To the Evangelical-Lutheran Pastor,
Mr. Kavel
Highly esteemed Reverend
London

Dresden, **February 12, 1837**

Beloved, dear brother in the Lord!

The more unexpected your valuable letter of the 10th of the previous month came to us, the more delightful it was, and the more carefully we have considered it. We thank the Lord for it, and you, who were used as His instrument in this matter.

If you were to emigrate to Australia with your congregation, then the establishment of a mission on our part would have much less, perhaps almost no difficulties; we would gladly entrust two of our pupils to you and be firmly assured that they would undertake the important and difficult work under your guidance in the right way. However, due to the latest cabinet orders of the King of Prussia, we are uncertain whether you will carry out your aforementioned intention, so we are compelled to inquire further about the Australia Company and to bother you with some questions.

We are very grateful to you for the notes on the number, the moral and physical condition of the indigenous people of Australia, as well as on the civil and ecclesiastical freedom granted to settlers, and finally on the zeal shown by the Australia Company for the salvation of the poor indigenous people of the island, through which we have obtained a fairly complete picture of the situation proposed to us through your kind mediation. There are only the following points on which we require further clarification in order to fully consider and evaluate this important offer before the Lord.

> Firstly, we would request a definite communication on whether and where the colony might be established?
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> Secondly, whether there are Christian souls among the colonists, with whom our missionaries could find a point of friendly connection?
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> Thirdly, what is the relationship between our envoys and the directors of the colony?
>
> Are they completely free in their activities, or do they occupy a subordinate position, and if so, what position would they hold?

This question leads us to the following passage in your letter:

> "The mission to be established among them should particularly focus on the education and Christian instruction of the youth, and, where possible, teach them English or German."
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> "Similarly, we would like to know whether we can count on the support of the Company, and whether our missionaries would enjoy free passage, receive a salary supplement, or receive a contribution for the construction of a church or the establishment of a school?"
>
> "Finally, we would like to know when the dispatch of the two brothers is desired?"

In addition to your kind response to these individual questions, we would also appreciate your general opinion on whether we are mistaken in assessing the entire enterprise of the South Australian Company as being concerned with the civilization or evangelization of the indigenous people, and that they intend to use the preaching of the gospel as a means to achieve this end. We apologize, dear brother, for our various open questions, but in establishing a mission in a place as distant as Australia, where it is necessary to break new ground, where young men who have no previous experience in missionary work are needed, and where the demoralizing influence of the criminal colony cannot be overlooked, we believe we must proceed with the utmost caution. To avoid misunderstandings, we note with regard to some of our questions that we consider the unrestricted effectiveness of our missionaries to be absolutely essential, and that our financial resources are currently so limited that we could not undertake the mission in question without assistance.

The news you provided at the end of your kind letter about the formation of a small auxiliary association there has brought us both heartfelt joy and sincere gratitude to the Lord. We greet the dear friends involved as co-workers in the Lord's work with sincere love, and warmly welcome you.

We expect diverse support from you in establishing and managing our missions, and hope you will be pleased to establish closer ties with us. In return, we will provide you with more detailed information about our activities, which are increasingly gaining recognition in our homeland and among fellow believers in other German churches. The number of our pupils has already increased to six and is likely to increase further. From Easter onwards, they will live together, and this community, as well as the close proximity of their teachers, will it certainly have a beneficial effect on them.

Help us pray, beloved brother, that we may carry out the Lord's work properly and beneficially, and please inform us soon with more detailed news, which we also recommend to you with heartfelt love and respect.

The Committee of the Evangelical-Lutheran Mission Society
of Wermelskirch, as Concipient [the author of this document].