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EL PASO, TEXAS,

Sept. 5th, 1923

Dear Ray:

I really do not know whether to fuss at you or forgive you without a fuss. A long time ago I wrote you about matters pertaining to this establishment and you did not answer. I suppose you were in Europe and did not get the letter, and since you came back you have decided that it had answered itself.

Well it has not. Boone has gone. I am alone trying to be Manager, Foreman, Collector, Book-keeper, Editor, etc. I can not keep this up very long and we have our work laid out on the plan of having the salary of the Foreman paid--Mr. Boone acted in that capacity, you know. I asked about this matter in my letter. I ask again.

I was in the Sanitarium five weeks. Got a cure of that trouble I was there for. Came home and dived right in and am getting along right well, but I am not justified in trying to do everything. I am afraid that my heart will go back on me again like it did several times before. It threatens from time to time, but am holding up fairly well.

Now, are we to count on enough of the appropriation for Mr. Boone to pay a Foreman? I have two applicants for the job, but can not employ them unless I have money to do it with. What about it? I need to know immediately. Of course I only want to employ ONE, not both of them.

If only folks would pay us for their literature--Quarles, Moore, the Cuban brethren and many others, we could get by without asking about this matter. They are slow about paying. They seem to think we have a gold mine at our command. I have had to raise the salary of Mr. Dominguez to \$35 per week. That is more than my salary, eh? Well, some of us are willing to be fools for Christ's sake. We are willing to stint and deny ourselves. But we have to have helpers, and some of them do not seem to think about it that way.

Now, please let me hear from you at once. I am anxious to get this matter adjusted as soon as possible for I can not carry all the load. Mrs. Davis is helping out a great deal. I feel that we are getting out as much literature for the money invested as it is possible to get out here and under the conditions we labor under. Everything is on the increase except the income. We hope for better times on that line.

May the Lord lead and bless you. I am sure you are getting distressingly in debt again, for the folks do not seem to be very well pleased with conditions. Well, let us hope this will soon be better also.

Yours fraternally,

J. E. Davis

Sept. 11, 1923.

Rev. J.M. Davis,
Box 667, El Paso, Mexico.

Dear Davis:

Thank you for your letter of Sept. 5. I thought I had answered you in reference to the payment of the salary of the foreman while Brother Boone is away. Our understanding is that you will take whatever portion of Brother Boone's salary that it is necessary for you to have in order to provide yourself another foreman. You can handle the matter in this way.

I am mighty happy to hear that you have been so greatly benefited by your trip to Kansas City. I hope your physical troubles have been very largely solved. May God give you strength for the tremendous task He has laid upon you.

Cordially yours,

Sept. 18, 1923.

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

Dear Brother Davis:

I have only time to tell you that I warmly appreciate your letter of July 15 which came in my absence. I am back home after three months and there is much to do. Your letter gives me heart for the tasks. May the Lord give you and this great work at home and on the field His blessing.

Yours cordially,

Cor. Sec'y.

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

EL ATALAYA
El Expositor Bíblico
Revista Juvenil
Nuestros Niños

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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.

Sept. 29th, 1923

Dear Dr. Ray:

I am sending you a copy of our newest books: Gracia, which is none other than our translation of Grace Truman, which we ran in El Atalaya and formed into a book at small cost. The other is our second edition of Baptist Church Manual, which we have revised and added the Fraternal Address of Southern Baptists and a few other things to. I do not remember whether I sent you a copy of Winning to Christ, or not. If not, will be glad to send one, if you will advise me.

There is a matter I have been intending to write you about for several days, and that is the appropriations for next year. I do not remember just how I asked for them, but I do remember I asked for the same for operating expenses, this including salaries of Bro. Domínguez and Mrs. Gordiano, rents, taxes and all the rest, which sometimes seems small indeed in comparison with the demands on it, or us. I trust that you will not have to cut this down any.

Now as to the equipment fund, will say that whatever I asked for--I think it was \$3.000--can be cut down quite a bit, if you think you have to cut on us anywhere. We in this old fire-trap here certainly need a safety cabinet, and I was intending to expend a few hundred dollars for one provided we got an equipment fund for next year, but this amount you have my consent to trim almost all off for the present--leave us say \$750, if possible, and we will get by some way.

I take it that Bro. Boone's salary allowance will be made, and we can use such part of this as is necessary to keep a foreman for the plant. I have a good man but have to pay him \$200 per month. Make provision for this if you can, either indirectly as appropriation for Boone, or for the foreman in charge.

Now, I come to my own part in the whole matter. I am in better health than I was, due to the fact that I have been away from here more in a lower altitude, and also to the stay of five weeks in Kansas City in July and August, when I was cured of my renal troubles. But while this is a great relief, yet I am certain that this load will soon have me down again with my heart trouble. I am willing to give my life if that is what the Lord requires of me. But who will take the work when I play out? Is it possible that it will have to be left without a man to head it then? When will you be able to find a man to come and learn this work? And one that will relieve me of a part of it while he is learning? Have you forgotten this?

These are hard times for us here--no income much except what we get from you, and heavy expenses. We have about \$8.000 outstanding, which we are asking the brethren to remit as soon as possible. For example, Quarles down in Argentine seems to expect us to carry him and all his folks on and on--they are some \$1200 behind. The Cuban brethren owe us almost \$1000, and so on. So we are going to have to shut down on them unless they come across pretty soon. We have to pay for our stuff as we go along.

We are going to try to put the business more on a cash basis, yet these brethren will do more howling that you can imagine.

I will go to Cameron, Mo., where my brother is pastor, to help him and his people in a revival meeting beginning the 12th of Oct. Will be gone about three weeks, I suppose. Mrs. Davis will have to hold the rope here while I am away.

I am about through writing my Expositor lessons for the first quarter--have two more to write which I will finish this coming week, D.V. It keeps me humping it I can tell you, to write the Expositor and do all the rest of the work required of me. I love to be busy, but not to have to do so much work as to keep my heart jumping about so much. I am convinced that I would get over this trouble were it possible for me to live in a lower altitude, or even here, had I only the work of one man to do. Having that of about three, I see no way out, except to die out. Better that than rust out, eh?

Well, I trust that things will be better. Dr. Neal, our pastor, says they think the brethren are going to come in on the home stretch on the 75 Million Campaign in fine shape. I do not share his optimism, though I am not as pessimistic as some seem to be.

One thing sure, we will not fail--I mean Mrs. D. and I. We will send in our fifth instalment one of these days. And as last year--or this rather--it will go direct to Foreign Mission work. With Greener and Norris--which is doing the greater damage to our cause?--fighting and the Texas folks pulling back, it does not look very promising. And this is the greatest hour in history for Missions. My! my! I would just like to pull their ears. And there are other ears that need pulling too.

But I must close. I am counting on you to stand by us. We are doing the best work ever in this plant. We are reaching more folks, and will continue to reach still more. Oh, may the Lord give us men and means for Mexico.

May His Spirit sustain you in your work. It is great.

You know I love you in Him.

Faternally yours,

Davis