

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

EL ATALAYA
El Expositor Bíblico
Revista Juvenil
Nuestros Niños

519-521 N. CAMPBELL ST.
P. O. Box 211

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.

March 3rd, 1924

Dear Ray:

At last I am getting this report off to you. I have been tied down with Edgar sick and then his mother. They are up again, and I am back at MY desk. I have been doing the work Mrs. Davis was attending to-- the orders, receipts, letters, etc. That took my time. I am attending to this report the first thing. In a few days will get the other off-- I mean my annual report. If it is too late to send it to the man whose business is to collect them and send them to you, I will send direct. I will get this off within two or three days SURE. The reason why I can not get it off today is that there are several other matters much more urgent that have been neglected. Matters like this financial report which I inclose.

A word with refference to it. You will see that several totals are "approximately" given. This is the best I can do without putting a hand to work through a whole year's orders for books, etc. I do not think it is worth the cost. I have given an estimate that I consider altogether conservative. I do not believe in lying in our reports, thinking that in that way good may come.

Then I have given more than you asked for. I give receipts from commercial work and other sources, making a grand total of receipts for the year of \$33,990.62, not including salaries of missionaries which I do not handle. I think I have omitted \$600 extra granted for Oct. to Dec. but I have made the correction in the report and addition to total, making \$34,590.62. You gave us for equipment \$3,000; \$12,600 for running expenses and we rustled the rest amounting to \$18,996.62. The \$3,000 really does not belong in the calculations as it is represented in the equipment valuation. So we were almost two thirds self supporting outside of the missionary force employed. And think of the new publications and books, etc. I think this is encouraging, dont you?

Since I got over that last spell which I wrote you about some time ago, I have been fine. I suppose you were right about it. I think after all I am going to be O.K. now. The trouble was that last summer when I was in the San. in K.C. I left a little too soon and was not well. When I was up there last Oct. I took two or three more treatments and then after some weeks I got entirely well in that part of my anatomy. In the mean t time I had several spells with my heart. Now it seems to me that I have not been as well in many years. If I get through this Spring, these awful winds that have always upset me so in the Spring time, I will think that after all I am a well man. For which I trust I am duly thankful, as Bro. Lesueur would say.

This must do for this time. No, there is one more thing. I hate to mention it, but it seems to me absolutely necessary, and that is whether we might not in some way have Frank's allowance one more year while he is finishing his work in college. It costs so much to live here that we

find it hard to get by, and especially since I have not been getting out in meetings as before. I do not know how we are to keep him in college this year--I mean next year--unless we can get a little more help than the allowance from the Margaret Fund. May I hear from you about this matter? He will reach maturity next month and this allowance will be cut off of course, unless there is some way to extend it.

I hope your hopes for improvement in the receipts have not been and will not be blighted. It seems to me that we have reached a crisis and will have to face it like men in Atlanta in May, unless the millions come rolling in.

I want to go to the Convention. May not be able to do so, but have a little plan by which I may make it. Am hoping to any way.

May the Lord bless you . I pray for you in your work.

Faternally yours,

J. E. Davis

March 20, 1924

Rev. J. E. Davis,
Box 211,
El Paso, Texas

Dear Davis:-

Thank you for yours of March 3rd, which came just as I was leaving for Texas. I went last week on a visit to the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. I spoke there on Missionary Day and interviewed students for about twenty-four hours. I put in the time pretty closely. I was greatly encouraged by seeing some young people who were looking forward to mission work. I talked to the men you have mentioned and my belief is that they perhaps are not the timber we want. The truth about it is I am exceedingly afraid that it will be very hard for us to find somebody to come into the Publishing House direct from the school. What we perhaps will have to do is to reenforce the work in Mexico as a whole, and then observe the force a bit and select from the number that has been trained in mission work, somebody who can come into the office with you. Can a young man just out of Seminary and College know about the problems that are to be met in the literature in the Spanish-American field? As I see it, the man who is to render permanent aid in the Publishing House, must be somebody who has had actual contact with mission problems on the field. What he will have to do in the years to come, while you are there and after you are gone, will necessitate his having had some actual missionary experience. I doubt very much whether we can get a man to come as a missionary who would be willing to settle down and be just a business man and office.

I talked to the men you referred to, and when I showed them that phase of it they backed down. They are not willing to come with the prospect of having to continue in a business capacity. I don't see how we could hope to develop them in an editorial capacity when they have no knowledge of mission problems from experience.

As I see it we shall have to either have a business man who can come there as a business man, with no other expectation than to do office work, or else, reenforce, as I have said, the foreign mission force and then draw on it for

the needed helpers after they have gotten the experience to form a background for activities in the Publishing House.

Now this looks like putting things off a bit, but that may be the thing we will have to do, if we follow the second course I mention. Indeed this reenforcing idea will have to be carried out if we expect to render permanent help to the House. The other method I referred to can be only temporary aid.

Now I am just tickled to death to see you making such a good show in your physical condition. I believe that you have solved the problem and that you are going to come through now all right. If you are on your feet again there isn't any telling how long you are going to live out there; that desert atmosphere may kind of dry you up and make you a sort of permanent asset to us. Maybe if you could get a little of that juice out of you, you would be in better health anyhow.

I am sorry to have to say that I do not see any method by which we can extend further allowance to Frank. The Board has passed upon this question so many times that I know just exactly what it would answer if we were to bring the question up. It has positively put its foot down on extending this child's allowance beyond the time when the child reaches the age of maturity. I am sorry, personally, but I believe that when you think it through you will realize that the Board would be almost compelled to take that position. If we make a rule for one we have to apply it to all.

The situation looks better. There is a better hopefulness throughout the Convention, and we are hoping and praying that we are going to come through without as heavy debt as we had last year.

May God bless you.

Cordially yours,

R/F

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EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A.

March 20th, 1924

Dear Brother Ray:

Your telegram just received. I send it on to Branch who was to write the report this year. I sent mine to him two weeks or more ago, in fact just as I told you in my letter.

We are moving on with pretty good success. I think you will agree with me that our report I sent you was a good one for last year.

We are now printing a song book, word edition. It will need a music edition as soon as possible to arrange it. That will take time on account of having to get permission to use certain music that is copyrighted. I think we will have little trouble however.

I go to Kansas City to help them ~~there~~ in the Mexican Church beginning Apr. 6th. Will be there about two weeks.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis