis to have gone just now, though I can tell you it is a cross to stay here and suffer as I have to, but this work must go on, and until you get a man--a full sized man--to take over the management, I will just have to do the best I can, with Mrs. D's help.

I was glad you wrote her as you did. It helped her a great deal. Of course, I did not tell her that I suggested it to you, so she thinks you did it on your own initiative. It is better so, I think.

I have been trying to get to my report for the past year, but as yet have done nothing, and will not now till I get up to Missouri. Then perhaps I can concentrate better. At present we are working on the Sunday School literature for the second quarter, which we have to get ready by the 15th of next month.

The Lord has certainly blessed our work. I wish you could be with me here an hour or so and read the words of commendation and gratitude that come to us from every source, and almost every Spanish-speaking country now is included in our field. It is great. I do need time to give to editorial work. I must have it in order to meet the new demands.

May the Lord lead you and us for his own glory.

Yours fraternally,

J. E. Davis

January 27, 1923

CONFIDENTIAL

Rev. J. E. Davis,
P. O. Box 667,
El Paso, Texas.

Dear Davis:-

When you wrote me about the possibility of J. M. Justice taking up the work in the Publishing House, I wrote to one of the leading missionaries in Argentina, a man in whose judgment I have the utmost confidence, and asked him what he thought about the proposition. He answers in the following language: "Justice is O. K. but there is not much of him in energy nor in physical strength. He never got the language any too well while here. He is a useful man but not a strong one. If, therefore, you can find one with larger outlook and wider grasp it would be much better. One good point in his favor is that he can put things within the reach of children."

This would seem to indicate that Justice is not quite the man we are looking for to handle the business end of the publishing house. It will take a man of parts to put that thing over.

I will say also that since the statement made by the missionary referred to above, expresses pretty accurately what I have been thinking all the time, I wonder if we hadn't better look somewhere else.

Blessings upon your devoted head.

Cordially yours,

R/F