9-4-1960

From: Jerry L. Davidson

Jerry L. Davidson
Mr. John Allem Chalk  
%Broad St. Church of Christ  
Cookeville, Tennessee

Dear John Allen:

I surely appreciated receiving a letter from you, and to know where you are working. I had not known before that you were in Cookeville. The last I heard, you were some place in Ohio. The opportunity you have to finish school sounds great.

It is good to know that you are studying French and that you might be interested in coming to Quebec some day. I wish it were possible for you to come right now and start the work in Quebec City or start another congregation in Montreal. Of course, I realize it would be hard for you to leave the work of the church there now, but as for your schooling there are some excellent colleges and universities (both French and English) right here.

As yet, I haven't learned too much French, because all in the congregation are English-speaking and 90% of our contacts are English. In Montreal, most of the French speak English. But for an effective work to ever be done among the French, one should be able to speak their language. So far, we have been concentrating our efforts among the English speaking hoping to establish a strong congregation; then the work will be on more solid ground to reach out to the French.

In this city a person should have a fair knowledge of several languages. Just yesterday I was pressed to use what little Italian I know when we brought a lady to church, who doesn't speak English, from Vicenza, Italy. She is a member of the church, and is visiting her son here. Her son in Italy is a gospel preacher. We also have the opportunity to speak Spanish.

The congregation here is now making the alterations on the newly purchased meeting house. We think by having a building of our own it will be a big step of progress. We thank God that we have been able to purchase this property, for it has not been an easy task in an area so well dominated by "Rome". This property is in the extreme western part of the city, leaving a tremendous need for congregations in other sections.
There might be a possibility that we will be in the area of Cookeville in a few weeks. I might be able to stop in and show you my slides and discuss the work further with you, if you are interested. It would be wonderful if you could get the church there to get behind you and sponsor you to come here in the future.

Your name is being put on the bulletin mailing list.

Please give our love and best regards to the Smiths. We have known them for several years. They are among the best people I have ever known. Their son-in-law is coming here in three weeks to hold a gospel meeting. Also, say hello to the Sam Smiths for us.

Best wishes and God's Blessings!

Yours in His service,

Jerry L. Davidson

P. S. I am enclosing a couple of French tracts. For your studies, if you would like a French newspaper, magazines, etc., let me know.