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No. I of J. 1844

Dresden, 19. Januar 1844

and Pastor

To all the Evangelical Lutheran missionaries
in South Australia,
the bretheren
Teichelmann, Schürmann, Klose, Meyer.

Beloved bretheren in the Lord!

While we must praise the Lord with praise and thanks for having preserved all of you alive and healthy so far, albeit not without setbacks and challenges, we cannot look upon the mood and position that has arisen among you without sadness or concern. We have certainly long missed the necessary harmony in attitude and action, the much-needed unity in consultation and procedure that we have explicitly urged upon you, the lack of which visibly hinders and weakens the blessings of your effectiveness and your friendliness towards it. We have received evidence of this particularly in your letters received by us on December 20, 1840 (ranging from June 30 to July 7). Nevertheless, it was somewhat comforting to us that you did unite for a joint mission to us, in which you expressed your views towards and about each other with openness, but also with moderation, which is why we address these words to all of you in view of our common affairs.

However, although it is now very difficult to make a prudent and decisive judgment from such a great distance and from still very insufficient representations, it is nevertheless clear that the purchase, or rather the selection, of the property by Brother Teichelmann, who does not deny this, happened without consulting and questioning the brothers. And although we had indeed specifically given the order to purchase to Brother T., and it would also be quite in order for him, as the older of the two brothers who first entered there, to act as the senior among them, serving as the main mediator and business manager, it was nevertheless understood, as with all important matters concerning our mission there, and especially this one, that it was self-evident and even a duty, based on the instructions given to all of you, to act in unison after joint consultation. That this did not happen, we must equally disapprove and regret.

However, whether the purchased property itself, considering its location (we don't even know anything about its soil quality yet), is suitable for the main purpose of facilitating the settlement of natives, we still need to reserve our judgment. Although the proximity to the city might seem more detrimental than beneficial for this main purpose. In any case, we are inclined to keep it, hoping that after Mr. Lührs arrives there, the setup and management, and thus also the attempt to attract natives for employment and settlement, will be facilitated. However, if it turns out that the location of the property makes it unsuitable for this main purpose, but the soil is fertile and its cultivation is worthwhile, we agree to lease it, but not for a long time, so that it can be used for its original purpose again soon when conditions improve.

Therefore, taking into account what Brother Teichelmann has stated in his apology, we do not wish to further criticize the expenses he has incurred for the establishment, especially since he seems to have made significant sacrifices in doing so. We hope that this will gradually result in material compensation for the benefit of the Australian mission. However, we urge him all the more to prevent or minimize any potential harm that may arise in this or other situations, for the sake of the Lord's work that he serves and for the sake of the brothers at home, who are eagerly and hopefully awaiting his work, with even greater love and loyalty.

However, in order to avoid such disputes and problems in the future as much as possible, we essentially agree with the proposals made by Brother T. regarding conferences and discussions, and accordingly, we definitively entrust you with the following for your conscientious observance:

If it should not be possible to realize the wish we already expressed in letter No. II (from May 31st) to see you united at Ebenezer, then firstly, seek to promote the necessary unity in spirit by informing each other as often as possible about all your endeavors and experiences, etc., for mutual encouragement and to awaken love and mutual support. Furthermore, arrange regular conferences, if possible - to be held every six weeks, but at the very least, and in any case, quarterly.

It goes without saying what needs to be discussed at these conferences --

Firstly, all questions concerning the entire Australian mission; suggestions and other communications that you wish to make to us; a detailed account of your experiences regarding your mission activities, etc. -

From these conferences, please send us a joint report each time, to which everyone should add their special contributions. However, for the sake of order, it is necessary that one person preside over everything. It seems most appropriate to us -- since there has been no other legal order among you so far, as written in Philippians 2:3 -- that you elect the chairman yourself, and always for one year; and you can do the same with the protocol officer. As for the meeting place, it should be determined, and it will have to be the one where most of the most important documents (which form a

to-be-established "Archive of the Mission") are located, or can be located best, which will probably be Adelaide or Ebenezer. Depending on the circumstances, you can also invite an expert and well-intentioned friend to participate.

After communicating these most essential points, we wholeheartedly urge you with paternal admonition and fraternal love to remember the urgent words of the Apostles that are so necessary for you now: Colossians 3, verses 12-17, and Kings 4, verse 17.

Oh, may the grace of our God enlighten you properly, warm your hearts with his love, and grant you strength and joy to act in such a way that we can one day look at South Australia with joy and gratitude and say: Your and our work in the Lord has not been in vain --!

We sincerely recommend that you extend a warm, fraternal welcome to our friend Lührs, who we hope has arrived safely with you and has started his work. Please give him our greetings. --

Would Brother Appelt, who has already been engaged in preparatory work in Silesia for three quarters of a year, be able to find a fruitful activity with you? Please consider this carefully and let us know your decision soon. --

Soon, you will also receive a broadcast of various educational content again.

In God's grace, we greet you with the salutation of peace and love, as your fellow brothers in the Lord.

The Committee of the Evangelical-Lutheran M. G.
V. W.

Addendum.

(To the collective letter)

(Already inserted into the letter during the transcription.)

Regarding the preparation of your reports, we once again urge all of you to strictly adhere to the following guidelines.

All your attempts, efforts, and experiences, even the seemingly insignificant ones (because even from these, you can learn about your activities and the nature of your surroundings), are recorded in your diaries. You compile these into reports on a weekly basis, so that you can take advantage of any quickly arising promotion opportunities. You don't have to wait until the last minute to record everything, as much of it might be in your memory or otherwise available. Instead, you just need to add the finishing touches to what you've already written. This applies to the reports you can send to us at any time, except for those prepared during periodic conferences. The more frequently and extensively you prepare such reports, the more enthusiasm

and love for your missionary work will be rekindled in you, as you take the opportunity to reflect more carefully on all your endeavors and experiences before God and humanity. Therefore, the accurate preparation of special reports is both necessary and beneficial for both you and us, which is why you should consider them as the second main part of your missionary work.

Finally, we urgently request that you put more effort into both the drafting and the handwriting, especially in the spelling of names. Your letters are extremely difficult to read, partly due to the pale ink and partly due to the extreme illegibility of the handwriting. By repeatedly reminding you that the preparation of reports is the second main part of your work, we hope that you will put more conscientious effort into it.

v. W.