

Nov. 3, 1933.

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

Dear Davis:

I appreciate keenly your good letter of Oct. 30th.

How grateful I am to you for your kind and appreciative words. Our fellowship has always been very helpful to me. Sometimes we have had some discussion where there may have been difference of opinion, but there was never any difference in our fellowship. I have always loved you keenly and devotedly, and I believe that you reciprocated it in a fine, generous way, and I am sure that you do so still. How I thank you for your bracing words.

I have been made Secretary Emeritus after these 27 years of service. I have no administrative capacity, although I am in a position where the Board can call upon me for any service it wants me to render, and I believe there will be found plenty to keep me busy and happy, for I shall be happy when I am rendering service to this greatest of all causes, a cause that is dearer to my heart than my own life. Dr. Maddy and the Administrative Committee of our Board will be perfectly free to call upon me for any service they wish. I give you this information in response to your remark where you wonder what I am going to do.

I was glad for you to write me as you did about your activities. It is certainly interesting what you had to say about the missionary opportunities you find in your region. You find these missionary opportunities because you are such a missionary at heart. You look for places of which you have furrowed, and when any man does that he usually finds many things to keep him busy.

I shall be glad to hear from you from time to time if you feel led to write. Of course, you will remember that I will keep you deep in my heart and often remember you in prayer.

R/P

Cordially yours,

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

P. O. Box 211

El Paso, Texas, E. U. A.

DEPARTAMENTO EDITORIAL
J. E. DAVIS, DIRECTOR

November 17th, 1933

Dr. Chas. E. Maddry,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother;

I write about two or three matters:

First; I read with interest the report of the Board meeting. It seems to me that you did the best you could under present circumstances, though of course, much we are losing every day for want of means to carry on the work as it should be carried on. This you already know, and would remedy it were that possible.

Second; The plan for retirement and relief of old missionaries seems to me to be very good indeed. I hope it will be put into effect, as planned. I do not expect to get any benefit from it for a long time to come myself--you see I am only 60 past. If the Lord gives me the same longevity that He gave to my fore-fathers, and our family in general, I hope to be working right along at 75 and even 80. See how we cling to life and WORK! But who knows what may come, and how soon? Emergencies arise in every life. I approve the plan.

Third; Bro. Hatchell tells me that you suggested to him that you had hopes that the Sunday School Board would help out our publishing work. That is what I want to write about chiefly.

Years ago I got in touch with the Sunday School Board men. One trip to Nashville, I had an extended conference with Dr. VanNess as well as with others of our leaders there, and Dr. VanNess assured me they would be glad to take care of the publishing work of the Foreign Mission Board, but that it was impossible to make any such arrangements. I was not on the "inside" then, as I did not see why our Board might not have such backing and gladly accept it.

Well, Dr. V. told me to take it up with our Secretaries and if it could be arranged with them, I could count on the backing of the S.S.Board. I was greatly enthused, and wrote in only to be told that I should mind my step. Later, when I had conferences with our Secretaries, they gave me to understand that such was not the policy of the Foreign Mission Board. So it all stopped there.

Now, I am interested again. If the Board is going to adopt a new policy, then I would like to take the matter up again and renew relations with the S.S.Board, getting from them such propositions as they might see fit to make to put this plant back on its feet before we get so far down that we can never get back to normal. If it would meet with your approval I could go over there after a while when I have a lull in my work, since I can get transportation the major part of the way--to Memphis, or St. Louis--and rates the rest of the way. Those brethren are my friends--personal friends--and a visit with them might be a great asset to our work.

The Board helped us in various ways before the Foreign Board put a veto on what we were doing. We cooperate with them now in issuing the King's Teachers' Diplomas--of which we have issued in their name from this office, hundreds in Latin America. They paid for the Diplomes which we had lithographed in Spanish.

They would have paid for other books--many of them--and literature of various kinds, had it not been for the attitude of our Board.

We need to begin to replenish our bookstock again--I refer to our regular publications, of which we have quite a list. I am sending you under separate cover our catalogue. You will see that we have quite a list, but one by one we are going to have to suspend, unless we have backing to issue new editions.

May I have your reaction to this proposition? I write you thus freely since it seems that you have a different idea about the matter from what some seemed to have a decade or more ago.

I assure you that my life is in this work. You know that I founded this Publishing House and was at the head of it in every way till a few years ago. I would rather see this work go forward as it should than to be a millionaire, or pastor of the biggest church in the whole land. Yet, when things drag along as they have had to for several years, I confess that I get disheartened about the future of this work. Despite its great possibilities, unless we can get the work done, it can not possibly fill its mission--that is the mission it should fill.

May the Lord richly bless you in your great undertaking.

Yours in Him,

J. E. Davis

November 22, 1933

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

Dear Brother Davis:-

I have your letter of November 17th, and have read with a great deal of interest what you have to say with reference to the Publishing House at El Paso and the proposed assistance from the Sunday School Board at Nashville.

First, let me say that I am going to do everything I can to induce Dr. VanNess and the Sunday School Board to make us a grant of funds for our publishing work at El Paso. I am going to Nashville the 29th of December for the Southwide B. Y. P. U. Convention. I am to speak on the 29th. I am going to take this matter up then with Dr. VanNess and Dr. McGlothlin and do everything I can to get some action on it.

The Foreign Mission Board meets tomorrow, and I am going to offer a resolution requesting the Sunday School Board to assist us with a grant of funds for our Spanish Publication work. I want you to take the matter up direct with Dr. McGlothlin and Dr. VanNess. Of course you want to write Dr. VanNess as the Secretary, but I am saying to you now confidentially, that you are going to have to work through Dr. J. T. McGlothlin, the Business Manager, if we get anything. The Sunday School Board has been completely reorganized, and Dr. McGlothlin has great powers in the organization.

I believe if you could find the transportation, you ought to meet me in Nashville the last of December so that we can take this matter up together. In the meantime, I wish you would make out a conservative estimate of your needs for 1934. We will never get anything from the Sunday School Board unless we ask for it, and I am in favor of going after it.

Please write me immediately all the facts. I want to know if it is not true that your Publishing House furnishes all the Spanish speaking literature for our Foreign Mission Board

and our Home Mission Board. Give me all the facts so that I can make out a good case with Dr. McGlothlin and the Sunday School Board, and I assure you that I shall do everything possible. If we do not get what we want now from the Sunday School Board, I am in favor of going to the Convention and asking for instructions from the Convention. I do not believe, however, that this will be necessary if we put up a bold front with the Sunday School Board. In this hour of dire calamity with the Foreign Board, I believe they will come to our relief and help to save our Publishing House at El Paso.

Please let me hear from you at once.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours very truly,

M/F

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

Dear Brother Davis:-

I have your letter of November 17th, and have read with a great deal of interest what you have to say with reference to the Publishing House at El Paso and the proposed assistance from the Sunday School Board at Nashville.

First, let me say that I am going to do everything I can to induce Dr. VanHess and the Sunday School Board to make us a grant of funds for our publishing work at El Paso. I am going to Nashville the 29th of December for the Southern B. F. S. Convention. I am to speak on the 29th. I am going to take this matter up then with Dr. VanHess and Dr. McGlothlin and do everything I can to get some action on it.

The Foreign Mission Board meets tomorrow, and I am going to offer a resolution requesting the Sunday School Board to assist us with a grant of funds for our Spanish Publication work. I want you to take the matter up direct with Dr. McGlothlin and Dr. VanHess. Of course you want to write Dr. VanHess as the Secretary, but I am saying to you now confidentially that you are going to have to work through Dr. J. T. McGlothlin, the Business Manager, if we get anything. The Sunday School Board has been completely reorganized, and Dr. McGlothlin has great powers in the organization.

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Please write me immediately all the facts. I want to know it is not true that your Publishing House furnished all the Spanish speaking literature for our Foreign Mission Board.

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

P. O. Box 211

El Paso, Texas, E. U. A.

DEPARTAMENTO EDITORIAL
J. E. DAVIS, DIRECTOR

November 27th, 1933

Dr. Chas. E. Maddry,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother Maddry:

Your very kind letter of the 22nd received. Thanks for same. I assure you that I am overjoyed to have your assurance that you are going to do all in your power for this publishing work. I was sure that you would before, but it is always a joy to have definite assurance.

Yes, I know Dr. VanNess is slow to reach conclusions, but I have had some success--in fact, quite a bit of success with him in other years. When I see you I shall take pleasure in recounting more in detail my pleasant experience with our Sunday School men at Nashville.

I do not know Dr. McGlothlin, but am glad that he is in a position to be of great help to us, if we can only reach him. I shall take very special pains to get everything in ship-shape to lay the whole matter before him when we get to see him. I do not really think it wise just now for me to take the matter up with any one till we get to do it next month together.

Now, there are other men there who will help us in every way, though likely they would not have much voice in the decisions of the Board. Most especially Dr. Hight C. Moore is a true and tried friend of mine and of this work here. He will help us in every way. And Dr. Burroughs will also lend a hand, I feel sure.

I can get transportation to Memphis and have just written Dr. Moore about concessions from there on. I feel sure that I can get at least a special clergy concession, if not ^apass. In any event, I have a small balance in my traveling expense account, or fund, and I shall make every possible effort to get to that meeting. I shall take pleasure in making out the conservative estimate, then you and I can go over it when we meet down there.

Yes, for your information, and to help us all along the line, I shall now give you some facts about our work. We furnish the only Sunday School literature (Baptist) published in the Spanish language. I sent you a package the other day which you will get time maybe to look over, whether you read it carefully or not. This literature we furnish on the same terms to all. Home Board churches get it just the same as Foreign Board workers, while they do not put a cent into it. That is, except the small subscription price we charge. The Home Mission Society of N.Y., several other mission fields under Baptist management, as well as some of other denominations, who desire a literature that teaches God's Word as such and does not dodge the great fundamental doctrines.

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

P. O. Box 211

El Paso, Texas, E. M. A.

DEPARTAMENTO EDITORIAL

J. E. DAVIS, DIRECTOR

C. E. M. -2-

I shall between now and the time set for the conference with the Sunday School brethren arrange a complete exhibit of what this Publishing House has and its importance as a missionary agency. As soon as I get it in shape, I shall send you a copy for your consideration and suggestions. Then when we get to Nashville--if I do get to go, and I think such an important matter, which will cost me relatively little, will be worth all it does cost--we can make the attack in proper order, and with more hope of victory.

Oh, what possibilities we have in this work! We cannot meet the demands upon us at all. Our funds will not permit it. If we could only have a reasonable backing then we could at least do a part of what we ought to do--a reasonable part; yet as it is, we find ourselves paralyzed, and it is getting more and more difficult for us to do even what we have been doing for the past year or two or three.

You cannot imagine how elated I am over this prospect. Of course I know there is many a slip, etc., yet I feel that it is a God-send. My heart is in this work. You may not know it, but I am the founder of this Publishing House. I gave the nest-egg for it. I am going to write its history and publish it one of these days. I have often of late months felt discouraged--almost "blue." I know we should never permit ourselves to become discouraged. Yet, when one sees ones life-work drifting onto the rocks, one cannot help it at times, it seems. But there is a better day before us, if not right now then a little farther on.

We shall pray much that God may open the minds and hearts of those good brethren toward us, and also that He may open the way for us to meet as you suggest in Nashville Dec. 29th. and present this matter in a way that He can bless and prosper.

I have many things to tell you when I see you. For the present what I have written must suffice. However, if there is anything you want to know--any specific question you want to ask,--remember I am more than glad to answer it, if it pertains to this work, and I know what to answer.

May God help you carry your great burden. It will grow heavier and heavier, and ~~only~~ through his constant succor will you be able to bear up under the strain.

With the best of wishes, I am

Most cordially yours in Him,

J. E. Davis