

Ebenezer, 15th August, 1868

I write to you with greetings from a far distance. Grace be with you all, the grace of our Lord, the Lord whose pilgrims we are and look forward to his coming. On the narrow way not one step is successful unless his grace accompanies us to the end.

Now, my dearly beloved brother, we hope that these few lines will find you in good health. as they leave us. Now, dear brother, as Johann wants to send the mail just now, I would also like to include a few words. First of all, I want to be reminded that last year in November we received your letter, in which you informed us of the death of our blessed father. I was very sad, but lightened my grief through the shedding of many tears. All my childhood years came back to me, how all of us children were together with our parents who have now fallen asleep in the Lord, and how we are now so far apart that it will hardly be possible that we see each other again with our earthly eyes. I am also so far away from Andreas, Maria and Johann that we cannot easily meet, but brother Andreas did visit me once - that was 3 years ago - and stayed with us for 14 days, which was a happy and delightful time. To come back to our dear father once more, I was glad to know that our dear Saviour gave him grace, that since Christmas and until August the great weakness ... and knew that his end was near and he would soon have to give up his mortal frame, so that he could prepare himself well for eternity. I also gave thanks to the Lord that he spared him from great and severe suffering. O dear brother, how well off are all those who have gone to their eternal rest, O how they all now rejoice together, our grandparents and parents and all who have conquered through the Blood of the Lamb and have joined the throng of the righteous, for they all (sing?) the praise of the Lamb who has washed us with his Blood and atoned for all our sins.

But now, dear brother, I have also a word of warning for all of us who are still living in the time of grace. O let us all strive earnestly for this, that we do not neglect or fritter away this time of grace, but that we work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. Our Lord has placed us into the world for this, that we should accept this enormous grace which our Lord and Saviour purchased for us through his bitter suffering and death, and brought back eternal salvation for us. O that we all might be a part of the possession he has so dearly bought with his death on the cross. Let us be wise, so that our own end may be as the end of the righteous. There is only a short time left to us, and in eternity the damned will mourn and lament that they trampled this salvation under their feet. Let us remind each other, so that we do not lose the crown of life, but that we all find each other in eternity, where there will be no more pain or parting, or sin, yes, where all our tears will be wiped away, where we shall sing one song of praise after the other and will thank the Lord that he has brought us safely through this evil and dangerous world.

Now, dear brother, I will soon have to close, so I want to briefly (tell?) that although we had a very poor harvest this year, we are materially better off here than in Germany. Added to the poor harvest, the price of wheat is very low, but we have no taxes to pay. All together there are 9 in our family. Johann had three daughters when I came to him, and now the Lord has blessed us further with one son and two daughters. Johannes will soon be 5 years old, Salome is 3 years and Linda is 10 months. And then we have a foster-son from A. Panach. Johann is his guardian. Dear brother, we were very happy that Andreas Tuback wrote us a letter. Please give greetings from us to dear sister Magdalena together with her husband and children; they should write again soon. Also, many sincere greetings to Mother and to my three younger brother and sisters. Tell Mother that she may please send me a photograph of herself with Christiane and August and Agnes, for I would love to see them all. Dear mother, please grant me this wish. I felt very sorry that my younger sisters and brother lost their dear father so soon, and you your dear husband. And if Christiane would like to write me a letter I would be very happy. And now, dear brother, many greetings also to your dear wife - my unknown sister-in-law - and a ten-year-old daughter. Friends of your wife sent letters from Germany which included this information. They were near us. He is from Kortin (?), Kleinig, and his wife is from Buchwalde. Send us also a photo of your wife and the child, so that we can see what they look like. To the dear aunt in Hochkirch and her three children - they should write to us themselves some time. Now we commend you to the Lord and his grace.

Sincere greetings,

Anna Zwar

P.S. Also sincerest greetings to Mother Zwar and Carl Z. when you meet. Also many greetings to the Mother in Kotitz and the Mother in Gebelzig.

[Note: This is the last letter we have from Anna Zwar to her brother George for nearly 40 years, – until more letters begin from 10th February 1906, after Anna's son Bernard had visited her brother and her step family in Saxony in 1905. K.P.Z}

Translation from the German original by Rev Clem Schmidt.