

Ebenezer, 10th February, 1906

For this New Year we wish you the peace and love of God, and every good thing for body and soul, and that our dear Father in heaven may permit you to continue together for many years in this time of grace. That is our wish for you both, dear brother and sister-in-law.

Now, dear brother, we received your very dear letter, and also the one from (your) daughter Anna, and so I want to get ready to answer it right away. And as you mentioned in the B. A. (probably: Anna's letter) to also let Schw. M. (probably: Sister Maria) read it, I sent it along yesterday with our dear Bernhard, including also the photograph of you, dear sister, and your daughter Anna and the little one. And so right away I want to express my thanks for the gifts sent to me - and wish I had an opportunity to give you some pleasure, which cannot be done by letter.

Now, my dear brother and sister, I want to tell you that our dear Bernhard landed safely by ship in Melbourne under God's gracious protection on 18th December, 1905. He visited us parents and his brothers and sisters, but had time to stay for only three days, because he wants to settle in Melbourne and so time was at a premium. So, he is back in Australia, but 600 miles distant from us, and it is very doubtful whether we old parents will see him again in this life, but we wait for an eternal life where there will no more tears; and that will be perfect joy - my dears - where there will be no more parting, when those whom death has taken from us will meet us with joy, when we can embrace joyfully what one left in tears - that will be (true) happiness.

My dear ones, so let us use wisely the short remaining time of grace, that we do not miss the entry to his rest and none of us remain behind. It will not be long now before we go home. Faithful for a little while longer, free from all (earthly) things, that is and shall be our goal. Now, my dear ones, our son could have settled in South Australia near us, but because he studied in Melbourne and got a very good reputation, the chief doctors in Melbourne wanted to keep him there, and so we also did not want to be a hindrance to him. God, who gave him his gifts, keep him in his grace and in humility that as a Christian he may do everything with his eyes to the Lord, and in his name. Then the Lord will also stand by him and bless him.

(Post Script)

Dear brother, write back immediately, it won't last much longer. Now, my dear ones, concerning our outward condition, we can only thank the Lord. Johann turned 84 on 16th October, and can still visit his patients, and still drives 15-20 miles to patients. As for me, I will be 69 on 25th March, but am very weak. I cannot get around any more on my feet. The right leg is open and will not heal. I also have no strength in my hands any more. Our eldest son, Johannes, remarried

on 29th December. I think she will be a good mother to the children. She is a grand-daughter of Peter Zwar. I shall close, because writing is very difficult for me, and I hope that you will be able to read it.

Dear sister-in-law, I recently visited your cousin, Magdalena Kleinig, she is also very frail. Her husband is still alive, but also very weak, is 84 years of age. They belong to our church, but because they live 4 miles away from us they cannot drive alone. They send greetings to you.

Now I commend you to our faithful God and his grace.

Your loving sister Anna Zwar.

P.S. Kindly excuse my bad handwriting, but I thought this would be the last time, and will not write to you again, so you will not get another letter from me.

Translation from the original German by Rev Clem Schmidt.