

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

P. O. Box 211

El Paso, Texas, E. H. A.

DEPARTAMENTO EDITORIAL

J. E. DAVIS, DIRECTOR

April 5th, 1933

Drs. Ray and Maddy,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brethren:

For some time I have been thinking that likely it was my duty to write you. It is an unpleasant duty at best to touch on the vital point I feel it my duty to mention. But if it is my duty then it is my duty. If it is an error of judgment, then throw this into the waste-basket. I take it you have a big one near at hand.

The way things are going with us, evidently there will be a great necessity of making some radical changes in the near future. I know nothing about the financial matters--I mean in detail. What I conjecture from the very limited knowledge I have of that aspect of our work here, I am led to the conclusion that, unless there is some radical readjustment made soon, this work will have to cease. Now as I see it, that should not be. We are furnishing literature for our workers in all the Spanish-speaking world. Surely this is of great importance.

We would not have been able to carry on this long, had it not been for work we have done for Miss Hale of Monterrey, Mexico--several books we have published for her. I think we have done about all that she has for us to do. True, we have three books in process of making that will give us quite a bit of money, but that will not tide us over to the end of 1933, to say nothing of the future.

As to our own publications, we are publishing still our S.S. literature as before--all seven of the publications. It seems to me that it would be a great blow to our work to have to suspend any of these. Our Expositor Bíblico, Teachers' Edition; the same, students' edition; El Faro Dominical, for Intermediates; Heraldos del Rey for Juniors; Lecciones Ilustradas for Beginners and Primaries; Nuestros Niños, a little paper for all; and Lecciones Bíblicas, a leaflet for general use. We are sending out much of this literature now without hope of financial return on it. Our churches and Sunday schools are poor and have been struggling through depression much longer than our churches have here at home.

I see no way out except to retrench, and how to do that is an enigma. However, I will make bold to say that as things are now, we do not need two department heads--I mean frankly, a Business Manager and an Editorial Secretary. One man could manage it all. One man did for many years, and it was much heavier then than now. With small means to do with, one man could have more freedom in applying them for the best results.

So, here is my proposition: Either let me out and turn all over to Bro. Benson; or turn it all back to me, and I will try to make it go. That is as fair a proposition as I know how to make. We have not talked this over between us, and since it seems to me that any such change should be initiated by you in the form of a suggestion, I merely offer this as a suggestion to you.

(Over)

Remember I have no complaint to make. Bro. Benson and I have been true yokefellows in this work. I have not always thought he used all the care that should have been used in the application of the funds we had, but perhaps he would have thought the same of me had I been in his place. But I feel that the end is near unless something is done.

My heart naturally is here. As you know I am the founder of this Publication House. For years I was the only missionary connected with it. I do not want to see the House closed, and do not think such a thing necessary, as we have gone through hard times before, and have come out in better condition than before. I do not want to see the literature suspended altogether, and think it would be a sad day for our work, should such occur.

So, for this reason, I make the above proposition. Cut me off if that seems to be the wise solution of our difficulty. Yet, remember that I am ready to continue and carry the entire load, should such seem to be the best for the Cause. I have edited the Expositor Bíblico now for nearly twelve years--am finishing the quarterly for the third quarter of 1933 now in a few days. So it is no easy thing for me to even think of the possibility of leaving a work that has been such a joy to me through the years--and especially now that I am in so much better health than I was for a long time. Yet for the sake of the Cause--and this special work--I am ready to step down and out, if needs be.

Well, it may be better further on. I hope so, yet it does not seem to be getting that way very fast yet. Our people have very little money, and our churches are hard-put-to to keep pastors. Many of them out this way, are doing on part time pastors, or non-resident pastors, and have very little to pay them with. Here in the valley brethren who had means ~~and~~ gave liberally a few years ago, find themselves without money to even pay their taxes. Many of them are sorely grieved at their inability to give, but to my certain knowledge they do not have it to give. I take it that it is so almost everywhere.

You will know how to handle this matter, and so I leave it with you. I feel that I have done my duty. May the Lord lead us all.

I trust things may be better for the Board in the near future, but see nothing in the near future that can possibly make them much better for you. But the Lord will provide.

Most cordially yours in Him,

J. E. Davis

April 11, 1933

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

Dear Brother Davis:-

Your letter of April 5th was received yesterday.

I am giving the matter careful and prayerful consideration. I am leaving for a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, which meets in Nashville on Wednesday and Thursday. I shall be out of the office all of this week. Just as soon as I have time to go into this matter further, we will consider it carefully and write you again.

In the meantime, we will go right along, hoping that somehow the Convention is going to find a way for us to get some relief from our enormous indebtedness. If we could be relieved of the indebtedness within the next year, it would set free \$65,000.00 to be applied on our budget. We are going to do our dead-level best to hold our own and not retreat further.

With love and best wishes for you, I am,

Yours very truly,

M/F