

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

May 1st, 1937

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

Dear Brother Maddry:

Well, I have just been too busy getting the last of my lesson work done for the third quarter to write. But that is done now, and I have quite a lot to say, so will take my time for it and go into the whole matter.

To start with, we looked over that property we were offered and began to investigate. It was much better adapted to our needs than the property down the valley, and it was right in close to the city limits, with little or no probabilities of its being taken into the city for many years, if ever. We tried to study out a way to utilize it for our purposes, but it appealed to us less and less. Finally I took a man with me who knows all about the building game here, and he said that we could do better by building just what we need and want. I agreed with him, since it is evident from the plan with specifications which I am sending you. You will bear in mind that this is one of the most dependable firms in the city, and they are good friends of religion, which is more than can be said for a lot of them here.

It seems to me that the drawing is ideal for what we want. In fact, I gave him the idea of what we should have, and he not only made the drawing, but changed it and made a second one for us to get it just as I wanted it. It is about as near self-explanatory as anything could be.

This building is not absolutely fire-proof, yet it is almost so, and it would cost more than a thousand dollars more to make it absolutely so. The contractor says this building is so near fire-proof that it is almost impossible for it to burn, and in case of any fire at all, there would be little or no danger to the machinery. That is the way it appears to me and I have gone into it with him in detail.

This building can be put up now for this amount. He does not say that a year from now he can duplicate these prices, which of course is not hard to understand. We give a man a price on a job of printing, but if he delays a long time, we may have to

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modify the price, as material and labor may have advanced the cost in the time he was waiting.

The best location as I now see it is out North. There we can get land at a reasonable price. Up the valley we do not yet have gas and water. Down the valley there is gas and electricity but we would have to put in our water system. Out North, it is high and dry and I think we can get an acre or so of that land for a small outlay. The man who was looking into that for me, has not yet reported.

Now, Mr. Ponsford assured me that it would not be hard to handle the financial end of the proposition. I asked him about it and told him what we had in mind. We could handle it ourselves, but for the fact that we have this new Linotype to pay for, and do not see how we could raise just now some \$2,000 to take care of the cash payment. He did not say they would require that much, but that it was their custom to get about that part in cash leaving the balance to pay in one, two, three, four, five or even more years. He said that if we had the assurance of \$5,000 next January and a similar amount the following year, it would be very easy to handle that without cash now, but of course I had to give him to understand that we did not have this in sight, but hoped to get it, and felt that we had a good chance to obtain it.

He assures me that within 2 1/2 mos. after taking the contract they could have the building ready to turn over to us. The first delay is getting the steel and windows--which are special. The stone is near by.

This would be a beautiful building, and one that would take care of all our needs for many years to come. Then it would not be hard to add to it, in case of need later on.

Please refer to my last letter, or the two last ones, and note what I stated we could do in case of necessity. I think it needless to re-state that. But I feel that we could proceed on that basis, and have the building up and moved into it in time for you to get into this building for the next term of school, though you might not be able to fix it all up as nicely as you would like.

Then, Mr. Ponsford made the statement in conversation that you could lease places here that would serve the purpose for the students, but I did not pay close attention to what he said. I just now called him to find out, but he is out. I will look into that next week and write you. Could you not fit up the top floor here for class rooms at little cost and we could vacate that by storing the stuff we have up there in other parts of the building? In this way, you could rent a place for this term and not spend money needlessly on that old building back here. That would take care of the classes and the rented place could care for the students. Next Spring, with the land and \$5000 we could build without a hitch and carry over the obligation for one year only, at relatively small cost in interest.

Now, altogether this matter has gotten on my nerves, and is hindering my usual sound sleep. So if we do not build, I am going to place a night watchman here. That would be an inexpensive insurance--not complete, but I have little or no fear of fire during the day, and if a watchman were here during the night we are close to a fire station and I do not think there would be much danger. I will keep you posted. Fraternally J. E. Davis

May 7, 1937

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

Dear Mr. Davis:

In the absence of Dr. Maddy who left last night for New Orleans, I am writing to say that at the meeting of our Board on yesterday afternoon the following resolutions were passed in connection with the purchase of a new site for the Publishing House.

"That we say to the Mexican Mission that the Board approves the recommendation of the Executive Secretary that a new site beyond the city limits of El Paso be purchased for our Mexican Baptist Publishing House, and a modest, fire-proof building be erected thereon, provided the money is secured for this undertaking outside our current budget.

That the Foreign Mission Board petition the Woman's Missionary Union for assistance in providing new and necessary equipment for the Mexican Baptist Publishing House at El Paso, Texas."

Of course, it is understood that the Board cannot put any money into this project now, but we are hoping to get the W.M.U. to help out in case you can find the site and put up a suitable building. We sincerely hope that some way may be worked out to take care of this project.

I am sorry that you cannot be at the Convention, but I hope you will have a most pleasant trip to Chicago.

With all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

JRF:H

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May 29th, 1937

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

Dear Brother Maddry:

In my letter of this morning, I overlooked one thing. I have remembered it and will send it right along with the other letter, which has not yet gone to the post office.

Dr. Yearby has been to see me a time or two about this old church house back of us here. He has made you some kind of an offer, I think--rather, he in the name of his Board, has written you about it.

He asked me to write you about it. I really do not know what he wanted me to take up with you. Since you can get the building rent free, and since this building will not be available for seminary purposes this fall, I see nothing better that you could do. I had hoped that money might be saved, but maybe after all it will not take very much money to get that building in shape for classes, since they recently spent some \$2500, as I understood, on reconditioning it. Then when we can get out of here, this place can be arranged for a fine dormitory in connection with that building.

I happen to know that San Antonio is making a tremendous effort to keep the seminary there. I think it will come before a meeting of the State Board early this next week. However, Yearby does not agree with Yelvington who seems to be the main one in the campaign. He^x seems to think that you will lend them Benson and Neal, etc. I saw his lengthy letter he sent to the various members of the State Board.

Of course, it is too late to reach them in any way now. And I suppose it makes little or no difference. I would say, Let them establish their seminary in San Antonio, if they want to. After all, I find here in this plant that the trouble makers are always those born on this side of the river, and not those that come over from Mexico.

Cordially yours,
J. E. Davis

* Yelvington