

No. 103

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The first conference in 1846 was held on **January 22nd** by the four missionaries of the Evangelical-Lutheran Mission Society in the schoolhouse at Encounter Bay.

Through the reports from each brother about the most important aspects of their station, we were able to make the following decisions.

1. That Brother Schürmann should leave Port Lincoln and go to Brother Meyer in Encounter Bay, to help continue the settlement of the natives that has already begun there, and this for the following reasons:

1.1, It is our firm conviction that without simultaneous changes and improvements in the social life of the indigenous people of South Australia, one cannot expect lasting success from the preaching of the divine word among them. Since the government refuses to respond in the desired manner to the Society's offer to donate £100 for the settlement of the natives, it is clear to us that it has never seriously intended to do anything for the civilisation of the local tribes, either now or in the future. At the very least, the prospects for this are so uncertain that the missionary would definitely be doing wrong to continue his fruitless efforts in the hope of a more favourable attitude from the government, as this would not achieve any greater benefit than has been achieved so far. - and this is not enough for Brother Schürmann himself.

1.2, Although the government did not pledge support in Encounter Bay, and it may not be expected at all, it seems to Brother Schürmann that the natives here are superior to those in Port Lincoln in both physical and mental abilities, and through prolonged contact with Europeans, they are much more inclined towards a civilized life. Brother Meyer at least believes that the actions of many, to cultivate in his ranks, would be carried out by them if they only received the necessary guidance and support. Adding to the above, the many disadvantages of the isolated location of Port Lincoln, we have thus indicated some main reasons why Brother Schürmann, following the work of the Lord, decided to leave his previous station and move to Encounter Bay without waiting for the company's approval first.

2, Brother Klose was advised to continue his work at the government school, which is still the same as he reported to you, until the government makes a definitive decision, which is expected soon, as the new school building is almost completed and then, as they say, a new and independent school plan is

to be introduced.

3, Brother Teichelmann was advised to leave the "Ebenezer" property at the end of March, go to Adelaide, and continue preaching the word of God among the Germans, as well as assisting the natives and attempting to learn the Murray language, as numerous tribes from that area constantly reside near the city.

3.1, We come to this decision because past experiences have shown that the acquired property "Ebenezer" has only resulted in significant and fruitless expenses and other inconveniences, and there is no prospect of ever settling natives there. Nevertheless, the section should be leased immediately in accordance with your previous instructions.

3.2, Brother Teichelmann's return to the city to serve the Germans, we believed, would not have been against your will, as you not only ordered your missionaries to preach to the abandoned fellow believers, but also proved themselves active in love and collected a significant sum of money for the church building in Adelaide. Of course, if the congregation, which is soon to be expected, were to grow in number, the question of how far they intended to assist their teacher and thus the society should no longer be held back; but at present, it seems too early to do so to us.

4, Brother Meyer was encouraged to continue with the institution and attempt to settle the natives in his vicinity.

Assuming that the missionary had the salvation of the indigenous people of South Australia in general in mind and wanted to help where it was most needed, we decided to use the sent £100, after deducting some amounts, to settle the natives in Encounter Bay.

Brother Teichelmann, in fact, still has to receive £21.17s 6d to make up his salary of £80 for the past year. £10 is to be given to Brother MacKenzie, for whose services the company will not have to compensate in the future, as he may resign from his duties due to the aforementioned changes. The amount for Brother Schürmann's sea voyages cannot be specified exactly yet.

5, Since a friend in the city promised to make such arrangements that the money collected in the homeland for the church building in Adelaide could be withdrawn here without reducing the sum, it was decided to raise this sum of money, so as to use the £13 or £14 already collected in Adelaide to start the construction of a church in the city.