

Ebenezer, 24th July, 1912

The peace of God as a greeting:

Dear brother Georg, as I didn't actually write the letter in May, I now want to inform you of the passing of our dear (husband and) father, Johann Zwar, whom the Lord called to himself out of this life on the 15th of this month. Praise and thanks to him for this release. For 4 months he suffered kidney and bladder cramps, especially at night. He had to suffer quite a deal, but he never complained. He bore his suffering with patience, and because our daughters and daughter-in-law live nearby, they cared for him in turn until his last hour came. That was on 15th July, somewhat after 3 o'clock in the morning. Eight days previously he became bedridden because he was too weak. For 8 days he only took fluids, but for the last 3 days he was fully conscious, lay peacefully and breathing quietly. On one particular morning he was very much at peace and said, "The angels, the angels are coming", and two days later he had gone home. On the last afternoon I still read to him a passage from Bogatzky and prayed the Lord's Prayer with him. He joined in and said, "Now the Saviour will soon come, yes, yes, he will". In the evening at 9 o'clock the children asked him, "Dear father, shall we sing a hymn for you?", and he said, "If it's not too long!". And so we sang the whole of the hymn:

"What would I have, had I not chosen Jesus forever? Eternal pain for temporary pleasures. O, without Jesus, my dear heart, you would have lost yourself." (No. 238).

He sang along a little and also joined in the Lord's Prayer and the Benediction. Two daughters stayed with him and I wanted to stay too, but because I suffer with my legs (they said), "Mother, lie down; if Father gets worse we shall call you", and so I said, "Goodnight, dear Father, sleep well", and he said, "You sleep well too" and these were his last words to me. (Just) after 3 o'clock he breathed heavily twice and was gone. The children and I knelt at his bedside and prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Now, my loved ones, I have described to you the death of Father. His comfort was contained in the funeral address on Colossians 1:12-14 and 2 Peter 3:13-14. And now in closing,

I am quite deeply affected.

The money referred to will be sent by and I think it will arrive at about the same time as my letter.

Keep well.

Your sister and aunt, Anna Zwar

P.S. Dr. Bernhard Zwar visited Father once and was present at the funeral. Our children will also send portraits of themselves when they have some taken.

Translated from the original German by Rev Clem Schmidt.