Mr. I. C. Naumann,
Secretary
Outer Pirna Street No. 270
Dresden
Saxony

House of the London Missionary
Society, Bloomfield Street
London

London, **January 25, 1837**

To the Board
of the Evangelical-Lutheran Missionary Society,
Dresden

Dear and revered brethren,
With sincere joy, we acknowledge your truly Christian and fraternal communication of the letter of November 12. We warmly reciprocate the affection you have so kindly expressed to us as co-workers in the missionary work, and assure you that every assistance we can offer through our sympathy, advice, and prayers will be gratefully received by those whom we esteem as beloved brethren in the Lord.

We again join in hoping to hear that the work you have undertaken is prospering under God's blessing in your hands; that the interest in missionary endeavors among your fellow countrymen and fellow Christians is steadily increasing; and that many are being stirred to active efforts in their support. Such examples of love for the Savior and passion for the souls of men have been an encouraging sign of genuine piety; for my experience has repeatedly proved that those who most freely communicate the blessings of the Gospel to others enjoy its richest comfort; and display the highest examples of its happy influence before the world.

To the main subject of your letter - a request for our advice regarding the area most suitable for commencing your work among the heathen - we have given our earnest attention. The remote location of many places, where Christian instruction is lacking; the difficulty and uncertainty of communication with the missionaries when they are stationed there; the difficulties they must face upon their first arrival and without the advantage of being associated with experienced superiors; and the prolonged suspension of your efforts, which is inevitably due to the illness or removal of your agents, whose places may not be easily filled - all these seem to indicate that your operations would be most advantageously begun in a relatively nearby location and partially staffed by workers from other societies. In such an area, those to whom you send the Gospel may receive what they need, the help of Christian counsel and experience, until they become so familiar with the practical details of missionary work that they can extend their efforts with encouragement and success to more remote and distant fields of service.

We do not assume that you will have numerous opportunities for the entrance of the messengers of the Gospel.

Education through schools of the British or Lancashire system is very widespread in your district; without, however, being accompanied by a comprehensive increase in vital religion. The population is generally characterized by a deplorable ignorance of biblical truth, even more than by a bigoted adherence to their suspicious forms of religion. Through the mediation of pious, discreet, and well-prepared missionaries in their friendly interest for the clergy of the Greek Church, much good could be accomplished; and rather through a conciliatory spirit than through hostile controversy. The spread of evangelical truth could be greatly promoted. The writings of some of the ancient Church Fathers, who are generally and highly esteemed in this class of communities, could be used with considerable effect to enforce those important doctrines of Christian faith that have long been obscured by the inventions of men. Nothing could be more earnestly desired by the followers of Christ than that three countries, from which this Gospel was once proclaimed to other and distant regions, should again be blessed with its commitment, its living influence, and its purity of Scripture.

The activities of our own society in the Mediterranean region and its surroundings are limited to those of our missionary on Corfu; but Greece, Palestine, and Syria are partially occupied by the agents of the Wesleyan and American societies. The amount required for their support varies from country to country; but on average, it is about a third less than the sum required for the same purpose in India.

There are many things in the situation of the South African tribes that encourage us to draw your attention to them. Although these tribes are located a considerable distance from the Cape Colony, they are in a completely barbaric state; they are more successful in the efforts of missionaries and the influence of the gospel than the educated inhabitants of other pagan countries, whose minds are occupied with a system of false philosophy and whose judgments are blinded by the prejudices of a supposed piety that renders them independent of the opinions and customs of foreigners.

A missionary who is familiar with the useful arts of life; equipped for active physical response; and patient and persistent would easily achieve a pleasant agreement among these people; and his efforts, with the divine blessing, could have a good chance of success. We do not consider the likelihood of such a recurrence of these disturbances on the borders of the colony, which could put the persons and property of your agents at risk or cause losses. Among the various tribes of Hottentots, Kaffirs, Bechuanas, etc., there are now brethren who work in conjunction with the Wesleyan, Moravian, Scottish, American, Parisian, Rhenish, and Dutch societies, as well as our own. The amount required for the personal support of missionaries is about two-thirds less than that required in East India, and the cost of building houses, churches, and schools would be relatively low. However, various objects necessarily associated

with the practical civilization of the people would require additional effort; and the transfer and equipping of missionaries for such a statement would involve considerable expense. The presence of Rev. Dr. Philip, Superintendent of our South African missions, in this country will enable us to provide more detailed and clearer information about this important and inviting area of missionary work, should you wish to receive it.

It will give us, dear friends, great pleasure if the preceding remarks are of any use to you and lead to a beneficial start of these works, which, we trust, will be effective through the influence of the Holy Spirit, for the conversion of many who are still in a state of ignorance and sin. -

We have already noted that the prevalence of a missionary spirit is a sign of the progress of our religion among your compatriots; and we would also remind you that your benevolent efforts for others will have an equally positive impact on yourselves. The missionary enterprise particularly serves to inspire the servants of Christ to a holy and selfless devotion to His cause; to promote the exercise of faith in His promises; and to awaken the spirit of devout and earnest supplication, which awakens those to whom it is granted to habitual communion with the source of holiness and joy. In this way, the Church will gain glory and distinction, as the world will gain through its instrumentality, its salvation, and its eternal life. -

We would like to recommend to you the establishment of regular prayer meetings to support your society. Such gatherings have been held in other parts of the continent, where missionary societies have recently been founded, and they have been of great benefit. They have aroused great interest among all those who attended. The widespread dissemination of missionary information will be of great benefit to your efforts, especially in supporting such devotional practices. And if you are not currently considering the publication of a magazine for your own society, it would be desirable to widely distribute magazines from other communities that provide a general overview of the efforts of missionary societies, such as those published in Möttlingen, Berlin, and other places.

We would be happy to share our views in greater detail on any detailed questions you may wish to ask, and it will be our constant prayer that, in addition to the peace of our fellow servants in the work of the Lord, we only send a missionary to a specific station. We consider it desirable that, wherever your agents are deployed, two of them should enter the field of work together, as was the practice in the early church; and that, if they do not subsequently live together permanently, they should be housed at a distance that allows them to meet frequently without interrupting their respective duties and without wasting time or making expensive trips. However, the beginning of an effective mission in the most remote and poorest provinces of the heathen would require more than the combined efforts of two individuals; unless they were to limit themselves to the task of exploring the country as a venue for future and more extensive operations. Without going into detail on various reasons, some of which

will be obvious to you. -

For this reason, we recommend that you not initially direct your first efforts towards the gigantic and unbroken masses of heathenism, neither in the eastern nor in the western world; We would draw your attention to other neglected areas where you could begin your work with greater ease, although the Indian peninsula cannot be counted among the cultivated areas closest to you; There is an urgent need for missionaries in some parts of the community, which have been brought under the influence of Christian instruction to a certain extent by the representatives of our own and other societies, and we are not ashamed to draw your attention to this; We are convinced that those already working in such districts will welcome the brothers you send, as they are helpless in a work that they can hardly maintain on their own and which is completely insufficient to expand. Near some of our larger stations, there are places where your missionaries could stay with great advantage. The inhabitants of such places are accustomed to the regular visits of our brothers and are prepared to receive the instructions of those who may be permanently settled among them. The selection of a station under such circumstances would eliminate some of the difficulties that would otherwise arise at the beginning of the work in East India. From our brothers, who were accustomed to wandering around larger cities during the presidency of Madras, we have often received a recommendation for a safe place through which they have travelled, and which has been adopted specifically for a new station, if we had been sufficient to the agencies and means at our disposal to justify such a project. In India, the annual cost of a missionary and his wife is approximately 300 pounds. ---

In a less remote region, the islands of Greece and the coasts of the Mediterranean present themselves. They can enjoy the far greater blessing of his guidance and help, whose wisdom and power are constantly employed for the cause we want to advance together. It is crucial that in this way the glory of God can be presented and the salvation of people secured through the well-being of their deliberations and the success of their work.

I remain, on behalf of the directors,
yours, dear brothers in the gospel community,

William Ellis,

Secretary for Foreign Affairs at the London Missionary Society.