CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH,

COR. MASTEN STREET

AND PATTERSON AVENUE.

M. M. DAVIS, PASTOR

RESIDENCE 617 LIVE OAK ST.

Dallas, Texas, Friday, Aug. 28. 1891.

Darling Wife & Daughter.

Another most pleasant night gone, leaving me refreshed for this new day, whose first joyous privilege is to speak to those as dear to me as life itself. Yesterday was the hottest day of the week—96, but the night atoned for it handsomely; and to-day is only 90.

I dined yesterday with Sis. Chilton most pleasantly. Bessie played “Blue Bells” and Una’s[[1]](#footnote-1) Polka for me, which reminded so forcibly of her. She said: “Tell Una to be sure not to stay in Mo. at school.” After dinner I made a couple of calls, but found it so hot that I came home. After supper I drove down to see Miss Te[?], and found her just finishing a very bad day. All day she had been suffering intensely, and all day the Dr. had seen struggling to get her under the influence of chloroform, and had only about sun-set succeeded. I am trying to hope, but must confess there is not much basis for my hope.

After leaving her I came up to the Bryan St.[[2]](#footnote-2) prayer meeting, which was a very good one of its kind; but not of the kind [page2] I would choose. It was more of a Bible study on how to become a Christian-faith, repentance & baptism. It was for the head, not for the heart. It began 10 minutes late and continued 1 hour and 15 minutes. Sister Wright asked me when you were coming home, and added: “She ought to come soon, for you look awfully lonesome.” I knew I felt “awfully lonesome,” but thought I was concealing my feelings, but it seems I am not. But you can excuse me for this feeling, for it has been three weeks to-day-I count the days-since I bade you good bye. But my comfort is that my loved ones are better off by being away, and that the time is now short when you will come to me again.

The fire-insurance men have raised their notes 50 per cent. Your letter yesterday I believe is the best one yet. What a joy to me. But we need not quarrel about that marriage fee, for the wedding is “off” for a while-til next month. Don’t know why. That girl was not smart as one I heard of once, or she would have cried*.* Did you ever hear of a case like that?

Now my news is all out and I’ve only used two pages. [page 3] What shall I do? Perhaps I ought to stop. But after the nice things you say about my long letters, I can’t do it. And yet, what else can I say? If I were a womanthis would be no trouble; but I’m no woman. I guess my best course will be to tell you again how much I love you. Did any woman ever tire of hearing that? But in this case you know it is so: and the longer I love you the dearer you are to me.

In case you decide not to send Una to Columbia[[3]](#footnote-3) this year, I suppose you will not go over there with me. But I must be with you longer than the 20 minutes allowed by the train. How would it do for ~~you~~ me to get off and wait till the next train, Tuesday evening, or, to wait till then, morning? In that case I could reach C.[olumbia] Wed.[nesday] evening. Think over all this, and meet me at 5th Street on Tuesday morning Sept. 1; and tell me how long I can be with my darlings. Remember, that if any thing occurs that I do not go at all, then I telegraph you on Monday, care Sis. Smith & Cotton, as I wrote yesterday. With oceans of love.

Your loving Husband & Papa. M. M. Davis. [in pencil:] over

[reverse of page 3]

P. S. Suppose I should not go to Columbia, then when would you go to Nevada? And how long would you stay there? Let me have answer to these points so that my letters may be properly directed. Your Loving M. M. D.

1. Morrison Meade Davis to “darling Wife and Daughter”, 28 August 1891; transcription by McGarvey Ice, Archives Specialist, Milliken Special Collections, Abilene Christian University, 16 June 2014.

   Una is Davis’ daughter. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Pearl and Bryan Street Church of Christ. By 1891 a division of over a dozen years’ duration prevailed between the Pearl and Bryan and the Central Christian Church. For a brief overview see Melvin J. Wise, “Dallas’ Oldest Church,” *The Gospel Guardian* 3:15 (August 16, 1951) available online at <http://www.wordsfitlyspoken.org/gospel_guardian/v3/v3n15p1,11.html>. Accessed 16 June 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Very likely Christian College in Columbia, Missouri, the first women’s college West of the Mississippi, established in 1855 by members of the Christian Church. See also <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_College_%28Missouri%29>. Accessed 16 June 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)