

December 18, 1931

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

Dear Brother Davis:

I received a letter this morning from Dr. L. L. Gwaltney, Editor of the Alabama Baptist, 515 Lincoln Life Bldg., Birmingham, Ala., in which he makes the following suggestion:

"It has occurred to me that if you were to write the editors of all papers published on the foreign fields to send those papers in exchange with the papers of the Southern Baptist Convention, and at the same time if the editors of the journals would put a weekly digest of what is going on in English, say just a quarter of column in length, the editors of the Southern Baptist papers could reproduce these facts in their papers and so help to keep our people informed as to what is going on on the foreign fields.

"The editors on the foreign fields could let it be known that this quarter column or half column printed in English was for the benefit of the editors in the homeland. Their people would appreciate it and as I say, it would give all the editors of the Southern Baptist Convention a weekly review of what is going on on the foreign fields and thereby greatly help our people. Think the matter through. I am willing to defer to your better judgment but it seems to me the idea has value."

I am passing this on to you for your consideration. I believe the suggestion has merit. I have written to Dr. Gwaltney to this effect, and intimated to him that possibly instead of putting in a synopsis every week, it might be done once a month, if such a synopsis might be good propaganda for foreign missions. We need not discuss the problems, but those things about the work which would tend to quicken the general interest in foreign missions.

If you think favorably of this matter and wish to co-operate with Dr. Gwaltney, you might send a sample of your paper to each one of our Southern Baptist editors and see whether they are ready to enter into this scheme.

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Furthermore, write me your reaction on the matter, and if enough of the editors of our papers in various lands agree to this plan, I will then take the matter up with the editors here and see whether they would be willing to follow the course which Dr. Gwaltney proposes.

Blessings on you.

Cordially yours,

CASA BAUTISTA DE PUBLICACIONES

800 MYRTLE AVENUE

P. O. BOX 211

EL PASO, TEXAS, E. U. A. 12/25/31

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

Dear Ray:

I have yours of the 18th before me unanswered. In fact, I am somewhat at a loss as to how to go about answering it, yet I shall try. It presents some difficulties.

Likely Dr. Gwaltney's idea might be a good one, were it workable at the present time. And as to that matter it might be workable. But for us especially it presents the following insurmountable difficulty: Our paper died six months ago, and others are about to cease to exist. We have nothing now except our S.S. literature, and are going to have to make a big cut on that.

I see in The Watchman-Examiner, that Dr. Whitingill has appealed to Dr. Eager for help to continue their publications in this great crisis. Maybe you saw the article by Dr. Eager in the Dec. 17th issue of that paper. We have no control whatever over the most of our denominational newspapers now. And since they are mostly edited by natives, they would not be able to give anything much worth while in the way of a summary in English, and knowing them as I do, I do not think they would want any foreign language in their papers any way.

My suggestion would be the following: Have some missionary in each country where we have work take upon himself--or have him named to do this little service for the denomination at home, and especially the Foreign Mission Board--the responsibility of collecting from time to time--say, monthly--news items from the fields, taken mostly from the papers of course, and condensed to the 'nth degree, and adapted to our folks at home. I would suggest a monthly news letter from each field sent to you there and sent by you in turn to the papers. In that way, you could see to it that some "smart" one did not take up the space with some "hobby" he might want to ride. You might there make up from the several letters a summary and send it out as one, rather than a series of letters. This however might not result in anything much, since there is the general lethargy on the part of many, and then too the old missionary sees nothing much of interest, and the new one wants to write a book about the new things he sees.

So you see there is not much in Dr. Gwaltney's suggestion, though much could be made out of it, were it properly handled.

We have not yet planned our program for 1932. We are waiting to see what our constituency is going to do in the way of ordering literature for 1932, then make our plans accordingly. We shall suspend all the papers necessary to keep within our probable income.

Well, I wish for you and yours a most prosperous New Year. May God make the burdens as light as possible that weigh upon your heart.
Most cordially yours in Him *Davis*