

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

P. O. Box 211

El Paso, Texas, E. U. A.

DEPARTAMENTO EDITORIAL

J. E. DAVIS, DIRECTOR

March 2nd, 1934

Dr. C. E. Maddry,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother Maddry:

I have acted on every suggestion you have made thus far, and as yet have nothing, not even an answer to my night letter to Dr. VanNess. But I did not much expect an answer. However, if they are going to have a meeting soon, and he intends to present our request, then it is easy to understand why he has not answered. I requested an answer at our expense.

I have written Miss Mallory and Miss White. It is not time yet to get a reply. I am sure they will answer however, and that is more than some MEN will do, eh?

Now, here is the WHY of this letter. The Superintendents of Mexican work here in the U. S. A. had a meeting here yesterday and the day before. Of course, since I am a Southern Baptist, and we have never danced to their music, they did not even notify me of the meeting. I care nothing for that. But Rev. E. R. Brown, whom I have known for years, and who is the Superintendent of the work of the Home Mission Society among Mexicans here in the United States, asked me to visit the meeting, and they very courteously gave me some time to show them our literature.

Among other things, Brown boasts about how much money they have and what they have collected, etc., etc. So it occurs to me that now would be a good time to put before them this startling fact: Our Southern Foreign Board has been supplying them with literature at about half the cost of producing it for years and years. It seems to me that if they have plenty of money, they might give you a thousand or so for this work in this emergency. Of course, they would like to give to it, but they always want to RUN the show, and dictate the editorial policy of the House. That would naturally be impossible, since they would want to MODERNIZE the literature--I mean make it anything but New Testament literature. So that would have to be guarded against.

I leave it with you. They would not listen to me, for they know how hard-headed I am about keeping our literature Biblical. But they might listen to your appeal, if you saw fit to make one.

We are working on toward a goal. I hope we shall be able to reach it. We are using every economy possible, and hope to get our third quarter's literature out well ahead of time and keep out of debt, except the taxes I have already told you about.

Miss Hale has agreed to give us still another little book. I do not know how much longer her funds will hold out.

Pray for us.

J. E. Davis (Over)

P.S. I think that was wonderfully fine of you to present the claims of the Home Mission Board on the Foreign Mission page in our papers this time. Two or three of them have just reached my desk. I have always said, since I became really acquainted with the Word, that Missions is Missions. To be sure, the field is the whole wide world, and our part of it is far greater than their part, but of no greater importance. In fact, we are to begin at Jerusalem.

Our Foreign Mission Cause will lose nothing by this liberal attitude toward the work of the Home Mission Board.

With the very best wishes, I am as ever, yours cordially,

J. E. Davis
Dear Brother Madbury:

I have noted on every suggestion you have made thus far, and as yet have nothing, not even an answer to my night letter to Dr. Van Ness. But I did not much expect an answer. However, if they are going to have a meeting soon, and he intends to present our request, then it is easy to understand why he has not answered. I requested an answer at our expense.

I have written Miss Mallory and Miss White. It is not time yet to get a reply. I am sure they will answer, however, and that is more than some MRN will do, eh?

Now, here is the WHY of this letter. The Superintendents of Mexico can work here in the U. S. A. had a meeting here yesterday and the day before. Of course, since I am a Southern Baptist, and we have never danced to their music, they did not even notify me of the meeting. I care nothing for that. But Rev. E. R. Brown, whom I have known for years, and who is the Superintendent of the work of the Home Mission Society among Mexicans here in the United States, asked me to visit the meeting, and they very courteously gave me some time to show them our literature.

Among other things, Brown boasts about how much money they have and what they have collected, etc., etc. So it occurs to me that now would be a good time to put before them this startling fact: Our Southern Foreign Board has been supplying them with literature at about half the cost of producing it for years and years. It seems to me that if they have plenty of money, they might give you a thousand or so for this work in this emergency. Of course, they would like to give to it, but they always want to RUN the show, and dictate the editorial policy of the House. That would naturally be impossible, since they would want to MODERNIZE the literature--I mean make it anything but New Testament literature. So that would have to be guarded against.

I leave it with you. They would not listen to me, for they know how hard-headed I am about keeping our literature Biblical. But they might listen to your appeal, if you saw fit to make one.

We are working on toward a goal. I hope we shall be able to reach it. We are using every economy possible, and hope to get our third quarter's literature out well ahead of time and keep out of debt, except the taxes I have already told you about.

Miss Hale has agreed to give us still another little book. I do not know how much longer her funds will hold out. Pray for us.

(Over)

March 3, 1934

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

Dear Brother Davis:-

I thank you sincerely for your good letter of
February 28th.

I have written Dr. VanNess the strongest letter
I knew how to write, and I hope that all together we are
going to get some results. I am glad that you have written
Miss Mallory and Miss White. Out of it all maybe we shall
get some relief.

I had a letter from Brother Hatchell this morning,
and I am writing Brother F. M. McConnell to ascertain how much
it will cost to go into Mexico with his party. Maybe, as you
suggest, it would be better for us to go in with this group,
and then, after we get in the country, if we want to, we can
separate. I shall expect Brother Hatchell to go with me.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours very truly,

M/F

March 6, 1934

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

Dear Brother Davis:-

I received your letter of March 2nd.

I think I have some good news for you. I had a letter from Dr. VanNess yesterday saying that he has been authorized to take care of the needs, at least in a temporary way, of our Mexican Publishing House, provided he could find out who owned the Publishing House and who was responsible for its management, etc., etc.

These were not his words, but in substance he said he felt they were going to do something for us in a temporary way, as soon as he could find out who was responsible for the Publishing House. I immediately wrote him that the Publishing House belonged to the Foreign Mission Board, and its policies were directed by the Board, and that you were the Manager and Editorial Secretary, employed by the Board, and that your salary was paid by the Board. He said something in his letter about writing to El Paso for this information, and I suspect you have already heard from him.

With reference to the other matters you mention, I hardly think it would be wise for us to ask this other group for assistance just now. If we can get the Sunday School Board tied on to it, we won't ever let them loose. I had rather not ask these other friends for help now, because they might want to come in and dictate policies for the work of the Publishing House.

I am glad to hear that Miss Hale has agreed to give you another book. All of your troubles will break away after a while.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours very truly,

M/F

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

P. O. Box 211

El Paso, Texas, E. H. A.

DEPARTAMENTO EDITORIAL

J. E. DAVIS, DIRECTOR

March 7th, 1934

Dr. C. E. Maddry,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother;

Just a line or two to give you some really hopeful news, though of course, it is always true that there is many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip.

1. I am to have a conference with Dr. Yearby, pastor of the First Baptist Church here, some time today. He has received a letter from Dr. VanNess, asking him all about us and what we are doing. That is the best news we have had for some time. He told Dr. Y. that we had asked for help, and I think told him the amount--\$300 per month. Dr. Y. wants to get the data to write him immediately. He will give us a good recommendation. So, let us rejoice in the fact that we are making progress, at least.

2. The NRA mess is still pending. We understand that this is to be a Regional Office here in the very near future, and a man from Houston has been appointed to take charge of it. The man we have now is anything but sympathetic, it seems, and so I have just been holding off for the change. After all, it will not help us much, if we have to pay the wage scale established and subject ourselves to the weekly hour scale--40 hrs. and now it seems that in the near future 10 per cent. cut in hours and 10 per cent. raise in wages. Already I have two men employed to whom I have to pay more wage than I get salary. They work 40 hrs. and I work it seems about 140--maybe not that much. I am not objecting to what I get and have to go, but it does seem an outrage to have to make that much difference between a "white-collared" man and an employee that is content with his wage and glad that he has a good job--putting "fool" ideas into his head and paving the way for "bolchevism" in our land.

Oh, well, that is neither here nor there. I think we shall just wait a little and see what they do to us before we make any further move in this matter.

May the Lord put into the hearts of the Sunday School Board to come to our relief--which will be only partial, of course, since costs of production have risen quite a bit since we presented our estimate and request to Dr. VanNess in December. But it will enable us to look forward toward better conditions after a while, I hope.

Cordially yours in Him,

J. E. Davis

March 7, 1934.

Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Davis,
Mexican Baptist Publishing House,
El Paso, Texas.

Dear Friends:

We have just received a letter from the Chairman of the Entertainment Committee at Fort Worth, Texas, asking us to give them the names of all missionaries who will attend the forthcoming session of the Southern Baptist Convention at Fort Worth, May 16-18.

Entertainment to the extent of room and breakfast, Harvard Plan, will be provided for thirty missionaries who may attend the Convention.

Please write me immediately if it is your purpose to attend.

The Foreign Mission Board, of course, will be unable to provide the traveling expenses of the missionaries to the Convention, but the local entertainment committee plans to provide entertainment on the Harvard Plan as indicated above.

Please let me hear from you at once so that we may be able to notify the committee in Fort Worth just how many and who will attend the Convention.

With sincere regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

M/P

March 10, 1934.

Rev. J. E. Davis,
Mexican Baptist Publishing House,
El Paso, Texas.

Dear Brother Davis:

I rejoice with you in the prospect of receiving some aid from the Sunday School Board for our Publishing House. Dr. Van Ness wrote me that he was making an investigation to find out who owned the Publishing House and all about it. It is strange to me that he did not write to us and we could have told him all the facts at once. I wrote him immediately and told him that it belonged to the Foreign Mission Board, and that you were the sole manager and editor-in-chief, and that your salary was paid by the Board. He said that the Sunday School Board was going to do something for us in a temporary way. I hope they are going to give us the \$300 per month.

I hope you will stand out against the N. R. A. coming into your business. We have not gone in here in Richmond and the Washington Authorities ruled that the Foreign Mission Board being a charitable organization, was not required to go in. Of course, we pay the standard salary, and I should want you to do that, but beyond that I do not think you ought to give any attention whatsoever to the N. R. A. I mean by that, that you do not want to come under its regulation if you can help it.

With best wishes,

Yours truly,

M/P

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

P. O. Box 211

El Paso, Texas, E. U. A.

DEPARTAMENTO EDITORIAL

J. E. DAVIS, DIRECTOR

March 13th, 1934

Geo

Dr. C. E. Maddry,
Richmond, Va.

My Dear Brother Maddry:

I have your letters of the 6th and 7th, both of which I shall answer briefly.

I want to attend the Convention this year. It has been a long time since I attended, and since I can get a pass to Ft. Worth, I plan on taking advantage of it and attending. Mrs. Davis will not try to attend, she says, since our children will be here, or a part of them at least, to spend part of the summer.

With reference to the Sunday School Board matter, it seems that our letters crossed on the way. I really have hopes that it will go through before a great while.

Miss Winfield writes from Birmingham saying that Miss Mallory was absent in So. Carolina, that she was forwarding my letter in hopes that she would get an opportunity to consider it. Then she adds: "You may be sure that we are deeply interested in your work and we sympathize with you in the problems you are facing." I must have painted rather a dark picture, but I am sure it was not any too dark. We may be able to get enough help to really put this work back where it belongs. So mote it be.

You are right about not getting mixed up in entangling alliances with those who would naturally feel they should have a part in the forming of the policies of this work. I am hopeful that our own people will make it possible to carry on without any outside help. And surely they will.

Bro. Domínguez at San Antonio is ready to help all he can to make your visit to Mexico easy and successful. He is a good friend of mine, having been our translator here for several years.

May the Lord richly bless you. He is greatly blessing me with health and strength to work constantly. I will be 61 years of age next week--the 22nd. I feel that I am better prepared for this work than ever before. With the help of the Lord, it is bound to go forward for His glory.

Most cordially yours,

J. E. Davis

March 13, 1934.

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

Dear Mr. Davis:

As Dr. Maddry is away from the office, I am taking the liberty of quoting to you a telegram which we received this morning from Dr. Van Ness, which reads as follows:

"Up to May thirty-first and beginning date of March the First, we will supply whatever is necessary under normal working conditions to balance the monthly budget of the El Paso House, but not to exceed \$300 per month from us. You will report amount needed to us each month."

I am sure that this will bring great joy to your heart, and much needed relief to the Publishing House.

I suppose Dr. Maddry will be wanting to hear from you as to the balance necessary to meet your monthly budget for March. He will be back in the office next week.

With every good wish, I am,

Cordially yours,

F/P

Office Secretary.

March 16, 1934.

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

Dear Brother Davis:

I am sure you have already received notice about the action of the Sunday School Board. I certainly hope that it is going to result in great things for our Publishing House.

I hope to be able to go into Mexico following the Convention at Fort Worth, but am not certain yet that I can get away. I think I will go through San Antonio, and get this Mexican brother to fix me up for a passport, or whatever is necessary. I think also that I shall want Brother Hatchell to go with me. I will write you further about my plans.

With best wishes,

Yours truly,

M/P

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

P. O. Box 211

El Paso, Texas, E. H. A.

DEPARTAMENTO EDITORIAL
J. E. DAVIS, DIRECTOR

March 19th, 1934

Dr. C. E. Maddry,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother;

I have Miss Ford's letter of the 13th, which came Saturday. It tells of Dr. VanNess' telegram. I am glad, yet a little bit disturbed. However, I am thinking this is the first step, and others will have to be taken by us and by them a little later. I imagine they have a Board meeting just after the meeting of the Convention, and likely will take the matter up then if we stay right in behind them.

Now, since we are not going to be able to publish our literature for the third quarter without this help, in some way I think you should make them see that we just have to have the \$300 per month, and that it will all be used judiciously in the publication of literature--every cent of it. I have ordered in paper for the third quarter--a ton and a half of news print besides some other paper for covers, etc. On the news print I saved \$10.50 by getting bids from paper companies. This paper is already in the house. I take advantage of all discounts also, but in order to do that we have to have money in hand by certain dates, of course. I am hoping that with this help we may tide over the worst part of the summer--the dry season for us. Yet, I do not know about it yet. If you can, get Dr. VanNess to see that we just have to have the \$300 and need a great deal more than that, though we have not asked for it.

I have received a letter from Miss White. She says they are very much interested in our work, and asks for details, which I am going to give her. I had written them to Miss Mallory, and so did not go into details in my letter to her, but I shall give her all the details she wants. She suggests that since our printing is limited to Sunday School periodicals, we might approach the Sunday School Board for help. This makes it necessary to be careful in what I say to her.

However, she says: "We are anxious to be of service. I remember so vividly my visit to the Publishing House and my joy in the great service you and Mrs. Davis are rendering."

Then she adds: "Please let me have something a little more definite concerning what you hope to do and the amount necessary to enable you to do good work."

That all sounds good, eh? Now, I am wondering if it would not be the best method of procedure to ask them for something very definite. That is what they always like. Here is what I have in mind, but am going to approach the question warily in my reply to her,

hoping in the mean time to hear from you before I make the proposition a definite one;

Ask them to get in behind us with enough each month to make it possible for us to reestablish our monthly paper--our Atalaya Baptista, which we had to suspend two or three years ago. This was the one great mistake we made. I have often regretted having allowed Bro. Benson to over-persuade me at that time. With it we could reach our people. It was the one paper that could get over to our W.M.S. program material and suggestions for their meetings. This will appeal to our good women. Also it was the one paper we had that carried to our B.Y.P.U.ers the programs and material to help them in rendering their programs. I have regretted a thousand times this immense loss to our denominational work. This is to say nothing about its great usefulness in carrying the TRUTH as presented from a Baptist stand-point into thousands of homes.

Now, that you may know what I intend to write Miss White, and I feel sure that this letter she wrote me was written officially, for she says she delayed writing me till she could have a conference with Miss Mallory, I will sound her out on the proposition, and promise her details to follow on receipt of a reply from her. Her letter will go right along with this one to you, and your reply will get to me about the same time hers will. Then I can press the matter, if that seems wise to you. I know of nothing that will help our Cause more after our S. S. literature, and I seem to feel that it is now largely provided for, though not adequately of course.

My! there is nothing I like better than to get under such a load as this and lift it out of the dump--if you will pardon this expression. And with my son who is a dependable man--27 yrs. of age now--a splendid linotype operator and a general all-round printer--besides he knows how to handle these fellows we employ--I just feel that a new day is before us. May God grant it.

I have many things that I could write about, but I shall not burden you with more at present. You, I know, will give me your reactions by return mail.

Have just received some of the first papers that carry your page "The Tide Is Turned." I certainly am glad you are encouraged. It tends to encourage us also.

Now, when you finally get out this way once more, I want to plan for a mass meeting up the valley, getting three or four churches together and have you speak to us. I preach for a little church just over the line in New Mexico at Anthony. I think I could get you a representative hearing from Las Cruces, La Mesa, Canutillo and all at Anthony which is right in the center of this group--three of them in N.M. and one in Texas. Remember this.

Assuring you again that I most heartily appreciate your sympathy and help in these trying times we have gone through--not all the way through yet, but apparently we are emerging from the darkness. We shall again be able to do a great work with our publications. And was there ever a time when literature was more needed?

God bless you richly. Yours in Him,

J. E. Davis

March 23, 1934.

Rev. J. E. Davis,
Mexican Baptist Publishing House,
Box 211, El Paso, Texas.

Dear Brother Davis:

I have your letter of March 19th. I have heard nothing further from Dr. Van Ness, but I feel sure that we may count on as much as \$300 a month for March, April and May. I judge that the Annual Meeting of the Sunday School Board will come on just after the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. It may be necessary for you to go to Nashville and press your claims before the Board itself. I will be in Europe, but shall want you to press the matter. You have a free hand in this now, just go ahead and get all the money you can. I will back you up in every way possible.

I am glad you have taken the matter up with Miss White, and hope you will press that end of it also. The Woman's Missionary Union, I feel sure, will give you some money next year.

By all means you ought not to say very much about the publication of Sunday School literature. The Sunday School Board and all of its work is anathema with the Woman's Missionary Union of the South. Of course, I am saying this to you in confidence. The Woman's Missionary Union wants to feel that its money is going for the spread of the gospel either through preaching, teaching, or the printed page, and they would not be much concerned, I suspect, with the publication of Sunday School literature. They feel that is a matter for the Sunday School Board to take care of.

Your suggestion as to the republication of your paper is a good one. For some years they have been giving money to Dr. Whittinghill in Rome for the publication of his several periodicals. I will leave you to press this matter and back you up in any way possible.

I am giving serious concern to the possibility of opening somewhere along the border between Texas and Mexico a small training school for native Mexican preachers and leaders. We may be able to join hands with the Home Mission Board either in El Paso, San Antonio, or Bastrop, and use our missionaries from Mexico for the purpose of teaching and training Mexican preachers and leaders. I have written Brother Benson about the matter, and I wish you would give consideration to it, and let me have your reaction to such a proposition.

With kindest personal regards, I am,
Yours very truly,

M/P