

Ebenezer, near Stockwell, South Australia

29th February, 1868

Since we have this week entered once more into the holy Passion season, I wish you and your whole household all the blessings contained in the story of the incomparable sufferings of our Lord Jesus - this grace of God in Christ as a greeting.

Dear brother-in-law Georg,

When I received your first letter from Dresden I wanted to reply immediately, but it did not eventuate. And then, every time the mail left for Europe I thought of writing a comprehensive letter to, but as the days came closer my situation and my work prevented me from writing. And so the present day has come, and because I still wanted to give you a sign of life from myself, I am writing today - Anna will write next time, and if possible, and if I am still alive, I shall also write something then. My prayer is that these lines find you and yours in good health. We all are also well, thank God.

We have peace and quiet in our country. These are all undeserved blessings of God. We are also not troubled by Napoleon, the Prussians or Garibaldi - and yet we do not know what judgments of God lie ahead of us, for the Lord has threatened to afflict the whole earth and to punish the nations, all the more as one reads and hears of the (un)belief and actions of the nations, which is a fulfilment of Matthew 24:37-39. It is of God's patience, grace and mercy if anyone at all is saved in the whirlpool of these times. There needs to be much grace for a person to be saved from the threefold rope, 1 John 2:16, namely, the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes, and the boasting of what he has and does; and for him not to love the world nor what is in the world, but that he waits and hastens, 2 Peter 3:12-15. Of course, "with might of ours can nought be done, soon were our fall effected, but for us fights the Valiant One, whom God himself elected. Ask ye, who is this? Jesus Christ it is. Of Sabaoth Lord, and there's none other God. He holds the field for ever."

Now, dear Georg,

In your last letter I read your life story with much sadness, etc. When I read the news items about the Austrian war I was always anxious to know: where do the Saxons stand? As we receive detailed news from all over Europe within six weeks, so we can read all these things in the newspapers, even concerning local conditions, if they are of some general interest. Now, Georg, I must close. God bless you in your situation - and if you decide to change it, may God be your beginning, your middle, and so also, and only thus, a blessed end. In conclusion, many sincere greetings from me and from my dear wife, your sister Anna and

all our children, to you, and to Mother and all your sisters. Also greet the aunt in Hochkirch and her children. Greet also my dear old mother, brother Andreas, his wife and children, also Carl, if you get the chance.

Joh. Zwar

Another word, dear Georg!

May the Lord comfort you all with the knowledge of his blessed will, that he has called Father into his eternal home; and thank the Lord for all good and blessing shown to dear, good Father in his life, in his suffering and at his deathbed. But may he teach us, that we are mortal, so that through true repentance and true faith we may be prepared for our end.

Dear Georg!

Regarding the tombstone in honour of Father, I would not have advised incurring special costs, for if his name is found in the book of life, Revelation 20:12, he is honoured by the great God, even if he should be banned or burned by the whole world and the whole of the unbelieving church, even as Christ had to die as such a one in the eyes of the world. And St. Paul had to live as such a one, held in dishonour by the world and the unbelieving church, 1 Corinthians 4:9-11, 13. We are a constant curse to the world and a "Fegopfer" (something to be swept aside?) to all people. When Christ shall lay all his enemies - and death as the last - under his feet, then it will be different, not like in Jerusalem where one's cross is raised up, but where one lives without the cross. Dear Georg, do not think that I am opposed to having a cross erected on the grave - no, no, that is the symbol that even in death we confess the crucified Jesus, in whom we have lived, suffered, struggled and been victorious. I only meant a special expenditure, through which one wants to show one's honour to the world.

No. 3. Another brief word, then the letter must leave and I am also finished. Dear Georg! With that mail (some time ago) I had written to Br. Peter Dallwitz at Wawitz that he should get a few homeopathic things for me, because he knows about these things. But because time was short I was not able to send a (money) transfer along at the time, so I have sent a transfer for him this time. When he has cashed this transfer there will be several Thalers left over, which he will pay out to you. This is meant to be a present for your marriage. But if you want to use it for the tombstone - your will be done. I commend you to God's care. Write back to us soon.

Your brother-in-law Joh. Zwar.

Translated from the original German by Rev Clem Schmidt.