

Letters from Russia

Huck, 30 October 1924

My highly esteemed friend Georg Niederhaus:

May this letter comfort you. I am entirely appreciative and especially thankful to you for it, because you are so very troubled about me. I don't know with what I can or should repay you. May the dear Lord reward and bless you and all of your loved ones.

Did you receive my letter that I wrote to you from Saratov? In which I defended the accused, your young son Johannes. I can truthfully say that all charges were based only upon falsehoods. You need not be angry with your son over it. Whatever the *Verläumder* (*ed. note: "Verläumder" = meaning unknown*) point was that you wanted to make is unknown to me, yet it was to him indeed a stubborn angry intent, that is sure and certain.

That's enough about it. I will now discharge my remaining assignments to you.

In your letter of 1 September you gave me different assignments which, after making inquiries, I herewith submit to you.

Of Philipp Koch, glazier, I can tell you that his money consignment of \$40 has come to the correct address: to his "Kum" (*ed. note: Kum = unknown meaning*) Johannes Kindsvater, \$10; to his brother-in-law Konrad Schultheis, \$10; to his three sisters Elisabeth, Rosina and Eva Elisabeth \$20, which proportions were as you laid out. His letter of 8 April in which he informed you of his money consignment, you have received, and as they said, also even answered. They told me that they had received the money approximately 2 months ago; they also told me they immediately sent an answer to you.

All are puzzled that you haven't received their letters. They thank you heartily for the handsome gift and urge you henceforth to remember yours (*ed. note: meaning relations/relatives*) and not forget them in their time of need; you have it in your power to help so many more. They send their deepest heartfelt greetings to you and your dear wife.

Of Heinrich Geier, his half sister Magdalena is dead. She is released from misery. His half sister Katche still lives but has been sick for a long time and is truly miserable. If he can help and so wishes, he should truly do it quickly. With her, speedy help is very necessary. When the money comes to my hands I will quickly deliver the dollar to her. They heartily thank you and send you heartfelt greetings.

Of Johannes Niederhaus' wife, you can report that both her parents and her oldest brother Johann Georg as well as her deaf and dumb sister are already gone to eternity. Her youngest brother Johannes has *verwertet* (*ed. note: verwertet = unknown word*) his entire household and in 1920 emigrated to the Linja (*ed. note: Linja = unknown word*). It should go well for him there. He lives with your dead sister Maria's two sons Adam and George. Your two sisters Christina and Katharina Margaretha are still alive and were glad to have once received a letter from you. Also, she would very much love to receive a gift from her sister and would be overjoyed. It is also going poorly with your dead brother Johann's wife and children.

Of Peter Sittner, he can be informed that his brother Ludwig still lives. His three sons are all married. He has the house full. Today I was at his house. With the onset of such a difficult time it was indeed truly lacking. He must certainly also have help. He sends greetings. Your two sisters Magdalena and Elisabeth are still alive. Magdalena's husband is dead. Until now, she, with her children, have had a truly miserable time trying to fight through. A few weeks ago she and Johann Wilhelm Wolf from Dönhof, a former sheep herder in Huck, agreed, to marry. To date, however, they live together without being married. Both sisters are having a difficult time. They are indeed thirsting for help. Both greet you right heartily.

I have also received your letter of 24 September. In the same you informed me, that you had sent to Philipp Schneider's \$5 in cash. I have still not received the money. As quickly as it comes to my hands I will immediately take it to the proper place. I was at his house today, they complained about the shortage of bread and of fodder. They would be happy to get any kind of help from you that would assist them with their greatest needs. They were happy with your little gift but still greater would be their happiness if you provided any kind of support with which they could cover their most pressing needs. They heartily thank and send greetings to all.

I have nothing of certainty to report about Charlotte's sister Louise. I do not know if she still lives or not. I will make inquiries and afterwards make an accurate report to you.

That I and Philipp Kindsvater and also our Pastor are under court judgment is true. Through the reading of the little book (ed. note: possibly a pamphlet) entitled "The Martyr" we have fallen under court judgment. To make it all clear to you would take too much time and space. The infraction is a very small one and undoubtedly will not result in a severe penalty.

I have your last letter of the 30th of September in hand. The order of the receipts of 40, 30, 20 and 5 dollars with it. 40 dollars to your son, 30 to Jacob Brotzman. But who is to receive the 20 and 5 dollars? Please give me the information and it will be quickly made right.

If the money is sent through Schneider in Chicago, one gets 1 Rubel 92 Kopeks, but through other banks only 1 Rubel 80--83 Kopeks. That is the difference.

We have still received nothing this fall for the church and bed house (ed. note: a bldg set aside as sleeping quarters for visitors). We placed a call (for money) in the Dakota Free Press which was signed by the Pastor and myself, the church elders and the entire church council but to date we have still received nothing.....More later.

With heartfelt greetings from house to house, yours

Jacob Rusch

(second letter in the issue)

Page 4, Die Welt-Post, Thursday the 11th of December 1924

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Huck, 30 October 1924

My dear valued friend Georg Niederhaus:

I have received your esteemed letter of 1 September of this year, in which you communicated to me that my dear unforgettable friends in Lincoln, Nebraska had taken up a collection for me.

I was overjoyed that you also have given me the names of the charitable donors in your letter, who have shown through their willing sacrifice, their loving concern and their friendly remembrances of me.

You informed me in your letter that you sent the money through Schneider in Chicago and I should have already received it in my hands but to date I have still received nothing. On the 29th of October I received 20 dollars through distribution from the Moscow bank. After you receive this letter, immediately write to whom you sent this letter. Hopefully I will quickly receive it.

You dear Huckers in Lincoln, Nebraska, through your gift of kindness have made me unspeakably happy. I thank all named who made donations from the bottom of my heart and send to them a heartfelt "may God reward you!" God bless and reward you richly for the act of love that you have shown me. Through it I have come to know that you in far away America still think of me with love. You cannot rightly imagine the happy hours such an unexpected gift has produced. My heart is at once so completely filled with gratitude towards God and you loving honorable benefactors, such that it is impossible to rightly express it in words. The will to live has been strengthened through this, when one has still to battle with so many troubles. One's courage to fight on through it is renewed. The consciousness awakes in one; only ringing forth more widely. Your certain reward here, in large part, will be timely, but still yet more richer in the hereafter.

If every giver knew, how he made so many happy with his little donation, and eased so many trouble filled hearts, and mitigated so much pain, he would certainly henceforth no longer close his heart, on the contrary he would bring forth his gifts with joyous heart, so much joy it would bring to him.

My dearly esteemed Huck brothers and sisters in God: Keep me also henceforth in your good thoughts until we meet again in the hereafter in which the vicissitudes of time will no longer conquer us and where we then shall be side by side and secure in eternal life. All needs and troubles will then be ended and instead of these, eternal joy and bliss will hover over our heads. Would it not bring you joy also if all of you would make this joyous stand in your lives? I think yes, most certainly.

With many heartfelt greetings and good wishes to all of my benefactors, signed by yours truly, your thankful schoolmaster.

Jacob Rusch