

Ebenezer, 12th April, 1909

On this Third Day of Easter I shall try to write a few lines to you, and first of all wish you the blessing and peace of Easter which our risen Saviour brought with him from the grave.

Now, dear brother and sister-in-law, I should have written to you long ago, but since it did not eventuate I ask your pardon. Now, dear brother Georg, how are things with you all on this earthly sojourn? How are things with your son-in-law and daughter and their children, the Mihans in Neukirch near Bautzen? And how are the other two, I think their name is Wehle, whose daughter is called Maria? Please write to us as soon as you get this letter, and tell us whether you are still at Neukirch with your children. I often think of you, but did not get to writing. The reason is that I find it rather difficult to write because, as I probably wrote already last time, I have a lame leg. The whole right side hurts, so that I can only walk with the aid of a stick, and that also hinders me in my writing, because nothing seems to function any more - and Johann doesn't write at all any more. His memory is too bad for writing. He is very frail. He is now in his 88th year and I was 72 years on 25th March - and so I have already passed the biblical age.

Now, my dear ones, I must ask whether Bernhard ever writes to you, because he has very much to do. He is still in Melbourne and that is 600 miles distant from us. In this way he only visits us for a few days every year and he very rarely gets around to writing. He sent Easter greetings to us, together with a lovely poem (verse). Brother Andreas [Kaiser] also writes very rarely, his memory is no longer any good for writing. Dear brother, all these things tell us that we have no permanent home here but we look for one that is to come. I believe Uncle Andreas visits Bernhard sometimes, was with them on Christmas Day. But we know that when our life here comes to an end, God has prepared for us a building not made with hands, which remains eternally for us in heaven. That is our comfort, and so we shall well prepare ourselves, so that in time our dear Saviour will recognize us as his own, for he is the way, the truth and the life. He has prepared everything for us and calls to us: Come to me, all you who are weary or heavy laden, I will give you rest, and may we be able to say with Peter, when the Saviour asked him for the third time, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you". Thank God, we have devout and faithful pastors among us; that is a great blessing, especially for the youth.

Now I want to ask, how are things with the Richters in Bautzen - she is the eldest daughter of my niece Lene Schäfer. I would like to ask you, dear brother, to visit her some time, on my account, and tell her that I was very sorry that our son Bernhard did not have the opportunity to visit them. Tell her to be so good as to

write me a letter that would make me very happy. If you like, you can read this letter to her.

And now, please also tell your daughter Anna and her dear husband that they should make me happy with a letter, for writing is not so hard for her, and we shall not sojourn much longer in this life. This is probably the last time that I shall write to you. All according to God's will, his will be done.

Many hearty greetings from us all to you all. God be with you.

Your sister Anna Zwar

Are the Mirtschin cousins in Hochkirch still alive? If you see them, give them my sincerest greetings, also to my step-brothers and step-sisters. Our children are materially well off, and they also love the Lord. I don't know if you can read my writing, nothing seems to want to function any more.

Translation from the original German by Rev Clem Schmidt.