

Ebenezer, 6th March, 1907

Grace and peace, sincere greetings.

Dear brother and sister-in-law,

Today's reading from the Neukirchener tear-off calendar is: "Those who stumbled are armed with strength" (1 Samuel 2:4).

Now, dear brother, I would also like to express my thanks for the gift. It is very uplifting. We read from it at mid-day. In the mornings we read from Bogatzky's "Schatzk&stlein", and in the evenings we read from a book entitled, "A Handbook for common home devotions according to the Church Year", by Dr. B. A. Langbein, former Court Preacher and Church Councillor at Dresden. A wonderful book.

Dear brother, if by God's grace we should live to see another year, don't go to the trouble of sending one again, because we can also get it here in all Christian bookshops. We received it in very good condition. I hung the picture of the Good Shepherd in our dining room above the table. Now, dear brother, I shall not write about earthly things, because we do not concern ourselves with them any more. Our citizenship is in heaven, and that is where our longing should be directed. The short span we still have to sojourn here, oh that we might use it wisely, so that it may not be said of us by our many... (Weisen?), "The first shall be last", that would be tragic.

May God, through His Holy Spirit, send us humble and repentant shepherds, now that we again enter the holy Passion season. Oh, that they may be a blessing to us. We have here again a good pastor (Seelsorger). He is still a young man. This forenoon he gave us an earnest Lenten sermon on the words, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do". His name is Pastor Meier.

Dear brother and sister, we received your letters in January, which made us very happy, and especially also the one from your son-in-law. Here it is true: unknown (to us), and yet well known in our dear Lord and Saviour, as our pastor once said in a sermon: to be related to each other in the Lord is much more attractive than blood-relationship with those who are strangers in the Lord. Now, dear brother and sister, our dear Bernhard wrote to us last week, but I don't know whether he wrote to you - he doesn't say anything about it. He is very busy, and has now started his own practice. So one can also say of him: Every beginning is hard, especially when there is such a great need as in Melbourne. May God help him and give him strength in his calling. I wrote to him last week and encouraged him to write to you if he possibly can. He also writes infrequently to us, and we

old folk cannot visit him either, because he is 600 miles away. He would have had enough work near us here in South Australia, but he says that Melbourne is his field of activity. If our dear Hermann would have been spared, he wanted to help us in our work as long as we parents are alive. But God had other plans. He can also work in heaven, he was faithful in his vocation. Now I have to tell you about Bernhard. In his last letter he wrote that in February he took two days off and visited his Zwar relatives in Broadford , 50 miles from Melbourne. They went shooting one day and in half an hour the 4 men had shot 40-50 kangaroos, 4 rabbits and 1 fox. And he says that he was fortunate enough to have hit the fox. Now, my dear brother and sister, I shall close. I want Johann also to write a few lines. I commend you all to God's grace.

Your sister, A. Z.

Greetings in God's Name! (Grtiss Gott!). Now, my dear brother and sister, I also want to add a few lines, together with the prayer that they may find you with eyes directed completely to the Lord. It is now almost 77 years since I once visited Neukirch. I visited the pastor, I think his name was von Tränk, a devout man.

Now, my dear brother and sister, we are approaching evil times. According to the signs of the times we are entering the last trumpet call, when the fifth seal is opened, Revelation 9:10, where the scorpions with their stings and tails put people to death. I am referring to the people with their bombs, as in Spain and especially in Russia, and which will only get worse. The godless world cries, Freedom, Freedom! That is the call of the godless in all lands. Divine ordinances are torn asunder. We are heading for evil times. God have mercy on our children.

Our greetings also to Rev. Mihan.

God be with you. Joh. Zwar

P.S. From Anna Z.: Carl Tupack has not yet written to us. Give greetings from us to Richters in Bautzen - they should write to us too sometime. Please write again soon. Keep well always. Please pardon my bad handwriting.

Translation from the original German by Rev Clem Schmidt.