

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

P. O. Box 211

El Paso, Texas, E. M. A.

DEPARTAMENTO EDITORIAL

J. E. DAVIS, DIRECTOR

December 4th, 1934

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

Dear Brother Maddry;

Your good letter came this morning. I would be glad just to let the whole matter rest just where you have placed it, except for the fact that I think you have misunderstood two or three things. Likely I left them hazy. So I feel that I should make them clear to you, for misunderstandings are harmful often.

In the first place, if you understood me to be asking for immediate help here, you interpreted my letter wrongly. When I told you last year that I could run this plant, I meant it, and have demonstrated that I can. I need not enter into details but you know that I secured the help from the Sunday School Board and the W. M. U. and I could not have done that had Bro. Benson been in charge of the business managership. He was unalterably opposed to taking in any work for the public, and that could not have been done over his head.

So his removal, while it increased my work, yet it made it much easier to do things. Thus far since February when he went out, we have taken in \$4143.47 for work done for the public. There has been in the most of this a nice profit. I feel sure that we would not have gotten the \$2100 from the S.S.B. and W.M.U. had I not taken the matter up and pushed it. In fact, Dr. VanNess as much as told me so at Ridgecrest last summer. This has tided us over in a splendid way.

Remember that we paid between \$500 and \$600 takes to the city-- it was \$575 and cents, that I recall.

I have done the same editorial work and in addition managed the whole plant, attending to the money end of it myself. We have at present paper enough in the house to print our literature for several months to come, with all bills paid and something like \$2000 in bank. I have never once failed to pay my employees in full at the end of the week, which for a long time was a most unusual thing here.

Sure, I can take care of this work, and have demonstrated it fully. And our books are open to any one who might desire to inspect them.

Now, what I had in mind was simply this; There surely is a future, despite the present conditions. We have a growing constituency, if we were only able to begin to meet the demands upon us for literature. Right here is the need--a future need. Are we not building for the future? If not, then I have the wrong idea. And Bro. Lacy was the one man who could do better work in this department than in any other, and I make bold to say, than any other of our missionaries. This means our missionaries to Mexico. I was not asking for help for the present, but was thinking of what there lies out before us to be done yet.

You speak of "diminished opportunity for sending out your litera-

Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

P. O. Box 211

El Paso, Texas, E. U. A.

DEPARTAMENTO EDITORIAL

J. E. DAVIS, DIRECTOR

ture." Did I say anything in my letter that led you to think that? If I did--and likely I did, though not intentionally--it was a great mistake. It is early yet to decide what of the coming year, yet from all quarters come increased orders, and I feel sure that from Mexico we have already received more orders--paid in advance--than we had all last year. I have seen that it is necessary to meet the conditions on each field. To the best of our ability we are going to do that for 1935. In Mexico, on account of the relatively small amount of our literature that was going there, I made them a special offer which is meeting with immediate response. They said they wanted our literature, but on account of unfavorable exchange they could not buy it. I told them to send in their orders with Mexican exchange at two for one, and we would do our best to take care of them. *It is just about 4 to 1.*

Our literature is still going into Mexico. Nothing has yet been turned back. If it should be turned back, I shall see what way I can find to get it in there. Have no idea yet, but where there is a will there is a way, the old saying goes, you know.

In Chile, I have made them a discount of 33 1/3 % and in Argentina 25%. Why? Because they could not pay for it on account of the unfavorable exchange. So their orders are coming in for 1935 and we in some way are going to make it through. In fact we are at work on the second quarter now, and the first is on its way to the far-off countries and has been for two weeks.

You

And do think that all these details are conducive to lesson preparation? I mean, of the best kind? Well, even with all that, I am carrying on as usual and am in the best of health and spirits.

Sure, I do not want to retire at 65 nor even at 70, if I am as able to do the work God gave me to do--not the Mission Board, if you please--they approved it--as I am now. I am not begging for more money. Your records there will show that we NEVER DID. And we have saved some money. I have plenty of life insurance on my life for my wife, and carry some on here for myself and children. My home is almost paid for--only about \$200 back on it. We do not have any needs that our little salary does not provide for.

(2000)
And that is not all--oh, but you will get tired of all this. My children are all providing for themselves nicely. And last year I was able to lend my older son by borrowing on life insurance policies I had, and by saving, money to keep him in the University where he was making as fine a record toward his doctorate as any one ever did, or could, as to that matter. No, I am not afraid to trust God. The old motto in the chapel of William Jewell College--my alma mater--placed there by dear old Dr. J. P. Greene, was made mine many years ago, "Trust in God and work."

So at 65, if there is no more work for me with the Foreign Mission Board, there will still be work for me in the Kingdom.

I hope I have not tired you. I wanted to explain. J. E. Davis

Most cordially yours,

P. S. I do not want to weary you, but I forgot some things I think I ought to say about the work.

I am going to take the matter up with Dr. VanNess again on the same basis as last time. I rather think he will see that we get an emergency offering from that Board again. It does not seem to me to be just the opportune moment. We always have too much money right at the end of the year--that is, when we live within our means as we should--to warrant our taking the matter up just now. A little later on, after I see through till spring, then I shall lay in a lot of paper and pay for it, and then send in to Dr. VanNess my SOS. I feel assured that we shall get the \$900 from the good women, since the chances are they will reach their goal. I know if all give like the members of a little church up in New Mexico that I am preaching for, they will go far over the \$150,000 asked.

I am studying some new plans to reduce overhead here. I cut out a lot of it, but there is still more to be done along that line. I do not know just yet how to begin, but I shall plan the attack and make it when the right time comes.

The tax problem should have been taken up several years ago, but it was not, and it is my purpose to see that it is greatly cut down this year. The city alone gets almost the worth of our machinery each year as taxes. I do not know what I can do about the property, but the plant is old and out of date now, and really we are paying on twice as much valuation as we should.

After a while I may run over to Nashville and have a heart to heart talk with Dr. VanNess. He really found out who I was and what I am doing and got very much interested in us. He was very cordial last summer at Ridgecrest. I think that should be sometime about February or March, when I can get time to go and a good excuse.

Rest assured, I am doing all in my power, and God's blessing is upon us here. I feel sure He will see us through.

J.E.D.

December 8, 1934.

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

Dear Brother Davis:

I have received your letter of December 4th and all is well that ends well!

I am glad to know that you are getting on so well and trust that economic conditions are going to improve throughout the world. I think if we will just hold on long enough, daylight will break for us in Mexico. I believe that this whole fight there is being waged against the Catholics, and sooner or later they are going to let up on their fight against the evangelicals.

I am doing what I can to help place Brother Lacy with the New Mexico brethren. A word from you to the Secretary of New Mexico might be of help to him.

I suppose that you have had the sad news about Brother Marrs. He had an operation for cataract, and the eye had to be removed. His wife writes us that he has suffered greatly. My heart goes out to him in greatest sympathy and compassion.

I am glad to know that you are well provided for in your old age and hope that it will not be necessary for you to retire at 65 years of age. Of course, this provision in our pension plan gives the Board the opportunity of retiring a missionary where such retirement is desirable. And, likewise, it gives us the opportunity of inviting a missionary to continue on in service with us. We would have been very glad indeed to have continued the services of Brother Lacy, but he had already written me some months ago that there was nothing more for him to do in Mexico and he was anxious to make contacts elsewhere. So, there was nothing for us to do but retire him.

I will be passing through El Paso about Monday, the 31st of December. If you happen to be in the city on that

Rev. J. E. Davis

1934 -2-

12/8/34

date, I will send you a wire and would like for you to meet me at the train. I will be passing through on the Southern Pacific for San Francisco. We will sail from San Francisco on January 4th and will be gone for seven months.

With very best wishes,

Yours truly,

Publishers of Religious Literature in the Spanish Language

BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

Periodicals, Books, Tracts, Bibles

Hymn Books and Supplies

J. E. Davis, Mgr.

P. O. Box 211

El Paso, Texas

December 12th, 1934

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

Dear Brother;

Your good letter received this morning. I am answering at once to advise you that I will not be in El Paso, December 31st. I am sorry, as I would like to see you before you sail for the Orient. But my plans will necessitate my being away then.

I am planning a trip to Chicago just after Christmas, returning to Kansas City for New Years, when we are to have a family reunion. I have three brothers and an only sister that live in and near Kansas City--the entire family except myself. Each year they have wanted me to be with them, and since I want to make a trip to Chicago, I have planned this year to be there. So you see I will not be here when you pass through, unless for some cause my plan falls through. I get transportation and it will cost me very little to make the trip.

I hope you are right about Mexico. Thus far, we have been able to send our literature right along. And the orders are coming in from there in every mail. We can not blame the liberal government down there for bringing the Catholic church to its knees--if such a thing is possible. What is to be feared is the Sovietic tendency of the government. Let us hope for the best.

At the present moment, I think I can safely say that we are far ahead of where we were this time last year in subscriptions to our literature. It is early yet to tell just how great an increase we are to have. The greater the better, for that contacts us with more people to help them in their work.

I am writing Bro. Reavis, of Albuquerque, about Bro. Lacy. Of course, much depends upon what we can raise in N.M. to meet his expenses. I say "we" for I am pastor of a little church up the valley here in N.M. I go up there each Sunday, and have been doing so for seven years--not as pastor, but in charge of a Mexican S.S. for the church. So when they changed pastors in May they asked me to be their leader. Our Lottie Moon offering will be about \$55, which is 50 cts. per member including Mexicans, non-resident and all. If Southern Baptists would do that well just once, we would have not \$150,000 but \$2,000,000.

(Over)

Yes, I had heard of Bro. Marr's great misfortune. I surely feel for him and his good wife great sympathy in this affliction. Bro. M. has been a true yoke-fellow through the years.

Now, let me ~~express~~ desire for you the Lord's richest blessings upon your mission to the Orient. These are trying times for Mission Secretaries as well as missionaries. But with His help we shall come out in good shape at last.

Dr. Dodd is to speak at the First Baptist Church this evening. We shall enjoy him I am sure. He is a great soul. I have known him almost thirty years.

And that leads me to remark casually that 30 years ago the 4th of this month, we reached Toluca, Mexico, our destination, when we first went out as missionaries. And they have been years of toil and often of trial, yet of supreme happiness in the service of our Lord.

May God's richest blessing be upon you.

Most cordially yours,

J. E. Davis

I am planning a trip to Chicago just after Christmas, returning to Kansas City for New Year's, when we are to have a family reunion. I have three brothers and an only sister that live in and near Kansas City--the entire family except myself. Each year they have wanted me to be with them, and since I want to make a trip to Chicago, I have planned this year to be there. So you see I will not be here when you pass through, unless for some cause my plan falls through. I get transportation and it will cost me very little to make the trip.

I hope you are right about Mexico. Thus far, we have been able to send our literature right along. And the orders are coming in from there in every mail. We can not blame the liberal government down there for bringing the Catholic church to its knees--if such a thing is possible. What is to be feared is the Sovietistic tendency of the government. Let us hope for the best.

At the present moment, I think I can safely say that we are far ahead of where we were this time last year in subscriptions to our literature. It is early yet to tell just how great an increase we are to have. The greater the better. For that contacts us with more people to help them in their work.

I am writing Bro. Reavis, of Albuquerque, about Bro. Lacy. Of course, much depends upon what we can raise in N.M. to meet his expenses. I say "we" for I am pastor of a little church up the valley here in N.M. I go up there each Sunday, and have been doing so for seven years--not as pastor, but in charge of a Mexican S.S. for the church. So when they changed pastors in May they asked me to be their leader. Our little Moon offering will be about \$55, which is 50 cts. per member including Mexicans, non-resident and all. If Southern Baptists would do that well just once, we would have not \$150,000 but \$2,000,000.

December 17, 1934

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

Dear Brother Davis:-

I thank you for your good letter of December 12th.

Of course I will have only about five minutes, possibly, between trains in El Paso, and I certainly would not want you to cancel your trip to Chicago and Kansas City, in order to see me for those few minutes. There was nothing important about it anyway. I just thought as I was passing through El Paso, if you were there, I should be glad to shake hands with you..

I certainly hope that you are going to have a great year for 1935 in the publishing house.

With love and best wishes, I am,

Yours very truly,

M/F