

Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt, 15 December 1921. Image 011500418.

Letter from Germany
(to Frank Hannes, Dime Box, Texas)

Kunewitz near Görlitz, 24 November 1921

Dear Mr. Hannes,

Allow me that I as chairman and leader of the Upper Lusatia Synod of Deaconesses thank you personally for the generous gift which you had sent for the poor children. We are very glad that our German brothers in North America have not forgotten us in our great difficulties which seem to increase with every month. More than anybody else we feel the great misfortune which has come over our people. We, the representatives and workers of the Internal Mission are working very closely with the poor of the people and barely know how to continue with our mission. Maybe you will be interested in the work we do here in Upper Lusatia. About 20 years ago a House of Deaconesses was founded called Salem in the parish of Klein Liebnitz near Görlitz (the parish of Kunewitz takes care of 7 villages). A home for children already existed. In 1710 a larger house had been built. We have 85 deaconesses who work in Upper Lusatia. This area is broken down into 41 sections. There is a home for children, a school for preschoolers, hospitals, a home for handicapped people, care for infants and nursing stations for the congregations. Here in Liebnitz we have a home for 80 children besides the Deaconess Mother House, children in very poor health and a home for 25 infants. All that we have for taking care of the children is not enough to continue our services, above all the maintenance of the deaconesses. They don't work for the money, but they are given everything they need to cover their daily needs in clothing, food, underwear and shoes. We pay for their old people's pension. Their pocket money is very limited. Every month they get 25 Marks. It would be very difficult to increase their pocket money to 50 or 80 Marks. The clothes and shoes are worn. We are very much in need of financial support in Upper Lusatia. The different stations cannot give us much money. We are not receiving enough gifts of money for the Deaconess Home. We had to finish out last year with 60,000 Marks in the red. We are very careful spending our money but this year we need to make some purchases. Our deaconesses are stressed out. I personally take care of the big tasks on the side and receive a small sum of money for them. But we cannot stop working because our deaconesses are in great demand. We are very grateful for every gift of money we will receive from overseas.

Maybe you have a former Lusatian among you who would be willing to help us. Could such a request be published in a German-American newspaper?

Again, accept my gratitude with greeting from Germany,

Your most humble,
R. Winkelmann, Pastor

Translated by Margot Hendricks