

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.

May 2nd, 1924.

Dear Brother Ray:

Your kind letter just received. Also letter to Mr. Sweet of the Southwestern Ry. This will get me the pass on their line to Tucumcari, N.M. Just received pass from Chicago on Rock Island Lines from there to Memphis and return. So I will get as far as Memphis at a reasonable cost. Am glad of this. Our funds are not as plentiful as they might be, so all this saved helps out.

Yes, it would be fine if the First Church would do that very thing, but you know they are planning to build--spend all on themselves, you know. My! when will our people learn that the best way to prosper at home is to meet the greater task of giving the Gospel to the whole world. But they do not seem to understand this secret. Why, I have heard some of our great denominational leaders make the most selfish appeals, when it seemed to me they should have know better.

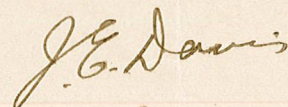
Dr. Neale was in this morning and said he had heard from you. Said he was going to think out some things and have them ready by the time of the Convention. I suppose he will not go on the same line with me, or I might get a chance to argue the matter with him. I suppose we will have to thresh it out down there.

Mrs. Davis will not get to go to the Convention with me. I am sorry, but one of us will have to be here it seems--pretty hard for me to get away just at this juncture, but she can tide matters over till I get back. I asked for a pass for her, but they turned my request down. In fact I did not really expect them to grant her one. She got the permit all right, that we sent the application for through you.

We will call our Mission meeting off from Toluca for several reasons and have it either here or in Chihuahua, either June 25th, or July 2nd. Do not yet know exactly.

Hoping that victory is yours, and that there will not be any sensational spurts in the Convention, but a real, sensible plan for the future that will take care of the great Foreign Mission program, and that a great spiritual blessing will be ours, as a people,

I am as always, sincerely yours,



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EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A.

May 20th, 1924

Dear Brother Ray:

I will write you a word. Got home yesterday morning and went to work as usual. Always plenty to be doing around here. Found things in good running order.

I am leaving tomorrow night for a few days in Okla. and Kans. Hope to help them up there to save their hospital from the Catholics. Incidentally will get in a good word for our Mission Cause.

Now I am wondering whether you found Dr. Neal or whether he found you. He has not yet returned, so far as I know. Suppose he will soon be here. And even if you got together, I suppose little headway was made. That is the way I looked at the matter and after I found he was still down there and no one had seen him in the Convention, and knowing that he has many relations in that neck of the woods, I just decided to hike out for home.

What I am writing about now, however, is what we should do in our Mission Meeting. I intended to tell you that it will meet here in El Paso July 2nd and succeeding days. What shall we do? Is there any hope of getting anything additional for our work? Shall we make BIG plans only to have them cut down to the lowest possible limit?

Really it gets mighty hot here about that time and the brethren get pretty restless in discussing matters that are not of much interest. Could you take about two minutes and tell me whether you think we would be justified in mapping out much of an advance program for 1925? I would appreciate it very much.

May the Lord lead us all. We are weak and blind. When we do our best it is poor enough. And then we get old so fast that we can not seem to get much of anything done. AND I MUST HAVE TIME TO DO SOME SPECIAL WORK THAT I HAVE PLANNED FOR. But when will I get the time at this rate? It seems that I will never get time even for what I have to do.

Relief! Help! Surely it will come and that before very long. Say, what do you think of this: My son Frank will almost finish his A. B. work in William Jewell next year. He knows a lot of Spanish and that would be easy for him. Why not rope him? Then we could send him to a Business College for a while. Then I could take him under my wing and make a business missionary out of him. That is all a plan of my own making. But it is a dream I have had lately.

Then, what about this idea? If I can find some one and persuade him or her to give us money for a building here, through our Board, of course, what would you think about it? I might get some money that way. But I do not know of any one just now.

All well here. Moving on right well.
Fraternally

Davis

May 26, 1924

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

Dear Davis:-

Thank you for yours of May 20th.

I am sorry that you had to go away from the Convention as early as you did. I am also sorry to report that I didn't get to see Dr. Neal. I have an idea that he was doing some of that visiting you mention.

I wish I could meet with you in your mission meeting and talk things over with the mission, but that isn't possible this year. I think that in developing your plan, you ought to go ahead and discuss with the Board a program which you think ought to be taken next year. What do you men really think that you could reasonably undertake next year? I do not mean a padded program of things worked out theoretically on paper, but what are the things that you really think ought to be done next year? You know the situation in the South and can understand, in a measure at least, how you ought to fit your program to the present situation. My own belief is that the thing for any mission to always do, is to make requests that are reasonable.

I think that looking your mission work squarely in the face, all of us have to realize that while there are many things that you might indicate that ought to be done, yet unless the mission can be reenforced considerably with new missionaries, the things that you can do in the matter of building, etc. are rather limited. This is one of the most problematical years we have ever faced. If the 75 Million Campaign should cash out a total of 75 Million in December, then our Board would be able to undertake in every one of its fields, a very aggressive policy. If we fall down on the 75 Million Campaign, next year is going to be one of the hardest years we have ever witnessed. I will say personally, that my belief is that we will succeed with the 75 Million Campaign. If we do, we ought to have before us programs that will be reasonable, aggressive.

There is one thing that I hope the mission will give very careful consideration. And that is, the question of titles to our property in Mexico. Please thresh this question out thoroughly and let's form some sort of a holding company which will actually hold titles to our property. The property now is in the name of various people, and if these property holders should be taken away by death, a considerable amount of our property no doubt would be alienated. If some method can be found by which ~~one concern~~ can hold the titles to all the property, then let's find that method.

I would make one further remark about the question of appropriations. Let the mission remember that the Board has a tremendous debt now hanging on it. Every item that can be cut out without injury to the work ought to be cut out, and the expenses of all of our institutions ought to be held down to the lowest limit possible. Everything that can be thrown on the natives ought to be thrown on them. I have a feeling that the native churches can bear a great deal more of the expenses than they are bearing.

I do hope and pray that we can send out new missionaries this year, and that some will come to Mexico. This question will not be settled until our June meeting, which occurs on the 18th of the month.

Concerning Frank, I will say, that the policy of the Board is not to send the children of missionaries back into the same station where their parents are. We have found from wide observation that it is better not to pile up kinsfolk anywhere.

Concerning the question of finding someone to give money for the building, I will say that I wish you could find such a person, but under the rules of the 75 Million Campaign, we are not authorized to go out seeking for such gifts. Of course if, after somebody hears what you have to say about your particular work, he is especially interested in it, and wants to make a gift and insists that it be designated to that object, this is a free country and he can do as he pleases, but we are not justified in going out now hunting for special gifts. I wonder if you have ever really put the matter up to Neal about his church giving that building to the Publishing House. I can't help but believe that is the thing the First Church El Paso ought to do. The fact about it is, that since dictating that last sentence, I have decided I would write Neal to this effect.

Blessings on you.

Cordially yours,

R/F