

Letter from Elisabeth and José Chapiro to Earl and Annie Davis

December 21, 1947

The Letter came with a gift of José Chapiro's newly published volume, *Channing Day-By-Day*

Dear Friends Davises:

You are, I hope, well aware that our feelings towards both of you, as well as our most prodigal wishes for the Davises, don't need any conventional dates to become evident. We are always conscious of them. Nevertheless, we are glad to take the opportunity of the Christmas Week and of the coming New Year to tell what a deep need we feel—"a need of the heart" as the French say—to express you in a particular way our most affectionate wishes. Wishes as well as thanks for all what you meant to us since we came to Petersham and had the Godsent privilege to meet you and know you more and more intimately. How lonely and how abandoned had we often felt here, without the consciousness of having you near us! We spent unforgettable hours together, we enjoyed you—at home and in the Church—intellectually, spiritually, and—last but not least—in the most natural human way. From you I learned practically the true teachings of Channing, through you I came closer to that admirable man who interested me passionately long before I came to Petersham and in whose sign, and thanks to your initiative, I spent the entire year 1947—my Channing year!

I could thus continue, but I prefer to stop lest I become sentimental. You know us and we know both of you—this knowledge should be more eloquent than anything else I would try to tell you with the pen, and in my helpless English. We wish, and we hope firmly, to enjoy your friendship, which is young and yet so natural and solid, for many, many years to come.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Your friends,

Elisabeth and José Chapiro