

December 1, 1937

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

Dear Brother Davis:

I was glad indeed to get your good letter of November 30th which came this afternoon.

Brother Jones has gone to Atlanta for the meeting of the Home Board today, by invitation of Dr. Lawrence. He wired me to send Brother Jones for the meeting.

Brother Jones has gone, instructed to make the Home Board an offer for the sanitorium. I do not know, of course, what will be the decision of the Home Board. We are going to do our best to get the sanitorium for our Publishing House, seminary and training school combined. If we cannot effect a trade with the Home Board, maybe they will lease it to us for an indefinite period. I would not like this, but we must do something to take care of our printing establishment and I find that it is going to be necessary to move the seminary. Dr. Lawrence writes me that if we will move the seminary to El Paso the Home Board will cooperate with us. We feel sure that the Texas Board and the Texas women will cooperate just the same if we move it from San Antonio to El Paso. All this being true, the one sensible thing to do is to get all of our Mexican work concentrated in one place there in El Paso.

I sympathize with you greatly in your trials and tribulations with the Publishing House. It does look like the police would give you some measure of protection. If necessary, you will just have to put on a night watchman. It will be an added expense, but the Board will have to provide it as an extra if necessary.

Just as soon as Brother Jones returns tomorrow or Friday I will write you an air mail letter. I may send you a wire beforehand and then will write you a letter giving you details. I certainly hope we can get some relief for you and the publishing house business.

With very best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

December 2, 1937

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

Dear Brother Davis:

Brother Jones returned from Atlanta this morning and reported that the Home Board heartily and unanimously voted to accept our proposition for an exchange of our Publishing House property in El Paso for the sanatorium. We are to have all of it and all the contents of the buildings included. We are to have immediate possession and the deed will be made to the Foreign Board when the debts are all paid by the Home Board.

Now it almost frightens me as I think of what we have on our hands. Of course, it is going to take quite a bit of money, as you suggest in your letter, to rehabilitate the building and make it ready for your purposes, - especially for the purpose of the Publishing House. We will be compelled to make some arrangement for the heating of the whole building for the Publishing House, the seminary and the training school. It is my thought that the training school girls will occupy a residence across the road from the sanatorium because we have to separate them from the boys. Therefore, it will be necessary to heat the whole building.

The indications are that the Home Board and the Texas State Board and the women of Texas will gladly cooperate with us in the conduct of the seminary. That will mean a great group of students from Texas, New Mexico, Cuba and old Mexico. There will be students even from South American countries. In other words, we are going to have before a great while a large student body of men and women.

It will mean also that we are going to have to appoint a young woman to head the training school. She will be a regular missionary of our Board. Now, arrangements will have to be made for the heating of the rooms used by the seminary and training school, including apartments and class rooms.

It is my thought that the faculty of the seminary will live in the building. Brother Jones tells me that there are already two apartments in the main building, and I guess we will have to make two or three more. Of course, the seminary will not move until next summer. The new session will open there in the fall of 1938. The seminary will have ample time to move and get ready.

The thing now that claims our immediate attention is the preparation for the moving of the Publishing House. I know you are anxious to move, and you ought to move as soon as you can, but I do not want you to be over hasty and move until you are thoroughly ready for the move. Looking toward a proper division of the building for the Publishing House and the seminary, I am sending Brother Jones for a conference with you and Brother Benson on Friday, December 10th. Brother Jones will be in Dallas on December 7th for the meeting of the Texas State Board. At that time the whole question of the cooperation of the Texas Board with the Foreign Board in the conduct of the seminary will be decided. We have no doubt but what the Texas Board will go with us.

I am, therefore, asking Brother Benson to meet Brother Jones in El Paso on the night of December 9th, and I hope that you brethren together will go over the whole ground on the 10th and decide your steps one by one. We shall need to provide for a heating plant for the whole structure. I am not much impressed with the idea of putting in the "hydro-gas" plant. It will only be a makeshift and I have no idea that it will produce the gas we need for your purposes and for the heating of the building also.

Brother Jones thinks that there is gas out at the army station within three hundred yards of the building. It certainly ought not to cost any \$5,000 to run a gas line to our building. You say that the furnace has been condemned. We will look into this matter and whatever is necessary to repair the furnace and put in natural gas for the heating. I believe this will be best in the long run. While it will be expensive to install, we will have to make arrangements for the proper heating of the whole building.

Soon after the visit then of Brother Jones and Brother Benson, you can proceed to make your arrangements to move. You, of course, will have to have some money with which to move. The only money I have in sight is the \$2500 extra I have asked the W. M. U. of the South to give us out of their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering "overplus" in January, for we will not receive the money until sometime in January even if they give it to us. They will have to meet in January and decide about what they will do with the "overplus" they may have. Failing here, I do not see how we can get any money now for moving even the Publishing House. The Board certainly has no funds, and our collections would not justify any increase in the appropriations whatsoever at the present time.

Somehow we will have to find enough money with which to move and instal you in the new quarters.

I am delighted that the Home Board is going to give us all the furniture and equipment in the building. This will go a long way toward furnishing the new seminary and the training school. As soon as we can get possession of the building, you will have to make an inventory or check with the inventory of the Home Board and see that all the furnishings are there and then have our own keeper to stay by the stuff until the seminary is moved. It will cost a little bit, but we will have to do it.

12/2/37

Maybe you can use the same man the Home Board is now employing and utilize him in a general way besides being custodian of the building.

I have called a meeting of our Administrative Committee for four o'clock this afternoon to pass on this matter. I anticipate that they will accept our recommendation and approve the transaction. If they approve it, I will add a postscript to this letter saying that it has been approved. Then I will send you a night letter telling you about the deal and these further details will come tomorrow when you get the air mail letter.

I am happy over the prospect of having a new home for the Publishing House and the seminary in the near future.

With love and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

CEM:N

December 13, 1937

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

Dear Brother Davis:

A letter from Brother Jones brings the good news that you and Brother Benson are pleased with the new sanitarium property for the publishing house and seminary. I will not know, of course, all the details until he returns and makes his report.

However, I know enough already to know that we are going to move. Our Board last Thursday approved the matter and notified the Home Board to prepare the deed of transfer. By the way, the Home Board wants us to sell the publishing house property and turn the money over to them instead of transferring the property to them. After you have moved out and everything is in the clear, then you can put the publishing house property on the market and sell it.

In the meantime, I want you to go ahead and make preparations for moving the publishing house. You will have to lay the foundations for the machines and get everything ready before you move. I expect, as you said in another letter, it will take at least \$2500 to move you into the new location and give you the equipment you want for the storage of your materials.

Go ahead, therefore, and make your preparations to move. I have asked the W. M. U. of the South to give us \$2500 out of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering "overplus" for the purchase of land for the new publishing house. If they give us this and will allow us to use it for moving expenses, it will be fine. I anticipate no trouble there and feel sure that we will get enough money from the W. M. U. to pay your moving expenses.

However, if we do not get this gift of \$2500, we have got to move anyway. We will have to provide the money in some way. Go ahead, therefore, and make a temporary loan from the bank, if necessary, for what you need to begin your moving operations. I guess it will take several weeks of preparation before you will be ready to really move your machinery.

I do hope now that you can move out from the fire trap before any untoward thing happens. I suggest that you employ a night watchman and keep him on the job all the time. It will cost a little bit, but it will be better in the long run. Let me hear from you as to developments.

J. E. D.

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12/13/37

I am going to Nashville for the meeting of the Executive Committee on Wednesday and will go by Louisville. I am looking for a young woman to head the proposed Woman's missionary training school to be run in connection with the seminary.

We are going to do big business in El Paso next year! I am very happy over all of it.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

CRM:N

Publishers of Religious Literature in the Spanish Language

BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

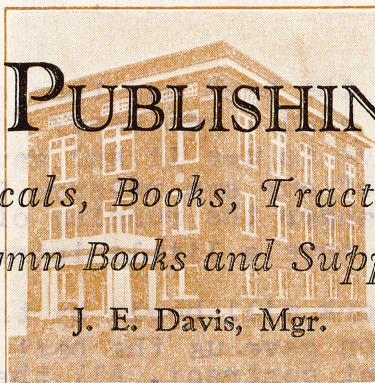
Periodicals, Books, Tracts, Bibles

Hymn Books and Supplies

J. E. Davis, Mgr.

P. O. Box 211

El Paso, Texas



December 20th, 1937

Dear Brother Maddy:

Thanks for your good letter. I had not answered it yet for want of time to give to it. And even now I am going to write a note and reserve the letter for some time when I am not so rushed.

And are WE happy over the new location! But it has already presented various problems, as you know. The moving problem is one of the very smallest, it seems. First there is the problem of tearing out the partitions we decided on when Bro. Jones was here, and fitting up an apartment for my son to live in, which will obviate a special caretaker there all the time. This was Bro. Jones' and our idea. He will explain this all to you.

Then there is the gas problem. It seems that this will work out without much trouble. But the heating problem does not solve itself so easily. They are working on the solution of that and promise us some figures by tomorrow. The idea is to use the heating system we have there, putting our own boiler and gas in our wing of the building. If we make a go of it--and we will unless it costs too much--then the Seminary will have easy sledding with their wing.

But there arises the water problem, which may be more serious than any of the others. We are working on that, and hope to find a temporary solution at small cost. But it is obvious that it will of necessity be temporary, since the pipe line is old and will not last many years at the most. But in the mean time we can find a permanent solution of that problem. The electrical problem seems to be the easiest of all, since the power company is willing to cooperate and carry their lines to our door, which would help a lot. If only the rest of them were half as willing to cooperate! But alas! many do not care a rap.

We of course are doing our best to get everything done at the very lowest cost commensurate with safety. Of course, it
(over)

would be folly to look at nothing but the cheapness of the thing. We want it done right, and will find a way to get it done that way.

I went to the bank and they assured me they would let me have the money when I get ready for it. I shall borrow it along as we have to use it and save all the interest I can. Will use some of our own reserve and save that way. Of course I must not endanger the running of the plant. And I will not go that far to save a little interest.

I think work will begin by the contractor in a few days. A Baptist Deacon gave us the best figure, and as he is reliable, he will get that contract. All the rest is up in the air thus far, except the gas installation. I am completely sold on that "butane gas," and since there is a "hydro-gas company" here it will make it very simple. No doubt it is a success.

Well, I will keep you posted as to progress.

We are well. Will be all alone this Christmas except for the son that lives here and his family. Our daughter and her family had planned on coming from California to visit us during the holiday season, but they were hindered. So we will rejoice in the Lord and serve him as opportunity offers. I have a special invitation to conduct the service at the Federal Detention Farm--where I have preached off and on for the past four years--up the valley from here about 17 miles. This will be in Spanish as the most of the inmates are Spanish-speaking people. This will take up the major part of the forenoon.

I must close now, as I have a great deal to do.

Cordially yours,

J. E. Davis

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., DECEMBER. 20, 1937

DR. J. E. DAVIS
MEXICAN BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE
EL PASO, TEXAS

PLEASE HOLD UP ALL PLANS FOR MOVING OR CHANGING SANITARIUM PROPERTY
UNTIL FINAL DETAILS ARE WORKED OUT WITH HOME BOARD LETTER FOLLOWS

R S JONES

CHARGE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

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.

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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., DEC. 23, 1937

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

QUESTIONS RAISED BY HOME BOARD AS TO TRANSFER OF PROPERTY CAUSED
MATTER TO BE HELD UP ALL NOW CLEARED UP PROCEED WITH YOUR PLANS TO MOVE

CHARLES E MADDRY

CHARGE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

December 24, 1937.

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

Dear Brother Davis:

Your good letter of December 20th came yesterday afternoon. We sent you a telegram last night saying that all complications with the Home Board had been straightened out and you were at liberty to go ahead and make your preparations for moving the Publishing House.

The trouble arose over the fact that Dr. Lawrence wrote us a letter saying that the Home Board had not sold or traded the sanitarium property for our Publishing House in El Paso, but that they had made the property "available" for the Foreign Mission Board. We were not willing to go on under an uncertainty like this. We wired him, therefore, that we were notifying you to hold the matter up and that we would not go further unless we had assurance from the Home Board that they would deed us the property in fee simple when the debts were paid. We had a telegram yesterday saying that the Home Board would do this, and then a letter has come this morning going into the matter fully and completely. I cannot understand the first letter written by Dr. Lawrence in the light of the action of the Home Board. However, this second letter makes it clear and distinct beyond peradventure that we are buying or trading for the sanitarium property. Please, therefore, tell everybody that we are to have a deed in fee simple to the sanitarium property and we are to give the Home Board our Publishing House property in El Paso.

Go ahead, therefore, and make your arrangements for moving for just as little money as you are compelled to borrow. I am going to do my best to get the W. M. U. to give us \$2,500.00 for the purchase of land for the Publishing House with the understanding that we have now bought the property we need and we want the \$2,500.00 for moving expenses and repairs. I feel sure that the women will give us this \$2,500.00 to help us move and get things in shape.

Anyway, whatever the cost, we must go ahead and move the Publishing House as soon as possible. Later on, maybe we will have to dig a deep well, but for the present, make out with the water system you have. Go ahead and make whatever arrangements you deem wise about the heating, lighting and so forth.

May I suggest that it would be to our advantage to call Yearby and Holloman and some leading deacon of the First Church into consultation about the repairs, changes, and so forth. I am going to ask the Board to appoint these brethren at the next meeting, the second Thursday in January, as an advisory committee. You select three outstanding Baptist men of El Paso and let me have their names and I will have them elected as an advisory committee on the seminary and Publishing House too. They will not have any authority except

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to keep in step with us, and it will make for good will in El Paso. You select the men you want and consult with them freely between now and the second week in January, and I will have them elected at that time. I am going to ask the State Board to name three and the Home Board to name three, and they will be just an advisory committee. Let it be understood that the seminary, the publishing house and the training school - all of it in fact - belongs to the Foreign Mission Board and we are going to conduct both institutions. We are going to furnish the faculty for the seminary and the workers for the publishing house and pay their salaries, but we do want the State Board, the Home Board and the local El Paso Baptists to appoint an advisory committee to work with us. This will make for good will and better cooperation.

I saw young Porter Routh the other day when I was in Louisville, and I think he is going to consent to come with us for the publishing house. Of course, he has another year in the seminary and then I want him to go to Mexico and study for a year before he comes. It is going to be many months before we can give you any adequate help. In the meantime, you will have to get on just the best you can.

Please keep me informed from time to time as to your needs and the developments there. You can get the approval of the Foreign Board for any step you take by simply wiring us and we can proceed then to the full consummation of our plans.

I greatly appreciate the fine service you are rendering the cause of Christ and this Board. We want to help you in every way possible.

With love and best wishes for the Christmas time, I am

Yours truly,

CEM:C

P.S. Please see to it that all tax authorities are notified that the property is ours as of January 1st. Take possession, if you have to put a keeper there and maintain the property so that it will be ours as of January 1st and thus, maybe, we can save heavy taxes. In other words, register it with the proper tax authorities before January 1st. Do everything that is necessary to protect our interest in the matter.

C. E. M.

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 29th, 1937

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

Dear Brother Maddry:

Thanks for your letter. I must take time out to answer it now. Am so busy that I do not see how I get through with as much work each day as I do, but where there is a will, the old saying goes, there is a way, eh?

We were just ready to start remodelling our part of the new building--the old Sanitorium--when your first telegram came stopping everything. They were going to begin the following morning, but we stopped them. Then a few days later came your second message, and we got in touch with our contractor and he began work Monday morning. We are carrying out the remodelling plan Bro. Jones and we agreed upon when he was here. We are throwing seven rooms into one for our machinery. This will be about 25 X 80 ft. approximately. Fine light on both sides. It seems that the Electric Co. is willing to carry both 110 and 220 volts current right to the place we want it without any cost to us. We do not yet have the estimate of the electric installation. The man who has it in hand is sick and until he gets over his Flu we will have to wait for his figures, or get some other man to go into all those intricacies for us.

The heating problem seems to be working out fine. We found a boiler they had used for hot water apparently which is sufficient to take care of our wing of the building. Also we find two oil tanks, one of which we likely will use for our furnace, or boiler. We will hook up with the steam system in our wing of the building, without in any way interfering with that of the rest of it, so Bro. Benson can hook on with his heating system, whatever he adopts and all will be well--two independent systems which of course is necessary for two separate institutions. We are to get figures on that work in the morning.

The size of the gas plant we install will all depend on whether we decide to use gas or oil in our furnace. It seems likely it will be the latter, and so we will not need anything but the smallest size gas plant. This will cost something over \$200, besides the lines to our machines.

We also have a very low figure on moving our machinery. It has been given us by a Deacon in the First Baptist Church. He is well equipped and responsible. The rest of what we have here we can move after we get the machinery out and can cut off the necessity of having a nightwatchman here all the time. We have now a man here and a man out there, which seems so useless an expense, yet under present conditions absolutely necessary. We hope to begin getting things in shape out at the new plant by the middle of next month, but it will be six weeks or more before we can get everything dumped in out there--maybe longer.

We are getting orientated on the water problem. We think we can at small expense adjust what we have for the present and for some two or three years--maybe with good luck--we will not have to spend much money. That will take care of both institutions--or is it three?

I want to assure you that we are taking every precaution as to amount of money spent. I have borrowed none yet, but will have to early in the New Year. They have assured me at the bank that we can have the money. Our credit is gilt edged, and we want to keep it that way. It is worth a lot to a concern like this to have A 1 rating with the Business Men's Association. This we have now and have had for years. We are going to get all we possibly can for the money spent.

Now another matter. Dr. Dawson says he talked with you about an ex-bishop they baptized and ordained over there at Waco. He is in Mexico City now and writes me he is getting married. I am fearful that he will "mess" things up for us, since I could only offer him \$50.00 per month, and part of that is to come from a couple of churches up the valley here who want help with their Mexican problems. Now I confess I do not know what to do with him. I probably can let him have a place to live out there, provided he wants to. Well, I am writing him very plainly that I do not obligate myself to keep him unless he proves to be the right man for the place.

I know about this man Monte de Honor. He is an Austrian by birth--his mother was French, I am told--a priest who broke off from Rome some years back when that split came in Mexico. When that went overboard, he was left adrift. He worked with the Campbellites a while, then became a Baptist recently. He is 36 years of age. His Spanish is far from being what it should be, but better than that of some missionaries I know. Maybe I can make something out of him--with the Lord's help. I have been rather successful with that kind of people before. Pray that I may be again.

Now about the advisory Board you mention. This is fine, and I have begged for it for many years. You are absolutely right about not letting them have a hand in running things, but your idea as I get it is to have them where we can call them together once in a while, or consult them in case we get into a position difficult for us to plan for. It might be presumptuous on my part, though I do not mean it that way, but I rather think the better way would be for you to nominate the Board of say FIVE men--too many will not function as you know--and submit the names to the Home and State Boards for their approval, rather than to give each Board an independent lot of men, who would not take any interest likely in the matter as soon as they found out they were mere figure-heads.

(Over)

Of course, this suggestion might not be worth a thing, but it occurs to me that such a plan would be more workable and likely prove more satisfactory than the other.

Should you decide on this plan, I would offer the following names for your consideration: Dr. Yearby, Rev. Hollomon, J. E. Quaid (First Church), C. M. Newman (First Church) and likely Rev. Goff of Grandview Church. If you insist on the three as you suggest in your letter, then take the two laymen from First Church and Rev. Hollomon, leaving Yearby to be named by the State Board, if they see fit, which they likely would.

I have not spoken to any of these brethren, but will do so as soon as I hear from you. I am sure they would all accept.

I think it is too late to call these brethren into consultation now, since we are following out plans agreed upon by Bro. Jones, Bro. Benson and myself. To change now would only delay matters and cost money, I think. I am sure they would approve what we are doing, and most certainly since we three are --or rather, were--fully agreed on the matter.

Hope to hear from you soon. Will keep you posted about all matters of importance, and of the progress being made.

May the Lord lead us.

I appreciate your very kind words, and assure you I am only glad to work hard as long as my health lasts. It is fine now and I hope to keep it that way, but we can never tell.

Cordially yours,

