

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,

July 14th, 1923

Dear Ray:

I have not had time to write you, though I have wanted to. Since Boone made known to me his plans, I have not known which way to turn as I supposed that he was going to stay on.

It is true that the prosperity of this house does not depend on him, nor on myself, nor any other individual; yet we have to have personnel, and where to find men who can do the work, are willing to work for small pay, is the great question. Not many are willing to be "fools for Christ's sake" these days, it seems.

I wonder if Boone was peeved because we did not turn over the management of the plant to him. Well, it would have been absolute folly to have done that. He is a good man--and the best linotype operator I ever saw, but he could not handle the business end of this plant. He is not cut out that way. So, it may be the best thing, as it may be a step in the right direction. We will now have to get some men. Do you hear that underscored word, have? Well, where are they?

I have been feeling better since the Convention, though lately I have been slipping, slipping, slipping again. I was going to San Marcos next week to help them in an Institute there with the Mexican workers of Texas, but have decided not to do so. Will send Sr. Dominguez, and head for Kansas City and have the matter attended to. I was planning on when I saw you at the Convention. I came home instead as my wife was about to go under completely. The work was too hard for her. So a week from today I will start for K.C. Will be there some two or three weeks. I am hoping to derive benefit from it, if not a complete cure.

Boone has agreed to stay till September 1st in order for me to go and attend to this matter now.

But what are we to do? I am about at the end of my row. I have so many things to attend to that I can not get them done. I sometimes work till ten o'clock at night in order to get the proofs read. And then on Saturday when the rest get off at noon I am here writing the letters I just could not get to during the week--like I am doing today. I am not complaining, but there is a limit to my endurance, though it may seem to some that there is not.

I am going to try to get in touch with some man--some Baptist man--who might want to come out here for the health of some member of his family. I would want him to be a good printer. Then we must have a new missionary here to get under a part of this load, and at least begin to learn how to manage this plant. I tell you in all seriousness, this has to be done soon. Now, I wonder and keep on wondering if the charges against Bro. Justice were sufficient to keep us from feeling him out for this job. I like him. I think that he would fit in pretty well. I do not know that he would consider the matter. But I would like to hear from you. Answer this letter at Parkview Sanitarium, 10th and Paseo, Kansas City, so I can have your opinion and if thought wise, feel his pulse while in the City.

Now do not think that I feel you are not doing for us what you could. I feel that you want to help me out. But it is urgent.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

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EL PASO, TEXAS,

July 15th, 1923

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

My Dear Brother:

I have just read "Foreign Board Problems" by Bro. Burkhalter, and it leads me to write you this note. To do it, I have to snatch a moment from other occupations, but I want you to know that I for one, and I believe many others too, am with you heart and soul in your efforts to set forward the great work entrusted to you.

I am glad you appointed those missionaries. That was wonderful. I have not forgotten that night in Kansas City. I think that your act of faith--for it shows marvellous faith--will certainly inspire SOME of our people to action. And we need them.

Another thing is your requirement that all willingly subscribe to the Fraternal Address, or Declaration of Principles. That is right. If we are to do anything worth while, then we must keep our lives pure and our principles uncorrupted. There is no excuse for our independent existence as Baptists, if we are to abandon these great fundamentals of the faith.

Right here let me call your attention to the fact that in our Mission Meeting here in El Paso a few days ago, I asked that we reaffirm our adhesion to that Declaration, as missionaries, and that we scatter this document all over Latin America. They voted it without any dissension whatever, and we are going to carry out this program as rapidly as we can.

Another thing I want to commend you for. You say that a young man who can not conquer the cigarette at home will have great difficulty in meeting the problems on the mission field. Never was there a greater pronouncement on the subject. Personally I would say that no man who uses tobacco should be appointed as a missionary, but of course, I know there are many useful men who do use it. May God bless you.

We must have a man here. You will not let this escape your immediate attention, will you? I have written Dr. Ray. But I want you both to know that this great work will soon fall, unless it is manned. It must not fall, so it must be manned better.

Be assured that you are kindly remembered by us all. My prayer is that you may live to see the realization of your dreams for Foreign Missions, and that whatever comes in order to realize this, you may have great grace to endure. It may be that we are to see many defeats before we win the final victory. May His grace sustain you.

Faternally yours,

J. E. Davis

July 20, 1923.

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

Dear Mr. Davis:

I am just writing to acknowledge your favor of July 15 to Dr. Love. He is now in Europe attending the Baptist World Alliance which meets in Stockholm, Sweden, and will not return to Richmond until about the 15th of September. Your letter will be put on his desk so that he may see it on his return. I know he will appreciate it.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary to Dr. Love.

July 20, 1923.

Rev. J. E. Davis,
Park View Sanitarium,
10th and Paseo, Kansas City.

Dear Brother Davis:

I thank you very much for your letter of
July 14th.

My correspondence with Boone has not revealed that he is dissatisfied in any way. He says he has been living in that high altitude about nine years, and it is affecting the health of his wife. The doctors have advised that she get away for a time to the sea level, and he thinks that since she is in her present physical condition, he ought to give her the opportunity of recuperating, so he wishes leave of absence for one year, without pay. He can get employment in some printing concern in Los Angeles, which will pay his expenses. He will be on the sea level, and in a fine climate. He intimates his desire to get back to his work after this year of rest. As I say, he has intimated no dissatisfaction with the work in El Paso. Indeed, he speaks enthusiastically about it. From his correspondence, I would not think there is anything the matter beyond what I have stated above.

I told him, when he wrote me, to get in touch with you and talk the whole matter over. We did not want to take any steps until we knew your reaction. I believe the Board will grant him leave of absence. If his wife is in the condition he depicts, it would be well perhaps for him to take her away to the seashore. I hope you are getting along nicely, and that you are going to be straightened out soon. I believe that after your operation in Kansas City, you will be greatly helped.

My feeling is, after thinking over the things that have been said about Justice, that it would probably be better for us not to approach him for service in the publishing house. I have felt the impulse that you feel several times, but have always been checked by what has been said, so I would not advise that you take the matter up with him. Let's try to find a man somewhere else. I certainly hope he will appear on the horizon before a great while.

I am for you.

R-D

Cordially yours,