To the Revered Committee
of the Evangelical-Lutheran Mission Society
in Dresden

Beaumont Square, Mile End, London

London, **January 10, 1837**

Dear and beloved brethren in Christ!
With great pleasure and gratitude to God, I received a few weeks ago your appeal to all mission friends of the Lutheran confession for this year, dated September 30, 1836, in Dresden. And soon I thought that last summer, in case I was to emigrate to Australia with my community, I was commissioned by the President of the South Australian Company, G. F. Angas, Esquire, to take over the supervision and management of a missionary institution to be established in Australia, and to look for some brothers who would preach the gospel to the natives there and particularly focus on the education of poor pagan boys.

Although my emigration to Australia has not yet come to fruition - I hope it will still take place - the mission plan for Australia has not been abandoned. Rather, Mr. Angas and other individuals involved in this latest colony recognize and feel that the colony can only prosper if the Gospel is spread both within and outside it, and therefore it is his fervent wish that the mission be initiated this year at the latest.

On my recent notification to him that a mission society had been established in Dresden, he replied a few days ago that I should write to the committee and inquire whether they could provide two missionaries for the natives of Australia and how much more the Dresden society might be able to contribute to their equipment and support.

I hereby respectfully submit this inquiry and kindly request a response as soon as possible. You may address this to the wine merchant Mr. J. A. Heyn, Hamburg, 1st Vorsetzen No. 9, our dear brother and fellow worker, so that he may also be informed of any developments in this regard.

For a more detailed and reassuring insight into the intended mission, I would like to make the following remarks:

> The South Australian colony, established by a parliamentary act in August 1824, enjoys complete ecclesiastical freedom and independence from the Church and the history of England. None of the existing or upcoming denominations there are required to pay the "church-rate" [church tax] currently imposed on Dissenters in England.

For my congregation and for German colonists emigrating there, it has been arranged with the local government that they enjoy the same civil and ecclesiastical rights in Australia as British subjects.

The South Australian Company intends to establish not only schools in general, but also a scholarly educational institution as soon as possible, so that the sons of respected Englishmen in East India do not need to come to England for their education, but can receive their education in the wild and healthy climate of Australia.

Some scholars and pious Germans, namely a Mr. Menge and Dr. Drescher, a Silesian, who are experts in ancient and modern languages, departed for the service of the colony last year. The former, among other things, has the task of learning the language of the natives and assisting the missionaries in its study; I can recommend both of them as Christian brothers from personal acquaintance.

According to multiple reports, the natives of Australia are a weak, cautious, and even cunning people, almost at the level of animals. They have almost no concept of a divine being. Unfortunately, many of them are now dying from the venereal disease, against which they know no remedy.

The mission to be established among them should focus particularly on the education and Christian instruction of the youth, and therefore, where possible, teach the English or German language.

The colony in South Australia, and also, if Lutheran communities from Germany come there, they should gradually seek to maintain the mission from their own funds, and where possible, following the example of some stations of the Moravian Brothers, effect the conversion and civilization of the indigenous people of Australia.

The number of natives is about 2,000,000:

A small German Evangelical-Lutheran missionary society, admittedly just a nucleus, has been established here in our chapel and Sunday school, where I preach; it at least provides a starting point for the Lutheran mission in Germany.

Well, dear brothers, from what has been said, you will see that the Lord*, who, if we can serve them, need our service. The field of work and the harvest are great and - I mean, time is short. Let us pray that the will of the Lord may become clear and then go to work in faith. May the blessing of our fathers, the blessing of the Halle Mission under A. H. Franke, of Messr. Schwarz, Ziegenbalg, Jaenicke, and indeed of the Lord himself, rest upon us. Even if we began this mission as poor and humble as the Brethren Community began theirs about years ago, it can still prosper if we only have faith. Who * should see the glory of God?

With sincere respect and love,
I commend myself especially to
Brother Wermelskirch and his wife.

Your brother

A. Kavel.