

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

October 6th, 1937

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

Dear Brother Maddry:

Your fine letter came several days ago. I had awaited it rather anxiously, and so was glad to get it.

I armed myself with it and went to the City Hall and faced the powers that be locally. To make a long story short, when after stating my reasons why I did not think they should have raised the valuation on our machinery, I concluded by telling them I had written the "Big Chief" and here is what he says. They began to back up then, and assured me they would cut that off--I refer to the \$2500 increased valuation for city taxes. Now we shall see if they really do cut it off. I think they will.

I am greatly concerned about our work in China. May the Lord lead us all in these troublous times. Only today when I was up town, I heard a radio bawling out that the Japs had dropped some bombs on the Shanghai Baptist University. I wonder if there is any of it left by now. But after all, "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform; He plants his foot-steps on the sea, And rides upon the storm." Quaint and old, but nevertheless true.

I am glad to note what you are doing for us down here. We are hopeful of getting some help, in order to be able to build that plant. Then we can get outside the city. I feel sure that it will be up the valley, though that direction did not impress you. You did not see the valley--only the bare hills. However, we shall see. When Bro. Jones comes to the Convention, we will take him under our wing and attend to all this.

That reminds me: Tell him that we want him to stay with us. We have beds and a bath and so far we have had a little to eat--plenty. Please do not forget to tell him of this invitation. Of course, to be formal, I suppose I should write him, but why be formal? He knows me and I know him. Both just plain Baptist missionaries!

Mrs. Davis and I are planning on attending the New Mexico Convention next week, and then running on up into Colorado to see her folks a few days. Incidentally, her brother-in-law is a doctor and I shall have him look me over and see if we cannot in some way get

through the winter without a recurrence of last year's worry and pain. The opinion of several is generally better than that of one, even though none of them may be altogether correct.

I am standing up pretty well so far, but the load gets too heavy at times for any man--even a Samson. Only with God's help do I expect to get through.

Dr. Holcomb will be at Albuquerque. I shall cultivate him a little. I thought better to wait and see him than to write him, since I wrote him not very long ago and he did not answer very favorably at that time. Then I hope he will be here at the Convention. If he is then will the time to hook him, if he is "hookable". When Dr. VanNess visited us, he was greatly surprised and not until then did he ever seem proud of the fact they helped us a few years ago, as you likely remember.

Also I am going to put the very best foot forward and get as many Conventionites ^{as possible} to visit us. We are not far from the place of meeting--about three blocks. I plan on getting out a neat little invitation and a brief statement of what we are and maybe what we need. Dr. Yearby thinks that will be the thing to do. We specially want to get the good women over here. And I have had my eye on Mrs. Copass for some time. She is already interested but not enough. When we get through with her, I think she will be more interested.

Now I know one thing and that is that if young brother Routh is a chip off the old block, he will get under the load and really help carry it. However, I wonder if you will not make a mistake in taking him away from the Seminary after only ONE year. How often have I regretted not having been able to get a few years there by way of help to my theological course, which I have had to hammer out here down through the long years. One can do it that way, but what handicaps! I feel that this will likely be the solution of this problem. He will need several years training, and if he is like his pious father, he will be the kind to link in and get the training needed for any work.

Now, the reason I do not write you oftener is simply that I have so little time I just do not get to it. I like to write, but just about all my time has to be dedicated to management and editorial work. I shall do the best I can. Can more be expected?

May the Lord lead us all in these strenuous times.

Cordially yours, in Him,

J. E. Davis

October 11, 1937.

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

Dear Brother Davis:

I was glad to receive your letter of October 6th. I hope indeed that you can induce the El Paso city authorities to reduce the valuation on our property and thus reduce the taxes.

Brother Jones is coming to the Convention, and I have talked the whole matter over with him as to the new site we hope to secure. I hope you will show him all the available sites round about, and that we can find a suitable piece of ground upon which to build out publishing house. We certainly want to get a bit of ground that is well located and has available all the necessary lights, water and sewer connections. It must be near enough to the city also for the delivery of your output and also for the carrying on of your local printing work. We ought to have a lot of sufficient size that we can enlarge the plant as it may grow, and also build homes for the missionaries who may have to do with the work of the publishing house. Of course, that may be a long time in the future, but we ought to take the long view of these things. Then, too, I would like for us to arrange for the leading Mexican workers in the publishing house to build small homes for themselves near the plant.

I will tell Brother Jones that you are inviting him to stop with you. I do not know how long he will be in El Paso or what his plans may be.

I hope you will have a pleasant and restful visit to the New Mexico Convention and on into Colorado to visit your folks.

I hope also that you will cultivate Brother Holcomb at Albuquerque and try to get him to give you \$10,000.00 for the erection of the new building. Tell him that the Texas women in all probability will give you the site and if they do not give us the money for it, I hope to get it from the Southern W. M. U. I think if you will boldly ask Dr. Holcomb to give you \$10,000.00 for the erection of your building, it may result in his giving you a part of it at least.

I have approached young Brother Routh in a definite way about ~~thaing~~ with out El Paso Publishing House. I have simply offered him an appointment to some one of our foreign fields to work in connection with the publication of literature. I suggested among two or three others the Mexican Publishing House in El Paso. He is now in Louisville studying and I hope to be able to interest him in this particular work in El Paso. I agree with you that it would be far better for him to remain two years in Louisville, but I understand that he is very much cramped with respect to finances. Maybe we can work it out in some way.

10/11/37

Anyway, I want you to take care of yourself and not kill yourself at work. We need you to stay with that publishing house a long time.

We have been greatly disturbed about conditions in the Orient, and we have been through three hectic months now and the situation seems to be getting even worse. To add to our other troubles, our current income has fallen off in a very serious way for July, August and September. The income is far below what it was for those same months last year. I cannot understand why this should be true in the face of the fact that the South has the best crops we have had in a generation. Times of prosperity, however, are not always times of generosity among the Lord's people.

The Board meets day after tomorrow, and we are trying to get ready for it.

With love and best wishes, I am

Yours truly,

CEM:C