

February 3, 1925

Rev. J. E. Davis,
Box 221,
El Paso, Texas

Dear Davis:-

Thank you for yours of recent date enclosing the proposition made by the First Church, El Paso.

We will take this matter up perhaps next week at our Board meeting. I cannot say what the Board will do about it until that time.

I will tell you a dream I had last Saturday night after I had received your letter. I dreamed that I said to you, "As sure as you live the Mexican Baptist Publishing House ought to be moved out of town into the suburbs of El Paso. I saw a beautiful piece of land which had ample acres in it on which to build everything and not be crowded." I said, "it made no difference if the location was on the outside of the city, because the Publishing House could do a mail order business there just as well as it could in the heart of the town, and it would be cooler out there, and the health of everybody employed would be better." I also estimated that in the long run it would be cheaper.

Now that was all a dream. All of those considerations were in my mind in the dream. The only thing that I would say now in addition, since I am awake would be, that you want to be dead certain that the house offered to us by the First Church really does meet the situation, and not allow the fact that you are now crowded, to press us into precipitate action.

Now I am not saying a word of this to argue against not accepting the proposition made by the First Church. I am giving it to you for all it is worth.

Cordially yours,

R/F

J. E. DAVIS,
Administrador.

C. D. BOONE,
Sub-Director.

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

519-523 N. CAMPBELL ST.

P. O. Box 211



EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A.

Feb. 7th, 1925

Dear Ray:

Yours received. Thanks for the dream. But dreams do not build houses, and we have to have a house pretty soon.

I have really dreamed about it so long that unless we get something that we can handle without having to depend very strongly on you for a while, I see no hopes of realizing even the least of our dreams.

Your plan might be ideal. But there are reasons why we should stay in town, as also there are reasons why we might be better off outside.

The first one is our trade work. We had an income from work in December of \$1419.11 and in January of \$1116.26. This goes a long ways toward keeping things going, as we have to have a certain lot of men to man the plant. With this cut off each month we would not be in condition to pay out as much for equipment as we have been. Let me whisper this into your ear just now. We paid last year for equipment, including two paper cutters, metal for linotype composition, wire stitcher, and payemnts of the new machine (linotype) all mounting up to the respectable sum of \$4,111.92. Thus far this year we have paid \$959.88 on the linotype and the new book keeping machine and ledgers, etc.

We need this income in order to keep the plant up. We would not have it were we out of the city, and we could not expect you in your present condition to meet it.

It is true that this building is not what we would put up if we had the money to do it with, but it will meet all our needs for years to come, and there is land for expansion.

I feel fully convinced that this is coming in answer to the many prayers that are going up from mahy hearts for this very thing. I am hoping that some action will be taken that will enable us to go forward in the very near future. As a matter of business it is a need that is urgent. And I feel that it is an opportunity that will not likely come again soon. The location is good, the building ample to allow us to grow for years before we would need any more buildings, the terms are hard to beat.

May the Lord lead and bless you.

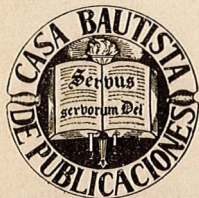
Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

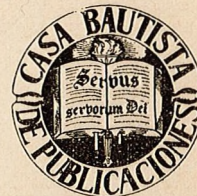
J. E. DAVIS,
Administrador.

C. D. BOONE,
Sub-Director.

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES



519-523 N. CAMPBELL ST.
P. O. Box 211



EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A.

Feb. 9th, 1925

Dear Ray:

I am sorry they were so slow about getting this picture, but that is the way most folks do things. What I do not attend to right now goes undone usually, but other folks have a way of putting things off from a week to ten days and then getting them done, even if it is too late to do much good. But here it is. They just gave it to me a while ago. I supposed they had sent it on.

Now this gives a pretty good idea of what we would be getting. The basement is full size and can be made into a fine storage room--put in a car load of paper at a time and get the very lowest price possible. Then there would be room of course for several car-loads more. But we need a lot of storage room.

The first floor would be converted into the shop, leaving the front rooms for offices. Then the second floor has lots of room for private offices--which certainly some of us need if we are to carry on the work we have to do. Also there would be room for a reading room and other things we could make count for good I think.

The top floor we could leave just as it is and rent it to some lodges perhaps. In fact there are some that want it now but the church can not afford to rent it to them. This for the present.

But there is no need of putting up any arguments. I see that perhaps your mind is about made up before-hand. If there is any chance of getting the ideal thing right soon, then have them turn this down and give us the ideal. But???? In the mean time, what are we to do?

May the Lord lead and bless.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

February 14, 1925

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

Dear Davis:-

The Board on the 12th passed the enclosed resolutions in reference to the proposition made by the First Baptist Church.

I am just as happy as a lark over the fact that the Board could accept this proposition. I know it is a tremendously significant thing to the Publishing House, and I think of you also personally, because I know that you will be put into quarters which will conserve your health and strength in a very much more satisfactory way.

Now go ahead and carry out the details. The First Church will have to make the deed transferring to us the mortgage. Urge the brethren to re-finance the \$23,000 mortgage at 7% if possible. As soon as the church gets the papers worked out, we will send you the note for \$5,000 which we promised to give.

You will note the conditions upon which we accept this property. We are trusting you with the appropriations already made to take care of all the expenses of moving and remodelling. We are expecting the work of the House to so develop that you will even be able to take care of the \$23,000 mortgage, which will be a great achievement, and we believe that you are able to accomplish it.

I will, of course, write Brother Neal, but I wish you would also express to him our profound gratitude for the generosity of his church and of his own personal interest and activity in this matter.

Cordially yours,

R/F

J. E. DAVIS,
Administrador.

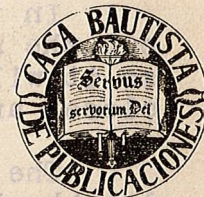
C. D. BOONE,
Sub-Director.

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES



519-523 N. CAMPBELL ST.

P. O. Box 211



EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A.

Feb. 19th, 1925

Dear Brother Ray:

The 18th of Feb. was a great day here. I got your letter advising me of the action of the Board and stating that you were as happy as a lark that this action could be taken. Well, after four years fight and many prayers and much waiting on the Lord, you can well imagine just how I felt about it. I could not help praise the Lord for it all. Of course I knew it was going to come, but I did not know just when. I felt recently that the time was at hand, but of course could only pray and wait.

In fact I had already begun getting things in shape for moving. We are getting a great deal of our "stuff" packed and ready to take over there just as soon as the basement is put in shape for the boxes. That will be the first thing we tackle.

Now there are several things to work out, and it may not all work out just to the very best interests of all, but all will come within the limits of the agreement--the resolution. Dr. Neal has found out that the K.C. people sold out the notes to different ones of their Klan, and unless such individuals are willing for a refunding of all--that is to receive payment in full--there will be certain difficulties in refunding the whole amount of \$23,000. But in case this can not be done, the notes will be extended only, and the rate of interest will have to stay at 8%.

Now they want to know the following:

1. What length time do you want on the refunding loan;
2. What annual payment--that is, maturity--if any, on the principal;
3. Do you want it refinanced in name of the First Church before deed is conveyed, or after.

They are anxious to know what you want as soon as possible. The Church has passed on all papers and the resolution and the deed is being drawn in your favor in accordance with stipulations of said resolution. I am just back from a conference with Dr. Neal about all this and all moves well.

There will be quite a write-up in Sunday's Herald. Will send you a copy. Can furnish a picture of the Hall--a good one--if you want it. Maybe I had better write the whole thing up for Home and Foreign Fields and furnish them pictures, etc. They have asked me for it again and again but I have always put them off to this very day. I mean till we had a place we could call our own and that would show up well.

I am going to have a man go over the whole thing with me as soon as pos

sible and make the tentative plans for remodelling. I hope it will be this afternoon. Then the first move will be to put the basement in good condition, that is, concrete the floor and arrange for storing our surplus. Then we will begin to get it down there.

In the mean time we will work the first floor into a shop, by tearing out the walls, leaving only two rooms on the floor, changing the stair so it will not take up so much room, and leaving of course the water closet and lavatory as it is in the rear.

The second and third floors we will not touch just as present and will let the First Church people use as much of it as we can spare them while we are remodelling, and after that, as to that matter.

On the second floor I will have my office and my helper will have his office right near mine. There will remain the library room and a large room, the kitchen and other space, including bath room. All this we will not need to touch now. We may have to use some of it, but even then it will be only for a bindery and mailing rooms.

IMPORTANT: Can we count on the balance of the extra appropriation of \$2500 right away in order to do this work? Bro. Marrs has sent us \$416.66 and will likely send another check for \$208.33 in a few days. Will you make it possible for us to count on that money for the remodelling and moving? I feel sure you will as otherwise we would not be able to move into the new building by April 1st, and we want to cut out all the rent items at that time, if possible, and it will be possible I am sure.

We are going to celebrate, so if you will come to the celebration, we will see that you get a nice lunch with us and we will honor you by letting you make the main speech. But probably you will not feel like making such a long trip just for that honor, so we will try to arrange for others to fill in.

And too we intend to make noise enough to be heard all over the world. Toot your own horn, that is to be our motto now for a while. Of course we will not forget God in it all.

Get busy right now and if you think it worth the expense to get the information asked for to us by wire, do so; if it does not appeal to you as worth that much expense then write me immediately. However I think I will pay for the night letter if you will answer that way, so as to not delay things any more than necessary. Send it collect.

May the Lord bless you richly. These are great times. It is worth while to live when a fellow can found, cultivate, enlarge, extend the work of his hand until he can feel that "departing" he will "leave behind" footprints on the sands of time" and have set in motion waves of influence that reach out to the ends of the earth. Do you know why this is true? Indulge me a little, brother. John 12:24,25 gives the secret of it.

We never lose anything by losing all for His sake.

Fraternally yours,

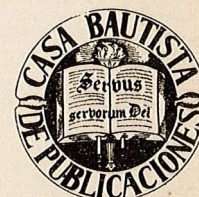
J. E. Davis

J. E. DAVIS,
Administrador.

C. D. BOONE,
Sub-Director.

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

519-523 N. CAMPBELL ST.
P. O. Box 211



EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A.

Feb. 21st, 1925

Dear Ray:

I have asked that a new book called "Papal Paganism" be sent you for examination. I wish you could get this or some similar work into the study course--mission study course, I mean. It is high time that our people should know more about this terrible religion that is called Christian when it is pagan.

They are getting all the papers ready for the transfer of the house. Have had a man or two looking it over and hope to have an estimate on what it will cost to remodel the building in a few days. We want to get into it by April 1st. That means that we will want to begin moving quite a while before then, and there will be lots of things to arrange.

I am very busy, as you may easily imagine, and now I will have a lot more to see to for the next six weeks or two months. But I am feeling so well that I just rejoice in being able to do a lot of work.

I have to make a temperance lecture to a Mexican congregation here tonight, then preach twice tomorrow and work six days and then work the seventh. I am trying to supply for an old college mate, pastor of the Highland Park Church here, while he is in the hospital. I have been at ~~it~~ now for seven or eight weeks. I am doing it as an accommodation, for his family would be in pretty hard circumstances were they compelled to pay for supplies. I enjoy it. Have had 14 additions most of them by baptism, in that length of time.

Nothing else for this time. Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

February 28, 1925

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

Dear Davis:-

Thank you for your letters of February 19th and 21st.

I am glad that things are going so well with you in getting the Hall into your hands. I will be expecting to hear from you soon about the alterations. Of course I don't suppose you will be sending me details, but I will be interested to know how much it is going to cost you, etc.

It would be better if the entire \$23,000 could be refunded by the First Church instead of having the notes extended. But of course if those men are not willing to refund you may simply have to have the notes extended at the old rate of 8%.

Let the refunding on the loan extend three years.

We would not want to state any annual payment, but should like to have the privilege stated in the refunding loan to the effect that the Board could pay on the principal at any interest paying period. That is to say if the interest is to be paid annually in March, the Board would want to have the privilege of curtailing the principal at that interest paying period, or of letting it stand on until the three year limit. We would like to have the privilege of paying a part or all at any annual interest paying period, though it may be that the people who lend the money would not want to give us such a privilege. However I guess you will not have any difficulty since we would ~~barbailitt~~ at the end of an annual period.

Let the church use its judgment about whether it should refinance in the name of the First Church and convey the same to us, or first convey the deed and then refinance. We do not know which would be best or which would be easiest. Either way will be satisfactory to us. I wonder if it would

not be easier to refinance in the name of the First Church, because you would have local interests to work upon in taking care of the loan.

We have sent to Brother Marrs in letters of credit for the first and second quarters, one half the extra amount appropriated to your Publishing House. That is to say we have sent him already \$1,250.00 of this extra amount. We would rather not have this extra \$2,500 called for during this quarter, I mean during the second quarter, but if you cannot get along any other way, maybe we can stretch a point and let you have it; but we very much prefer not to do so. Let it go along and be sent to Brother Marrs in letters of credit for the third and fourth quarters, without pulling out this item and giving a special letter of credit for it. I am not saying we won't do this, but I am expressing a preference, which I hope you can follow. If you cannot, let me know and we will see what we can do.

I certainly would love to be there at your celebration, but I guess that will be beyond my reach. I will be with you in heart, because I am happy over the way things have turned.

I will be glad to look over that new book on Papal Paganism when it comes in. It has not yet arrived.

When I was down at the Southwestern Seminary last week I met a young man named L. A. Myers, who expects to go as a foreign missionary. He is an L. B. of the University of Mississippi and is doing some teaching in the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and is editor of The Evangel, the paper published by the Seminary. He takes his A. B. degree next year. He was in the Legislature of Mississippi for four years, and is now 32 years of age. He says that he would consider going to Mexico or to Africa. I spoke to him about the publication work in Mexico. He has shown fine aptitude for publication work in connection with The Evangel, and seems to be quite interested in this sort of thing. I have a feeling that this is pretty nearly the man we are looking for for the Publishing House. I suggest that sometime if you are traveling around the Fort Worth way, you might without making any advertisement of it, get in touch with this young man and talk things over. I think he wants to keep the matter rather quiet. I will keep in touch with him and see what comes out of it. He would not go until next year.

Blessings on you.

Cordially yours,

P. S. I have a letter from Brother Neal in which he speaks about the note which the Board promised to execute and pay the church for \$5,000. I am sending this note to Brother Neal. I thought of sending it to you, and then thought perhaps there would be a little touch of courtesy and confidence in sending it to Brother Neal, which we would be very glad to express, so I am sending it to him. I am giving you this for your information in dealing with the matter.

T. B. R.