

Ebenezer, 19th November, 1906

The God of peace be with you all.

The text for the day from Bogatzky's Treasury reads: God is not far from any of us, for in him we live and move and have our being, etc.

Dear brother and sister-in-law,

It has been a long time since we received your precious letter. I wanted to reply right away, but because I heard from our dear son Bernhard that he intended to come to his father's 85th birthday, which was on 16th October, I thought I would write immediately after that. Now it is already the 19th November, the day on which the burial of our dearly beloved son Hermann took place 3 years ago. His blessed end came on the 18th. When the women caring for him and the committee members were crying, he said to them: "Don't cry for me, it is not so hard to die, but pleasant; but my dear parents will be heartbroken when they hear of my death." Now he is with the Lord and has overcome the wicked world -and it will also not be long for us before we see him again, and we shall join in the hymn: One thing has brought us through, that you, O Lamb, was slain for us -and won't that be utter joy. What death took from us here will come to meet us there - will that not be utter joy.

Now, my dear brother Georg, I also thank you for the book which you sent, and thank you, dear sister-in-law, for the apron. I had sent a small remembrance to you through Bernhard, and hope that you received it. Please let me know by letter soon whether you received it in good order. I also sent one Pound in money for my godchild Carl Tuppack in Gebelzig with the plea that you, dear brother, would see that it got there. Please let me know whether it got there safely. Dear brother, I also want to inform you that Bernhard has settled in Melbourne, and has his work among the sick (in private practice?) and has several hospitals under his care. It will also be true for him: Every new beginning is difficult. Last week we received a letter in which he said that he is very well, thank God, that he is very busy, that through me he sends greetings to you all, and that he cannot forget you - it was the best of his time in Germany when he stayed in your midst, especially with his cousin Anna and her husband. Through me he especially also wants to greet those two. As far as our family is concerned, we are all pretty well, thank and praise God, and we hope and pray the same of you - God grant it.

Now, my dear ones, I shall hurry to a close, and want to ask you to give our sincere greetings to the Richter family in Bautzen; they should give us the joy of a letter.

We were sorry that Bernhard did not visit them. Carl Tuppack (?) should also write to us when he has received the money. Now, my dear ones, I commend you and yours to the Lord and his grace.

Your A. Zwar.

Anna said that I should add a few lines. What shall I write? We are heading for evil times. Even the lukewarmness in godly things is a sign of God's judgment, and it will get worse. Revelation 9:1-11 shows what we are heading for. As v. 10 says, the scorpions that have stings in their tails to torment the people - these are the bombs which are thrown in Spain and especially in Russia to kill people. We are heading for evil times. God give us grace that we use the time wisely for ourselves and our dear ones. God grant it, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Your brother-in-law J. Zwar

Translated from the original German by Rev Clem Schmidt.