

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

EL ATALAYA
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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.

H. Norte

Dec. 1st, 1923

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

Dear Brother:

I am over here. helping the Mexican church in a meeting. Began last Sunday and will go on another week. Some visible results so far.

Mrs. D. forwarded your letter of Nov. 23, and as soon as possible I will take the matter up with Bro. Boone. and will let you know our conclusions. There are some problems rather hard to solve in connection with it, but we shall see what can be done.

I am indeed sorry on account of the sickness of Mrs. Ray may the great Physician soon restore her to health. Yes there things are complicate matters, and increase our burdens, but we can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth us.

Will write you of developments.

Sincerely Yours in Christian love
J. E. Davis

EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A.

Dec. 11th, 1923

Dear Ray:

The other day I wrote you from Ft. Worth. At that time I had not spoken at the Seminary. Last week I got to speak at Chapel one day, speak to two classes, one the Mission Study class and lead two prayer meetings. I feel that it was a great opportunity and that under God I improved it.

Now, many spoke to me about going to Mexico, and I think I will make the following suggestions to you, after looking the matter squarely in the face and making quite a bit of investigation with reference to the men I am going to write about.

Mr. G. E. Keegan, 220 Oak St., Arlington, Texas, has his application in with you for Argentine. Says that he would consider the matter of the work in connection with the Publishing House. He heard me speak a time or two. He is 31 years old. Could go out in June. Will write you. He seems to be a fine man, and might be the man we are looking for for this work.

Mr. Engleman is about 26 years of age. Not married. Does not seem to want to get married. Wants to go out to Mexico as a missionary soon. Finishes his work next Spring at the Seminary. Is fine in languages they say of him over there. Has already a very good working knowledge of Spanish. Would make a fine field man for our Sunday School and B.Y.P.U. work. Could work in other places when not able to get into Mexico. As he is not married and has control of himself in that line, the fact that that work would take him away from home almost all the time makes that feature not so bad, I think. Less salary. More work. I think this man would be a fine man for that special work.

Now there are two men for us. What do you think of them? And what do you think will be the chance to get them appointed for this work? Do we need them? Man! if any place in the whole mission field needs two men for this special kind of work it is this House. And you have assured me that the man for this place would be appointed when the right one came to light, and also that you felt the Board would give us the specialist for the S.S. and B.Y.P.U.

Quite a number talked to me but I referred them to you. Gave some of them some good advice to stay in the Seminary till they got their work finished there. But there are a number that will go to Mexico when they get ready. And when you get ready over there to send them.

This new revolution is rotten. Just what we were expecting, but hoping it might not start quite so soon. Poor old Mexico! But the men for this work will have a field outside of Mexico that will give them plenty to be doing. (Over)

I have written to Bro. Boone today and when he writes me I will write you again about him. If he could come Jan. 1st, would you make provision for his salary?

It is very clear to us that even with the recruits we can not get away now. I will have to get away from time to time but it will not be possible to move till next Summer, I am sure. There are several reasons, but I will not take time to give them now.

But with Boone here to help Mrs. D. I can get away more and still do my work--my editorial work and other kinds too. When the summer comes I can make it better it seems. So we can keep it going on with the blessings of the Lord upon us.

I thust that Mrs. Ray is imporving by this time and that you begin to feel relief on that score.

I always get along better for a time after getting away and spending a week or ten days in the lower altitude. But have so much to do at this season that I will have to go the full limit for several weeks now.

May the Lord lead us all in these trying times.

Frtaernally yours,

J. E. Draper

December 17, 1923

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

Dear Davis:-

I am much obliged to you for yours of December 11th.

I am glad you had such a good trip over to Fort Worth. I am sure you enjoyed being in the Seminary.

Now as to the two brethren you referred to, I will say that we are investigating these men yet. They have a great many good points. It may be that we will be convinced by June that they ought to be appointed, and I hope we will be able to appoint them if we are so convinced.

I am going to say to you confidentially, however, that there is a question behind both of them. The question in our minds about Brother Kenyan is whether he will be able to get along with other folks. He is rather headstrong about having his ideas when he gets a notion about a thing. There is a slight tendency to eccentricity in him. Experience, however, may rub out both of these undesirable qualities.

Engleman is a genius. There are a good many peculiarities that are liable to hang about a brilliant mind which is rather wrapped in itself and prefers the association of books to the association of people. It is a case whether he would be able to mix with folks. A man for the field work you are talking about, ought to be a mighty good mixer, and if he isn't a good mixer he would have a hard row to hoe amongst the volatile, enthusiastic Mexican people. I understand that his seminary course has done him a great deal of good in this regard, and it may be that by next June he will come out polished for the work you have in mind for him. We will keep these men in mind and be in prayer about them.

I don't write this way to discourage you. I am hoping they are going to come through all right, but I really

have looked into these men with a good deal of care, and we are mighty anxious not to make any mistake about them. We want to use them if possible, but we don't want to try to use them unless they are such fellows as we are looking for.

I had a letter from Boone. When I answered this letter I encouraged him to go on back to El Paso if he felt so inclined, and assured him that the Board would take care of his salary. I hope he will come back in January. I am sure you need the relief.

God bless you.

Cordially yours,

R/F

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EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A.

Dec. 21st, 1923

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

Dear Brother Ray:

Your good letter of the 17th came just a few minutes ago, and at the same time The Baptist Standard. I note with deep sorrow the departure of your wife for a better home--perhaps I should say, THE better Home. You have my sympathy and I do not forget to pray for you in this your great bereavement. May God sustain you.

Turning to your letter, will say that it shows me just what I had really supposed: That you knew these men I wrote about and had a far better line on them than I could possibly have. And I know you have your mind on this work and its needs--especially its need of more men to get under the load, so I am going to keep on praying and trusting that this will all work out all right yet, and hoping that I will yet see all that I have prayed for often and am trusting for constantly: An adequate building for the plant, a Business Manager and at least one field specialist--of course more than that are needed, but I will feel pretty good when we get one for that kind of work.

There were some other men I talked with but many of them I did not encourage further than to wait and talk to you. One man, the name of S. R. McClung--36 yrs of age, and has five children--wants to go he says, but on talking with him I realized he had handicaps that would make it almost impossible for him to go down into the country, even were he capable--he may be, but I did not go into the matter, as it did not pertain to me and especially under present conditions financial and otherwise, I did not encourage him to speak of.

Boone writes me he will return and be here ready to begin work the 7th of January. But of course his return will not solve all our problems, though it will help out a lot, I think. He says he has learned a good lesson or two. I hope so. I have things better organized than ever before here for production and when he gets here I hope he will fit in--and believe he will. I can not trust him however as a business man. I have the proofs here that he is a failure in that line. But he may help me a lot working under me, provided he will not want to upset the present organization. I do not think he will try to do that.

I am planning to get away to the lower altitude sometime about the middle of January and hope to stay away long enough to get some relief. I want to write all my lessons for the third quarter while away next time. Do not know yet where I will go, but likely to Liberty, Mo. Then Spring will come and I will get adjusted again. I hope and pray that by next summer some time relief can be had for Mrs. Davis also. I think she will have to take this youngest kid of ours--17 now in a short time--and get him in a better atmosphere--I mean for his intellectual encouragement. That will likely be Liberty, as the other boy will be a senior next year there.

We are proud of Frank. But had we not gotten him away from here in 1920, when we did, I have no way of even surmising what would have become of him. Now we have this other problem and then we will be through the worst of it I think. Edgar is a better boy than Frank, at heart, but he has no real encouragement here in the High School. For that reason we want to get him away from here next year.

So I sincerely hope there will be some visible result of our praying and working by next summer some time. Then I can stay away from here the most of the time during the winter, and do editorial work, still having my hand on the direction, till such time as some others may be able to take it entirely off my shoulders.

But after all, when I think what I have stood up under, and what I am standing under now, it is nothing short of marvellous how the Lord has given me strength, and helped us on. You ought to see our mails now. This is the busy, busy time, you know. We send out two or three sacks of mail every day now. Some days more. It begins to look as if we are going ahead of last year, which was the banner year in putting into circulation our literature. And we are going to try to do another thing the coming year--give our people a small propaganda sheet every week. This will not be a heavy expense as it will form a part of our Atalaya and then the two page sheet will be printed in such quantities as the orders will call for, and that on news paper. This is needed now. And we think it will take care of itself.

There is a matter I want to ask about. Down at Nashville we decided that we did not need just now departmental books for our Sunday School Normal Course, but for the fifth seal we agreed on a little book by Dr. Hamill (I think that is way it is spelled) The Sunday School Teacher. Dr. VanNess said if we decided to put that into the course, they would help us publish it. Now we have it in good Spanish and the type all set up. We want to publish it this next month. My question:

Would there be any objection in accepting without any strings on the matter whatsoever, a donation directly to us for that work? Or is there some other way you would prefer we do it? Before I lay the matter before Dr. VanNess, I would like to have your opinion. I do not want to do a thing that could in any way be objected to.

I will close now. You see what a long letter I have taken time to write you when in fact I have no time even to sleep.

May the Lord lead and bless us all in our several places of work in His Kingdom, and specially do we need His ~~help~~ help in these troublous times.

Cordially yours

J. E. Davis

December 27, 1923

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

Dear Davis:-

Thank you very much for your good letter of December 21st. I thank you for your brotherly words of sympathy. I know your heart is with me, and I feel comforted by your thought and prayers.

I had a letter yesterday from Boone. He seems to be turning back to El Paso with a good deal of enthusiasm. I believe he will be very much more valuable hereafter than he has even in the past. I am glad to realize that this will relieve your strain a little bit, though I am confident that you have got to have very much more help than one man can bring. We will keep our minds and hearts open to this question.

As to approaching Dr. Van Ness I would say that this same question comes up in connection with every publishing house, as you may well guess, and we always advise against doing such. If anything is given by the Sunday School Board ought to be given outright to the Foreign Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board left to use it in its work just as the Board feels it should. If the Sunday School Board begins to make special appropriations for these foreign mission enterprises, then we are going to get our lines crossed, and we have been rather carefully guarding against any such possibility.

I hope 1924 will be the greatest year of your life.

God bless you.

Cordially yours,

R/F