

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

OF THE
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
RICHMOND, VA.

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November 24, 1937.

Mr. Hill Montague,
Travelers Building,
Richmond, Virginia.

Dear Brother Montague:

I am sending you enclosed a letter from Rev. G. H. Lacy, missionary to Mexico. It has to do with the sale and disposition of the funds received for the seminary property at Saltillo, Mexico. This property was owned jointly by Northern and Southern Baptists, and sometime ago the property was sold, and one-half of the funds were turned over to representatives of the Southern Board. You will see by Mr. Lacy's letter that the sum of \$37,108.20 pesos was received by our Board. Translated into American currency, this amounts to \$10,278.92.

You will see by Mr. Lacy's letter that in some mysterious way to comply with the Mexican law years ago, a stock company was organized to build and conduct the theological seminary at Saltillo. Stock was held for the two boards by certain missionaries and natives. It seems that Mr. Lacy was the main one responsible for the stock of the Southern Board.

It seems further now that there is a probability that he will be called upon to show to the Mexican authorities what he did with the money. He is an old man and has been retired on pension for some two or three years. We tried to induce him to come out of Mexico, but he was rather offended that we should retire him and stayed on and has been trying to run a little independent show of his own down there. His wife died some years ago, and he is now sixty-nine years old. I advised him through our treasurer of the Mexican Mission, Rev. J. H. Benson, now president of our Mexican seminary at San Antonio, to immediately withdraw from Mexico and place himself beyond the range of the Mexican authorities. However, he declines to do so.

Now, it seems that we face a serious situation. The \$10,000.00 plus has been applied on our debt here in Richmond. This old missionary will evidently be in trouble unless he can show at least a certificate of deposit for this money from this Board.

Mr. Buxton and I have gone carefully into the matter and by checking and double-checking all the funds received from the sale of property in Mexico, we find that we have received this much money indicated above from Mr. Lacy.

We suggest, therefore, that you consider the possibility of drawing a paper indicating that this Board has received ON DEPOSIT from Mr. Lacy this amount of money. We shall then send him this certificate properly signed, stamped and dated. This might save him from trouble.

Mr. H.M.

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However, if the Mexican authorities demand that the money be returned, I do not see how we can do it. The property was ours, it was bought and built with the money of American Baptists. I would be wholly unwilling, unless we absolutely are compelled to do so, to return the actual money to Mexico to be squandered by these socialistic politicians. They have confiscated much of our church property throughout Mexico. Many of our churches and chapels in various cities of Mexico are now being used as offices for mayor, superintendent of public schools, and so forth. I do not feel like sacrificing any more money in Mexico if we can help it.

But, I am referring the matter to you as our attorney to see if there is any way by which we can save the faith and person of this old Mexican missionary from trouble.

Please advise me what to say to him.

With best wishes, I am

Yours truly,

CEM:C

Memo. of Funds Received from
Sale of Properties in Mexico

1936.

May 14th	Check	710.89	
	Deduction from L/C	1,894.99	
May 15th	Check	250.00	
May 22nd	Deduction from L/C	2,086.52	
Dec. 31st	Deduction from L/C	<u>2,086.52</u>	\$ 7,028.92 .

1937

Mar. 31st	Deduction from L/C	2,000.00	
June 30th	Deduction from L/C	1,250.00	
Oct. 21st	Check	<u>2,000.00</u>	\$ 5,250.00 .
Total receipts to date.....			\$ 12,278.92 .

SALES OF MEXICAN PROPERTIES---

Campo Rodondo, Saltillo-	75,000.00	Pesos
Chihuahua	15,000.00	"
Monterrey	<u>12,963.03</u>	"
Total	102,963.03	"
Less $\frac{1}{2}$ to Home Mission Society	<u>51,484.51</u>	"
Remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ to Foreign Mission Board, S. B. C.	51,484.52	"
Equivalent in U. S. Dollars on basis of 3.61 Mex for the dollar	\$14,260.66	
Received on account to date	<u>\$12,278.92</u>	
Balance now due	\$ 1,981.74	

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCT'G INFMN.
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

RICHMOND, VA.
NOVEMBER 30, 1937

REV. J. E. DAVIS
BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE
EL PASO, TEXAS

DO YOU APPROVE SANATORIUM PROPERTY FOR PUBLISHING HOUSE AND SEMINARY.

ANSWER WESTERN UNION.

CHAS. E. MADDRY

CHARGE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

RDA63

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

Received at Richmond. Vir.

CA100 10 COLLECT=ELPASO TEX 30 952A

1937 NOV 30 PM 12 29

CHAS E MADDRY=

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD RICH=

UNRESERVEDLY. URGENT WE GET POSSESSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE=

J E DAVIS.

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

11/30/37

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

Dear Brother:

I wrote you a letter late yesterday, but I see it did not, for some reason, get in the mail. This morning, before it could get out, your telegram came. I answered that immediately.

I am going to re-write my letter and send it by Air Mail, for I think it is urgent that you have the information that I have to give you.

Within the past two months, this place has been broken into twice. Three typewriters have been taken, two motors which they had the audacity to take off of machines in the shop, about \$20 in money. Last night I arranged with an old brother to serve as night watchman here--rather sleep here--for all things point to the fact that these fellows that have raided us are amateurs. The police are indifferent about it, and though we pay enough tax to this city to get at least a little bit of protection, yet they advised that about the only thing I could do would be employ a night watchman. They will do nothing whatsoever, I know.

I stayed here last night myself rather than leave the place alone. Left my car down by the side of the plant, and this morning found a notice from the police that it was against the law. A man can't even guard his own place of business in this town now-a-days. The worst city mess I have even seen.

Now to the advantages of the San for our work and that of the seminary. Plenty of room, in good condition for both purposes, electricity in the building, telephone service, water and everything but gas and heat (The heating plant has been condemned, and then too it would cost too much to operate it even though it were in first class condition). I investigated and found it would cost \$5000 to put in a gas main, so that went out the window without further consideration. Then I got wind of the successful use of "hydro gas" and a large plant, big enough to furnish us with what gas we need for the plant, and heat for everything will cost us \$500 installed plus the

pipng and installation of that and stoves.

We will have to put in concrete foundations for our heavy machines. However that will not be very much since we understand the floor is not far above solid ground.

Then the cost of moving all this material and stock and books and everything. Also shelving out there for everything we have to store away. I have no idea just now what that will come to. It will amount to quite a bit. But when we get located we can rejoice in that it will be permanent, let come what may. And we will be so far out of the city that we will never be taken in. And yet it is only about nine miles, if I remember rightly, from the heart of the city--the Post Office. It will make no difference in the cost of stock since we will have our own truck to haul out small shipments of every kind and Express, and the Paper Company will deliver out there at no extra cost.

I have investigated everything I believe. This is a summary of it all. I doubt if we can get moved and installed with the hydro gas plant and all for less than \$2500.00. Now we could begin moving as soon as we get possession leaving the main plant here until a bit later. We will salvage everything we possibly can from the electric installation here, but that will not be altogether sufficient. We will hire or buy a truck, employ a couple of men and start them getting this literature out of here as fast as possible. It will require days and days to get this done. Then we can transfer the stock we have laid in several times on advice of imminent advances in prices. Yes, it is urgent as I said in the telegram, that we get possession of the building as soon as possible, especially that part we are to fit up and occupy. If there is a lot of stuff they will want to leave stored for a season, there is plenty of room for all that. The seminary will not come before next fall at the earliest and that will give them plenty of time. If you could get a bunch of these beds and other furniture left for the seminary, on some kind of a trade with Dr. Lawrence, that would be great.

The main thing is for us to get possession of the keys and assume the responsibility as soon as possible, so we can get out of this den of robbers down here.

Now I do not think of anything else. If I do, I will write you. Let me hear from you if there is anything omitted that you want to know. An Air Mail letter costs only the price of an extra letter and we can communicate with each other promptly in that way, and of course we can resort to the telegraph when needed. We are careful to use expensive communication as little as possible to save money, but often it becomes necessary even to send an Air Mail letter to Buenos Aires and it is economy to do it once in a while.

We are fighting on. I hope to finish paying for that new Linotype this coming Spring. I still have four years, but I do not like interest and cut that off as fast as I possibly can.

We are quite well. All moves on about as usual. Had a great Texas Convention. Wish you had been here.

May the Lord lead us all in his service.

Cordially yours,

J. E. Davis