

Ebenezer, 10th November, 1911

In the love of God, sincere greetings!

Dear brother Georg,

I have waited more than two years for a letter from you, and now at last, to my delight, the letter arrived 4 weeks ago. I was very happy to receive it, having already given up hope and thinking that you had completely forgotten us.

Now let me tell you something about our family. Let me begin with dear B A (Brother Andreas) in Melbourne, who has been laid up for 4 months now. He has dropsy. Bernhard is his doctor. Yesterday I received a letter from Bernhard in which he mentioned that his condition has improved slightly; God knows whether he will ever get better. On 18th November, if he lives till then, he will be 84, a ripe old age. Over the last few years he has experienced much grief. His only son Johannes shot himself, and since that time he (Andreas) is quite broken up. His daughter Anna has moved quite near to him. She is married to Pastor Heglau and lives about 7 English miles from him. I don't know how sister Maria is; she doesn't communicate with us.

My husband was 90 years old on 16th October, and we celebrated his birthday together with our children, the pastor and a few church elders. He was presented with an illustrated Bible, with each of the 240 pictures having a caption to explain its meaning. He is very weak, and cannot do any work any more, except to chop a bit of wood for me. He still enjoys his food, and can sleep well.

Concerning myself, I also have my cross to bear with my lame leg. I get very restless, especially at nights, but this must all be for our good. The time of testing will not last much longer, and then eternal salvation will be granted to me in the Father's house. What human eye has not seen, nor ear heard, yes, more than we can see now will happen to me there.

Now, dear brother and sister, I would like to inform you that you will have sent to you 7 Pounds Sterling from the Mission House at Leipzig, because we have sent a donation for the Mission too, and I want to determine how it is to be distributed. 4 Pounds Sterling for the Rescue Home near you as a Christmas gift for the poor children there; and 2 Pounds for my cousins Anna and Maria Mirtschin in Hochkirch; and 1 Pound for Maria Lehmann, my old school friend who still thinks of me and sends greetings. I have often thought of her too, and my wish that she and I may meet again in the blessed eternity. I also sometimes think of her sister Anna Lehmann, who taught me to sew, and still today I know by heart the verse that she taught me: Sweetest Jesus, you are the most gentle rest; lead me to sleep and cover me, so that no evil will alarm me; and tomorrow awaken me again, that

I may kiss and greet you, my Life, to whom I have committed myself for today and for ever. I believe she died in America, so I heard. Now, dear brother, I hope that you understand me, regarding the distribution of the money, and that you will be so good as to attend to it. Now I must still ask what Richters in Bautzen are doing, the daughter of Sch L, and whether they are in need, and whether my sisters Christiane and Agnes have any need - and herewith I send my heartiest greetings to them.

Now, my dear brother Georg, I will still write something to Mihans - I commend you and your dear wife into God's faithful care.

Your sister Anna Zwar.

P.S. Mrs. Kleinig died 4 months after her husband, your cousin, dear sister-in-law.

[With the letter of 10.11.1911 from Anna Zwar:]

My dear niece Anna Mihan,

first of all I thank you and your dear husband that you both remembered me with a letter. Now, my dear niece, I wish you both God's richest blessings for your wonderful vocation. May your labours and efforts, which you are performing for the poor children, bear much fruit for time and eternity. I want also to mention in this letter to you that I am specifying only 3 Pounds Sterling for the institution and 1 Pound Sterling for your own dear children. I didn't think of it at first, now I thank your dear husband that he described the institution so beautifully, but I cannot write to both - writing is hard for me because my foot hurts, and I am also getting very forgetful. In March I am going to be 75 years, and that is also a high age. Now I must write to you about Bernhard. I had immediately written to him and yesterday I received a reply. If he can find the time he wants to write to you himself at Christmas time. He has very much work. He is not married, and in the meantime he sends greetings to you all. I hope he will write to you. Last Easter he visited us, but only for a few days. Well, there is nothing else that can be done. I am very tired - last night I had a lot of discomfort in my leg, that will probably bring on my end - well, however God has determined, he means it well with all of us.

Your aunt Anna Zwar.

P.S. Excuse my bad handwriting, this will probably be the last time I write.

*Translated from the original German by Rev Clem Schmidt.*