

#22/GW#7

Letter from the Danzig Flemish Church to the Mennonites in Chortitza.

From the diary of Gerhard Wiebe pp. [195](#), [196-197](#).

Translated by Helen Ens, no date. Edited by Glenn Penner, 10 Jul 2025.

Year 1791 January

A copy of a letter which the Hon. servants of the Church of God of Danzig have written to the Hon. Servants of the Church of God in Russia in the village of Chortitz dated Oct. 31, 1790.

We, the undersigned Elders, Ministers and Deacons of the Church of God in and near Danzig wish that the ministers and deacons of the Church of God of Chortitz, or whatever place they find themselves through the wise leading of God, may experience much grace and peace from God, the Father, and of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that it may be well with you, together with your church, in all aspects physically but foremost spiritually, and that you may be healthy in your faith according to John 3:2.

Beloved fellow servants, our love for you and your beloved church compels us to write the following to you, inquiring and hearing how the situation is in your church stewardship. From our side we can report that, as you already know from a letter we sent you, that it pleased God to take our Elder, Ohm P.[Peter] **Epp** [#15887], from us on November 12 of last year. The hon. Elder, Ohm D. [Dirk] **Thiessen** [#1038418] complied with our wishes and held an Elder-election on March 25 of this year. The lot fell on our fellow servant Jacob De Veer [#8281], with 146 votes and on May 9 he was ordained and introduced to this important position through laying on of hands before the gathered congregation by the hon. Elder Ohm Cornelius **Regier** [#19815]. May the Lord give him strength to fulfill this important calling according to his will. As we, through the goodness of the Lord, have order in our church, we would like to see the same in your church. We would like to hear from you, if that is so. It is important to have order in the church and thus it is important to have an Elder, which we have experienced, and for that reason we were agreed with the suggestion that Elder Ohm Gerhard Wiebe would give you the authority to elect an Elder from your midst, since there were no intentions for an Elder from elsewhere, to be sent to you. Since the letter, giving you this authority was sent to you already on March 10, we are quite surprised not to have heard from you at this time. What is more, we have asked friends who are here - from your place - about your well-being. They expressed great surprise that we had not received any information and that is why we find ourselves pressured to inquire why this is so. We recall that in your last letter, sent to Elder G. [Gerhard] **Wiebe** and addressed to all the churches here, after we had notified you of the death of Elder Peter **Epp**, you mention the money you had sent for Elder Epp should remain intact in case someone else would be commissioned to come as your Elder. Since there is no prospect nor hope of this happening, and since you probably have already elected an Elder out of your midst, as you were authorized to do, we now feel it is our duty to inquire what we should do with this money. We wrote you that there are 100 Ducats cash [the next part is difficult to read] Some money sent via Sir Sukoloff never arrived. Your money is in secure hands but it is not bearing any fruit because we expected a letter from you every mail day. We would like to see a solution and we ask you therefore: Let us know your thoughts on this as soon as possible. We would also like to know something about

your daily living, are you already at your permanent place of settlement? How is the soil there? Are you living under your own roof or are you still in huts belonging to strangers? And do you profit from your land already? Of all this we would like to receive information, therefore we implore you to write and you shall receive an answer as soon as possible. We shall share the information with the other Elders. If you need advice and if we could humbly give you some, we would be glad to do so. We wish that the good God would keep you in Love, Peace, Unity and you could be of one mind through Jesus Christ into whose care we submit you and remain in true love

your loving co-servants and weak brothers

in

Christ: Jacob De Veer [#8281]
 Cornelius Epp [#12842]
 Peter Thiessen [#15560]
 Hans Momber [#8293]
 Gerdt Bagdach [#16763]
 Cornelius Focking [17046 or #8566]
 Johann Kauenhowen [#16805]
 Daniel De Veer [#8329]

