

**Archiv der Gossner Mission**  
**im Evangelischen Landeskirchlichen Archiv in Berlin**



Signatur

**Gossner\_G 1\_0131**

Aktenzeichen

1/20/1

**Titel**

Reverend Joel Lakra, GELC, Schriftwechsel betr. Pension u. a.

Band

Laufzeit

1964 - 1969

**Enthält**

Schriftwechsel mit dem ehemaligen Kirchenpräsidenten der Gossner-Kirche, Rev. Joel Lakra

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30 Jan. 1969  
drbg/go

Padma Shri Rev. Joel Lakra  
G.E.L. Church Compound  
Ranchi /Bihar  
I N D I A

Dear Brother Lakra,

I was very glad to receive your quick reaction to my request of December 12th to cooperate for the jubilee journal of the Gossner Mission appearing around the middle of this year. I am glad, that you like the theme given to you, and I believe you, that it was confusing for you to receive information about the length of the article, which you could not quite understand. I recommend you to visit Dr. Paul Singh or Dr. Thomas Dell in order to hear from them, that you should write about one page of our journal. These two brothers received the German issue of our journal, and they will be in a position to tell and show you, how much room will be provided for your article.

If there is little enthusiasm for the preparations for the jubilee celebration in October, I hope, that the KSS in its meeting today will discuss the matter in detail, make resolutions and give recommendations. I wrote President Aind in time, and I also asked Brother Montag not to miss anything. There will probably be ten guests only from Germany and certainly a number of honorable delegates from India.

I was very glad to hear, that you found your family in good health after your healthy return to India, and I can imagine that you like to think about the weeks and months with your children here in Germany. You really see God's grace in having given you the opportunity for such a long voyage, and I hope I will find you in good health, when I see you in October in Ranchi.

We also think anxiously of the elections next month in the state Bihar and in some other big states of your country. May the democratic spirit succeed, and may the public welfare not be disturbed by quarrels. And I wish, that also the voice of the Adivasis may be heard according to its importance.

We all send you kindest regards, may the Lord's mercy be with you and your family every day.

With a heartfelt yeshusahay, I remain,  
Sincerely yours,

  
(Dr. Ch. Berg)

Eingegangen  
From Ranchi  
Rev. J. La Rosa  
President Emeritus, S.E.C. Church.  
Dear Dr. Berg,

Many thanks for  
your kind letter of 12/12/68,  
conveying your good  
wishes for the New Year  
and asking for my coop-  
eration in the special jubilee  
number of our Mission Journal.

As in duty bound, I must  
cooperate in the issue of our  
journal for the information of  
the public regarding the Gossner  
Church which I consider to be  
a gem on the crown of Father  
Gossner.

The subject is of my liking  
and guide for the Gospel of our  
Lord Jesus Christ has been all in  
all for the glorification of the Kingdom.  
I could not be quite clear

about the length of the article.  
The subject is so interesting, I  
could easily write a book on the  
subject. Will the article have  
approximately 1500 words? I am  
just trying to reduce 6000 words  
to 1500 words. Kindly make it clear  
to me.

I note the deadline, April 15.  
I shall also enclose a passport  
size photo.

On my return I found all my  
dear ones in good health, thanks.

On the other hand, I am not finding  
much doing for the great event of  
the jubilee. I wish there was more  
enthusiasm about it among the  
Church leaders. I feel the time for  
preparation is short and the leaders  
must make the best out of it.  
The KSS is sitting at Ranchi from  
the 29th of Jan. I wish they take up  
the matter in right earnest.

At present there is much  
activity in the state of Bihar on

on the political level. The State  
Parliament has been dissolved  
and at present the President's  
rule has been introduced. This  
more a Dictator's rule. The Elec-  
tion is going to form a new  
Government. It has affected  
almost the whole Church.

God rules the peoples and  
countries through men and  
we have to elect right persons  
to form Governments. We are  
praying for God's guidance  
in the matter.

I hope to hear from you  
at an early date.

May God prepare the Gossner  
Church for the great jubilee  
for his glory in India.

With kindest regard,  
Yours with love  
H. C. Berg



The Rev. Dr. Christian Berg

1 Berlin 41

Hamderry Str 19-20

West Germany

SECOND FOLD

NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:-

Rev. J. Lakra, President Emeritus

G. E. L. Church

Ranchi Bihar

India

July 5th, 1967  
drbg/go

Padma Shri Rev. J. Lakra  
G.E.L. Church  
Gungutola, Ranchi  
Bihar, INDIA

Dear Brother Lakra:

Indeed, you should have received an answer to your letter of April 24th since long. The reason why I did not write yet was, that I was in the same situation as you are: in my various files I could not yet find your manuscript, which you kindly sent me last year. Too bad. However, I do not give up hope, that one day it will emerge again, and that I will be able at that time to send it back to you.

With regard to your letter concerning the aged Mrs. Schmidt, there was nothing to answer at the moment, as I knew you would sympathize with the family and write to the children.

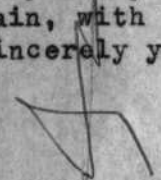
Regarding the pensions the Gossner Mission here in Berlin has no competence for paying pensions of the autonomous Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church of Chotanagpur and Assam face to face with the definitive resolutions of the KSS. We promised our help and realized it. We gave our advice through Inspector Seeberg, the KSS remained on its resolutions, and thus we are without any further possibilities. Dear Brother Lakra, please understand our position. We have to respect the independence of the grown up child. The G.E.L. Church has to know, what it does and resolves.

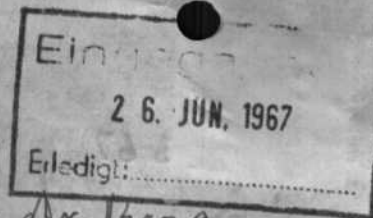
I was very glad to hear, that you feel strong enough to act as a chairman of the Relief Committee in the district Ranchi, certainly a strenuous task, as you have to encounter need and misery. May our heavenly father help in the terrible tragedy of thousands and millions of hungry and starving people in your state Bihar.

We deem the behaviour of the Roman Catholics in the Lohardaga area irresponsible, and it was good, that you formally protested at the archbishop. I informed the headquarters of BREAD FOR THE WORLD about the fact, that only Catholics receive food there, as this organization gave thousands of tons of rice for India since last year. They will discuss the matter with the leading men of the Catholic Church also here in Germany. It is a shame for disciples of Jesus Christ, who call themselves after His Name, to forget His example and commandments.

Finally, I am looking forward to your possible visit next year to Germany, dear Brother Lakra, in order to see your daughter. Mini would be very glad to see you, and also Mrs. Berg and I would be very glad to have you as a guest in our house one day. May the Lord give you strength and health, so that you may realize this voyage. Looking forward to seeing you, I remain, with brotherly greetings,

Very sincerely yours,





G. E. L. Church  
Ranchi  
21/6/67

Dear Dr. Berg,

I expected to hear from you after I had informed you that I wrote to the son of Old Rev. Schmidt once my teacher and Principal of the Gossner High School condoling the death of old Mrs Schmidt a special friend of my own sister who was a famous teacher at Bethesda Girls Primary School. I hope you received that letter of mine.

Now I take this opportunity to inform you that the KSS has finally decided not to increase my pension from 25% of the salary. I had represented the case to the KSS and had informed you and some other German leaders in Germany

how difficult it was to live on 25% for later generation they propose upto 50% which is fair and is prevalent in India. But for us who retire upto 1970, the KSS finally decided only 25% which will remain a grievance of Pastors retiring upto 1970. Before Brother Seaberg left India we met together and he had told me that he recommended raising of the 25% and that the Kuratorium would contribute for higher percentage. I wonder if the KSS contacted the Kuratorium. Even some members of the LWK wrote to me to say that they would recommend higher percentage. They said they would write to you. So far I have heard that the system of pension as adopted by the KSS is proving unworkable. Perhaps

There is defect in the system which decided not to raise the percentage. If so they must overhaul the system.

May I remind you that I had submitted to you a short sketch of my life. Kindly get it typed in the office and send a copy to me. In my previous letter I had made this request.

The whole of Bihar State is by this time a scarcity area and there is acute suffering among the masses. I joined the Bihar Relief Committee of the Government and am Chairman of the Ranchi District Committee. At many places we have started free feeding once a day. The Roman Catholics in the Lohardaga area feed only the Roman Christians. Therefore 21 Lutheran families in that area joined the Roman Church just to get food. We have protested to the R.C. Archbishop Pray for us. It is very difficult time. May God keep us all. Kind regards. Yours very sincerely J. Lakra

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION  
हवाई पत्र  
AEROGARME



The Rev. Dr. C. Berg, Director  
Gossner Mission Society  
1 Berlin 41 Friedenau  
Handjerystr 19/20  
West Germany

SECOND FOLD  
NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Padma Shri Rev. J. Lakra  
G.E.L. Church  
Gungutola Ranchi  
Bihar INDIA

Elmhurst, Ind.

28 APR. 1967

E. L. Church  
Ranchi

24/4/67

Dear Mr. Berg

Many thanks for yours of the 11<sup>th</sup> April which conveyed to me the news of Mrs. Schmidt's demise. I deeply cherished the names of Principal and Mrs. Schmidt. Rev. Schmidt admitted me to the Gossner High School in 1910 when I came to Ranchi from Lohardaga after completing my Middle English. I still remember him teaching me Bible in English. The Schmidts left India from Ranchi in 1915. Mrs. Schmidt was a special friend of my elder sister Miss Pharamania Lakra once Headmistress of Bethesda Girls School died in 1960. Mrs. Schmidt taught my sister violin for which my sister was ever grateful to her.

I calculated Mrs. Schmidt's age to be nearly 87 years. I got the news announced from the pulpit for those over 80 many who remembered Mrs. Schmidt. Throughout the Gossner Church. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt entered into rest but this

work is still bringing forth fruit in India. I met them at Aldorf and preached in the church.

I have written to Mr. Joel Schmidt at Sommerhausen. I hope he has received it by this time. While at Ranchi the Schmidts had no children. With my condolences I have recorded my memories about his parents and my appreciation of their works.

I had several private visits with Pastor Seeberg and Dr. Vogel. In one of the meetings held with the Congregation I told Dr. Vogel that the Gossner Church is fast forgetting the beautiful German hymns but we want to keep them intact, how could the mother church ~~and~~ help us. Dr. Vogel at once said "next time I come to India only to teach music!"

I am glad Mini is settled down. But yet Herbert and Mini continue to be your charge.

At present I am helping the Church through Bible classes. I spent the Holy Week at Govindpur teaching Homiletics to the students of Fabilla and Pracharak Tr. Schools. Very often I am asked to baptise new converts in difficult areas.

My pension has not been adjusted. I am <sup>still</sup> paid the 25% as stated. Pastor Seeberg's letter has not <sup>yet</sup> been considered. Bihar is the worst scarcity area in India. The worst months are ahead of us.

By the bye, you remember I sent a copy of my life sketch to you to make use of it, if you wanted. Now my copy here is misplaced and it is on demand by various biographers, Christians and non-Christians. I would request you to kindly get a typed copy and be pleased to send the same to me at your earliest convenience. Perhaps the copy can be made in the Mission Office.

I entirely agree with you that "the Lord's blessings will grow in India" and the Gossner Church must exert herself for the same. I shall do my part in the great task, by the grace of God.

Hindost regards,

Ever in the Lord

Yours

J. Lakra

Padmasheet,

Rev. J. Lakra, M. A. (North Western Chicago)

B. D., S. T. M., Ex-M. L. C. (Bihar)

RANCHI.

BY AIRMAIL  
PAR AVION  
हवाई पत्र  
AEROGRAMME



The Rev. Dr. Director C. Berg  
Gossner Mission  
1 Berlin 41  
Hamelnstr. 19-20  
West Germany.

SECOND FOLD  
NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:-

Padmasheet Rev. J. Lakra  
G. E. C. Church  
Gunigutola, Ranchi  
Bihar, India

April 11th, 1967  
drbg/go

Rev. Joel Lakra  
G.E.L. Church Compound  
Ranchi /Bihar  
I N D I A

Dear Brother Lakra:

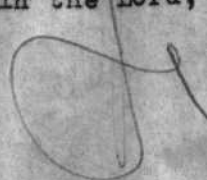
Today I am glad to have an occasion to write to you, although it is a sad one. During these days I received the news, that Mrs. Emmy Schmidt née Hoffmann, the wife of your old teacher Christoph Schmidt, who was <sup>a missionary</sup> ~~employed~~ in Ranchi from 1905 to 1915, has passed away on April 1st.

I received the information from Joel Schmidt, 8701 Sommerhausen, Erlacher Strasse 306. He asked me to inform you in Ranchi about this fact, as after the world war on your voyage in Germany you visited Rev. Christoph Schmidt in Altdorf near Nürnberg. I think you will want to express your condolence to your old teacher's children, and you will gratefully remember, what you received for your theological training and your service in the Gossner Church from Rev. Christoph Schmidt.

Your daughter Mini must be a busy housewife now, as we rarely see her in the Gossner House. Of course, she came to see and speak with Rev. Seeberg, when he came home from Chotanagpur in the middle of March.

The visit of Professor Vogel and Rev. Seeberg in the G.E.L. Church was an occasion for us to think gratefully and gladly of all of you. Certainly, their reports mean much work and new considerations for us, but we are glad to do that, as we are sure that the Lord's blessings will grow in India, and we hope also you, dear Brother Lakra, will participate in it in your retirement.

With kindest regards and best wishes,  
Yours in the Lord,



February 20th, 1967  
drbg/go

Rev. Joel Lakra  
GEL Church Compound  
Ranchi, Bihar  
I N D I A

Dear Brother Lakra:

As I suppose you are anxiously waiting for news of the day, when your daughter Mini married, I want to write you immediately about Friday, the 17th of February. We had a beautiful festival together, and I participated in the celebration instead of you. We made a lot of photos, which we will send you as soon as possible.

Rev. Müller from Tempelhof, who had confirmed Hubert Linthe and his sisters, led the wedding and preached very impressively about Colossians 3, 12-16. We also sang the Adivasi hymn: "Praise the Lord..", many Gossner friends participated in the celebration in the church.

At the wedding meal I spoke the toast for the young couple, gave them the blessings and a gift from the Kuratorium (a kitchen machine to make the housework easier), and I told them about the curriculum vitae and the importance of Mini's father Joel Lakra until the conferring of an order by President Radhakrishnan, so that the relatives and friends -about 20- should receive an impression of the young bride's origin.

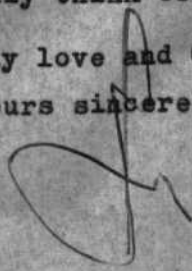
The whole well educated family Linthe accepted your daughter very cordially, and we let Mini know that also the Gossner House should mean a kind of home for her.

Then in the evening for about an hour I showed 75 pictures of India and especially of the Gossner Church in Chotanagpur. The guests liked it very much, as it gave them an impression of the bride's home and background.

I hope, dear Brother Lakra, that your daughter as a member of the family Linthe may be protected and graciously led by the Lord on her future way of life. It was perhaps sad for you to be so far away from your daughter's wedding celebration, but you will have sought and found strength and comfort in your prayers to the Lord. -

Now Professor Vogel and Rev. Seeberg have left Ranchi, and I hope that the Gossner Church will gratefully think of their visit as a blessing.

With brotherly love and Christian greetings, I remain,  
Yours sincerely,



Lieber Bruder Lebere!

(Lieber)

20. II. 1962

Ich möchte Ihnen, da Sie sicher sehr eifrig auf Nachricht von dem Tag der  
Jahreszeit Ihrer lieben Tochter Maria am vergangenen Freitag den 17. Februar  
war, (sogar schreiben, daß sie einen schönen Festtag miteinander feierten  
und ich in Ihre Werbung an der jungen Frau teil nehme, so möchte viele  
Bilder gemacht, die Sie sicher sobald als möglich empfangen werden.

Pastor Müller-Tempelhof meinte die Trauung vor und sprach sehr eindrucklich  
als Kolosser 3, <sup>der Herr hat die Liebe als sein größtes Konsumat</sup> 12-16. Wir saßen auf der Adressen-Synode, lobt den Herrn...  
und eine Reihe von Jostens-Freunden nahmen an der Feier in der Kirche teil.

Seine Trauung war in der Nacht auf den jungen Paar auch, übertraf die Trauung  
mindestens die Trauung und war ein etwas von dem Brautpaar in der Festlichkeit  
von Maria's Vater Joel Lebere bis zu seiner Ordination die Trauung  
Raddelbrüder, damit die etwa 20 koreanischen Freunde einen Eindruck von  
der Zukunft der jungen Braut bekommen.

Die junge, sehr gebildete Familie Linke hat Ihre Tochter sehr herzlich aufgenommen  
und wir haben Maria gerne lassen und gesagt, daß sie auch mit uns die Jostens-Fest  
als eine Bräutlichkeit aufnehmen dürfte.

Abend haben wir dann noch einen Brief lang 75 Bilder von Indien und besonders  
die Jostens-Körbe in Chotanagpur gezeigt, wo die Festlichkeiten sehr dankbar auf  
nehmen, weil wir Ihnen einen Eindruck von der äußeren und der geistlichen Seite  
der Braut verschaffen.

Es ist so, daß Ihr Kind, lieber Bruder Lebere, auch sehr viel und <sup>als Kind</sup> der Familie  
Linke in ihrem zukünftigen Leben sehr glücklich werden möchte. Für Sie  
in der Ferne sind die Tage sehr eifrig verlaufen, aber Sie werden sicher im selbst  
zu sich Haltung und Galt gesucht und gefunden haben. — —

Maria und Professor Vogel und Pastor Döring haben mich von Seoul geschickt  
Ich hoffe, daß die Jostens-Körbe dankbar an ihre Festlichkeit zurückkehren und dadurch  
glücklich werden.

Mit herzlichen, brüderlichen Grüßen  
Ihr Christen Berg

Friedrich Schlegel (ein Kriegerkreuz  
zur Erinnerung an den Feldzug)

### Schließung von Kirchen in China bestätigt

epd Rüslikon (Schweiz), 11. Februar 67. Die Berichte von der Schließung der christlichen Kirchen auf dem chinesischen Festland sind von einem Missionar des Südlichen Baptistenkonvents während eines Besuches im Baptistischen Theologischen Seminar in Rüslikon bei Zürich bestätigt worden. George Wilson, stellvertretender Exekutivsekretär des Baptistenverbandes von Hongkong, berichtete weiter, es gebe genügend Hinweise dafür, daß sich einzelne Chinesen, ja ganze Familien in der Chinesischen Volksrepublik noch zum Christentum bekennen, doch sei die Zahl der Denunzianten so groß, daß jeder, der seinen christlichen Glauben praktiziere, damit rechnen müsse, in kürzester Zeit den Behörden gemeldet zu werden, selbst von Mitgliedern seiner eigenen Familie.

Nach den Angaben des amerikanischen Missionars gibt es in Hongkong gegenwärtig etwa 20.000 Baptisten. Trotz der geringen Entfernung zu der kommunistischen Einflußsphäre herrsche keinerlei Unruhe unter den Christen in Hongkong oder den ausländischen Missionaren.

### Paul Verghese kehrt nach Indien zurück

Übernahme der Leitung eines syrisch-orthodoxen Prieserseminars

epd Genf, 11. Februar 67. Vater Paul Verghese, Beigeordneter Generalsekretär des Ökumenischen Rates der Kirchen und Direktor der Abteilung für ökumenische Aktivität, ist von der Heiligen Synode der Syrischen Orthodoxen Kirche mit der Leitung ihres Theologischen Seminars in Kottayam (Kerala, Indien) beauftragt worden. Verghese scheidet Ende August aus dem Genfer Mitarbeiterstab aus und übernimmt seine neue Aufgabe am 1. Oktober. Vater Paul Verghese war im Dezember 1965 zum Bischof gewählt worden, hatte jedoch seinerzeit darum gebeten, seine Weihe um mindestens zehn Jahre zu verschieben.

Das Seminar in Kottayam ist die Hauptausbildungsstätte für den Priesternachwuchs der Syrischen Orthodoxen Kirche. Als eines der ältesten theologischen Colleges in Indien feierte es im Jahre 1965 sein 150jähriges Bestehen. Seit kurzem ist es der Universität Serampur angegliedert und damit berechtigt, den theologischen "Bachelor-of-Divinity"-Grad zu verleihen.

### Britisches Hilfswerk unterstützt katholische Entwicklungshilfe

epd London, 11. Februar 67. "Christian Aid", das Hilfswerk des Britischen Kirchenrates, hat der Katholischen Stiftung für Entwicklung in Übersee einen Betrag von 10.000 Pfund zur Verfügung gestellt. "Christian Aid" würdigt damit die wachsende Beteiligung römisch-katholischer Christen an der einmal jährlich im Rahmen der "Christian Aid"-Woche durchgeführten Kollekte. - Der Betrag ist für gewisse Projekte bestimmt, die die Katholische Stiftung auf ausdrücklichen Wunsch von "Christian Aid" zusammenstellte und vorlegte. Es handelt sich um landwirtschaftliche, medizinische und andere Unternehmen in Afrika, Südindien und Lateinamerika.

Als Nachfolger des kürzlich verstorbenen Bischofs Santos Molina hat die Synode der Spanischen Episkopalkirche Dekan Ramon Taibo (Madrid) zum neuen Bischof gewählt. Bischof Taibo ist 56 Jahre alt; er wurde in der römisch-katholischen Kirche getauft, war Laien-Prediger in der Presbyterianischen Kirche und wurde später in der Episkopalkirche gefirmt. Zuletzt war er als Seelsorger in Madrid tätig.

(epd)

Eingegangen  
Director Dr. Bage, 14. OKT. 1966

Raja Bungelow,  
L.E.L. Church Compound  
P.O. Ranchi, Bihar  
India  
10<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1966

3.A.

Dear Sir,

Dr Bage is too busy and so he told me to write to you again. I believe you must have received my letter <sup>by</sup> which I informed you that the Pass port granted to me is valid for Belgium, Netherlands, Luxemburg, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, Lebanon and Arab Republics.

I have written to the Manager, B.O.A.C., Calcutta to send me all the informations and forms in connection with getting visas.

I am even gathering all the informations regarding our tribal culture - songs, dances, Parha and Panchayats (village organizations-social and administration) so that in case I am required to deliver a lecture on Tribal culture etc. I may do full justice to it. The Director of All India Radio, Ranchi has been pleased to dub a few Classical Hindavi music in a tape of 1200 ft.

His grace, the Arch Bishop (Catholic) has also given me a letter in case of now which be of some help in Catholic countries.

P. F. D.

3391 TXD 1  
Hope you will soon arrange for my  
flight if it has not been done already.  
Kind regards & good wishes attain you.

Yours Sincerely.

W. H. L. S.  
10/10/66

Discrete, Dr. Berg.

Gossner House

1, Berlin (Friedenau)

Handytraffic 19-20.

West-Germany

GOSSNER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CHOTANAGPUR & ASSAM.

Ref. No. 646/66.

From :- Rev. Dr. M. Bage,  
Premukh Adhyaksh,  
G.E.L. Church.

To,

Rev. J. Lakra &  
Rev. J. A. Kujur.

Ranchi, the 1st. September '66.

Ref :- Their letter of 25.8.66 addressed to the  
undersigned.

Dear Brethren,

I regret that you have not yet been paid the  
pension for last months. I am writing to the Treasurer that this  
must be immediately attended to.

Yours sincerely,

*M. Bage*  
( M. Bage ),  
Premukh Adhyaksh, G.E.L.  
Church, Ranchi.

C.C. to :-

1. Rev. C. B. Minz, Chairman, Pension Committee,
- ✓ 2. Dr. Ch. Berg, Director, Gossner Mission,
3. Secretary, K. S. S.

DT.

Rev. Dr. M. Bage  
Pramukh Adhyaksh  
G.E.L. Church Compound

Ranchi /Bihar  
I N D I A

P. Seeberg 3 RHA

Sg 27/9

*amerikas*  
Betrifft: Bittschrift von Präsident Joel Lakra  
an den Herrn Landesbischof D. Dr. Lilje

Lieber Bruder Bage!

*Abf.*  
*als*  
Wegen der Lage der ab 1. Juni 1966 nach den neuen Regulationen der Gossnerkirche pensionierten Pastoren hat sich Rev. Joel Lakra u.a. auch bittend an Herrn Landesbischof D. Dr. Lilje, Hannover, gewandt. Selbstverständlich hat dieser im Gossner Haus nach den näheren Umständen über den Pensionsfonds und seine Regulationen zurückfragen lassen. Wir haben dem Herrn Landesbischof so ausführlich und detailliert wie möglich die Vorgeschichte und das Funktionieren des Pensionsfonds geschildert und davon abgeraten, seinerseits persönlich etwas zu veranlassen. Gleichwohl hat der Herr Landesbischof angesichts der wirklich ganz bescheidenen monatlichen Pensionen ~~und~~ völlig verständlicher Weise geltend gemacht, es möchte eine positive Hilfe für die jetzt betroffenen Ruheständler erreicht werden. Auch diese Frage wird darum Herr Missionsinspektor P. Seeberg anlässlich seines Kommens mit Ihnen und evtl. dem KSS erörtern. Um der dringenden Bitte des Herrn Landesbischof im Augenblick zu entsprechen, wäre ich geneigt, einen Betrag von 2.000,-- Rps. zu übersenden, der jetzt eine einmalige Hilfe und zu gleichen Teilen unter alle pensionierten Pastoren zu verteilen wäre. Das scheint gerechtfertigt angesichts der verschärften Ernährungssituation dieses Jahres in Indien und der in die Höhe geschnellten Preise für den täglichen Bedarf. Wenn Sie und die Brüder des KSS keine grundsätzlichen Einwendungen haben, können Sie diesen Betrag schon sogleich - wie gesagt, als einmalige Hilfe - auszahlen lassen und mich mit wenigen Zeilen wissen lassen, daß das geschehen ist. Dann wird das Gossner Haus Ihnen diesen Betrag sofort erstatten.

Ich möchte glauben, daß der Bischof der Evang.-luth. Landeskirche Hannovers außerordentlich erfreut wäre, wenn wir im jetzigen Augenblick auf diese Weise in dem Konflikt zwischen der notwendigen und möglichen Gerechtigkeit und der tatsächlichen notvollen Situation der vor kurzem pensionierten Amtsbrüder einen gangbaren Weg finden würden.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen  
bin ich Ihr

*Opie: N. Anusinden, Herrn Landesbischof J. Dr. Lilje*  
*L. Sup. Peters-Celle*

*(mit nat. gelbe Copie f. P. Seeberg)*

b.w.

Kopie

- 1) Sekretariat des Herrn Landesbischof D.Dr. Lilje, Hannover,  
zu dessen Unterrichtung (betr. Brief vom 31.8.1966)  
mit ehrerbietigen Grüßen an den Herrn Landesbischof.
- 2) Schatzmeister der Gossnerkirche
- 3) gelbe Kopie
- 4) L.S. Peters, Celle (Kopie für L.S. Peters nicht auf der Kopie  
für den Herrn Landesbischof vermerken)

drbg/or

Berlin, 26 September 1966

Rev. Dr. M. Bage  
Pramukh Adhyaksh  
G.E.L. Church Compound

Ranchi / BIHAR  
INDIA

Sg 2419

Subject: Request of President Emeritus Joel Lakra to Landesbischof D.Dr.Lilje

Dear Brother Bage,

Rev. J. Lakra has also written to Landesbischof D. Dr. Lilje / Hannover concerning the new regulations of the Gossner Church for retired pastors with effect from 1st June 1966. Landesbischof D. Dr. Lilje has, of course, made inquiries here in the Gossnerhouse regarding further details about the pension fund and its regulations. We have informed him as much as possible about the past history and the function of the pension fund and have asked him not to take any personal measures. He has, however, requested us - with regard to the really very modest monthly pensions - to reach a positive decision as to the support of the retired pastors. Mission-Inspector Seeberg will, therefore, discuss this matter with you and perhaps with the KSS during his forthcoming visit to India.

In order to meet the urgent request of Landesbischof Lilje at the moment, I should be willing to send you a single sum of Rs. 2000,-- which should be distributed among all retired pastors equally. I think that this seems to be justified concerning the bad situation in India this year and the increased prices for daily living. If you and the brothers of the KSS do not have any fundamental objections to it, you could have the money paid to the concerned persons immediately. As mentioned above, this would be a single payment. I should be grateful to receive some lines from you if payment has been made. The Gossnerhouse would, then, send you the money at once.

I believe that the Bischof of the Ev. luth. Church of Hannover would be very glad if by this a way could be found at this moment to help the retired pastors in their bad situation.

With kind regards,  
Yours Sincerely,

cc/Sekretariat des Herrn Landesbischof  
D. Dr. Lilje / Hannover

zu dessen Unterrichtung (betr. Brief v.  
31.8.66) mit ehrerbietigen Grüßen  
cc/Treasurer of the Gossner Church

cc/ Herr Lenz

cc/ Herrn Landessuperintendent Peters/Celle

Office of the President  
THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
422 SOUTH FIFTH STREET  
MINNEAPOLIS 15, MINNESOTA

Eing 00000000

26 SEP 1966

Encl: 1

September 21, 1966

The Reverend Joel Lakra  
Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Church Compound  
Ranchi, Bihar, India

Dear Pastor Lakra:

I have read your letter of August 12 with care.

I have also had an opportunity to read Dr. Sovik's letter to you under date of August 1. I notice Dr. Sovik has sent a copy of his letter to Director Christian Berg of the Gossner Mission Society.

If any change is to be made in your status, it would, of course, have to be made by the Gossner Mission Society which has, through the years, carried a supporting relationship to the Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church and its workers.

You raise the question whether I could not find some friend who would be glad to supplement your income. You, of course, know that through the many contacts I have had through the years, there are people from all parts of the world who ask questions of this kind. On the other hand, our own Church has had to carry the responsibility for support of work in twelve different areas of Latin America, Africa and Asia. These last several years our budget has not been fully realized. Consequently any time that I may talk with someone who can be encouraged to give something extra, I have to invite him to direct such support to the regular budget of the Church.

I don't know whether the policy of the Gossner Church is such that it can do nothing further to supplement your pension, but in order to bring this to the attention of the Gossner Mission anew, I am sending a copy of this letter to Director Berg, as well as to Dr. Sovik.

Yours in Christ,

FAS:nk

Fredrik A. Schiotz

cc - Dr. Arne Sovik  
Dir. Chr. Berg

FOLD SIDES OVER AND THEN FOLD BOTTOM UP  
MOISTEN FLAP WELL AND APPLY PRESSURE TO SEAL

NO ENCL

Office of the President  
THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN  
422 SOUTH FIFTH STREET  
MINNEAPOLIS 15, MINNESOTA



Director Christian Berg  
Gossner Mission Society  
Handjerystr. 19/20  
Berling-Friedenau, GERMANY

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD

DO NOT USE TAPE OR STICKERS TO SEAL  
STICKERS PERMITTED

from Padma shi Rev. J. Hanna

President Emeritus G. E. C. Ranchin  
to Director Dr. Christian Berg Gossner Mission Berlin.  
25 Sept. 1, 1966

Dear Dr. Berg,

Perhaps it is my turn to write to you. It is now three months from June I have not been paid a single pice for my maintenance and this is the most trying time period of the famine in India. The salaries of all the Church workers have been increased from June and the children are being fed from German Relief, but the salaries of the six or seven retired Pastors were stopped from the same month of June and no pension is paid. We have been left in the lurch either to sink or to swim.

I cannot speak of other retired Pastors, but I can let you know of myself. My expense on my retirement is not reduced, rather it has gone higher up with the famine condition in India, prices of all articles having soared high up. I have to educate three of my sons at Colleges. Thus my burden is more than before my retirement.

According to the practice of the Gossner Church we were not prepared to retire. Our practice was not to retire but to remain in service unto the end and draw the usual

salary unto the end, though the salary was just enough for our daily bread and never for saving for old age.

On the introduction of retirement in June with no pension, I found that it was getting impossible to make the two ends meet. I must starve with my family or think of some way and means of support. I approached three or four private and personal friends of mine to contribute something towards the support of my family. Some of them have written to me to tell that Mission Inspector Seeberg would come to India in November next and will help fix a higher rate of pension. I must thank them for the information, but my problem is right now when I am getting nothing. The KSS is not sitting until the formation of the new KSS in November. Thus the Central administration of the Church seems to be at a stand still. I must starve or beg until the matter is decided by the new KSS after seven or eight months even more, with the help of Brother Seeberg.

In the circumstances, I approach you also not as the Director, but as a private and personal friend to contribute something towards my maintenance.

maintenance and oblige.

With kindest regards,

Yours in the Lord  
J. Lakra  
1/9/66

BY AIRMAIL  
PAR AVION  
हवाई पत्र  
AEROGRAMME



The Rev. Dr. Christian Berg  
Director Gossner Mission

Eingegangen 1000 Berlin 41

- 7. SEP. 1966

Erliegt:

Handjerystrasse 19/20  
W. Germany.

SECOND FOLD

NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:-

Padma Shri Rev. J. Lakra  
G.E.C. Church  
Ranchi Bihar  
India

J. Lakra

15. August 1966  
drbg/el.

An die  
Kanzlei des Landesbischofs  
z.Hd. Herrn Pastor Hube

3 Hannover  
Calenberger Str. 34

P. Seeburg  
3. Mitnahme des Hubschoppers  
nach Ranchi im November  
in Vorbereitung d.d.

Jhy 15/8

Betrifft: Rev. J. Lakra, Ranchi, Indien  
Ihr Schreiben vom 10.8.1966 - 3139/66 Hu/Ha -

Sehr geehrter Herr Pastor Hube!

Ich möchte Ihnen mit herzlichem Dank den Eingang des Schreibens bestätigen, das Sie im Auftrag des hochwürdigen Herrn Landesbischof mit der Bitte von Rev. J. Lakra an uns gerichtet haben. Ich will mich sogleich bemühen, in dieser komplizierten Angelegenheit zu antworten und bin sicher, daß Sie den Herrn Landesbischof nach seiner Rückkehr von den wesentlichen Punkten meiner Antwort, mit ehrerbietigen Grüßen an ihn, unterrichten werden.

- 1) Nach langjährigen Bemühungen hat die Leitung der "Evang.-luth. Gossnerkirche von Chotanagpur und Assam" in diesem Frühjahr die lange anstehende Pensionsregelung für ihre Pastoren in Kraft gesetzt. Berater waren dabei der erfahrene Asien-Sekretär von der Abteilung für Weltmission des Lutherischen Weltbundes in Genf, Rev. Ishida, sowie Robert Montag, der Finanzberater der Gossnerkirche und Anfang 1965 von Superintendent Hafermann aus London entsandte Kirchenälteste der dortigen Marien-Gemeinde.

Da wesentliche Beiträge zu diesem Pensionsfonds von den Pastoren der Gossnerkirche selbst nicht angesammelt waren bzw. werden konnten angesichts ihrer geringen Gehälter, bestimmte die Pensionsregelung, daß zunächst nur 25 % des letzten Gehaltes an die Pensionäre ausbezahlt werden könnte. Das ist natürlich eine bittere Zahl, aber nur so konnte verantwortlicherweise überhaupt begonnen werden, den aus dem Amt scheidenden Dienern der Kirche das Minimum ihrer Existenz im Alter zu sichern.

Die Gossner Mission hat sich auf Antrag der Kirchenleitung in Ranchi bereiterklärt, in ihrem Budget jährlich in den nächsten Jahren 20.000,— DM (jetzt ca. 35.000,— Rps) für diesen Pensionsfonds beizutragen. Die ersten Zahlungen sind von uns geleistet.

- 2) Was die Person und Bitte Rev. J. Lakra betrifft, so ist folgendes zu sagen:
  - a) Er hat die gleiche Bitte um Unterstützung an Dr. Sovik, Genf, Missionsdirektor D. Pörksen, Hamburg, und natürlich an das Gossner Haus in Berlin, gerichtet.

- b) Peinlich ist, daß er jedesmal nur für sich selbst gebeten hat, obwohl sieben andere Amtsbrüder mit ihm, die das siebzigste Jahr überschritten haben, pensioniert wurden.
- c) Gerechterweise muß freilich gesagt werden, daß er vorher einen grundsätzlichen Protest gegen die Pensionsregelung an seine Kirchenleitung geschickt hat. Wie diese darauf geantwortet hat, weiß ich bis zur Stunde nicht. Es kann sein, daß dieser Einspruch noch nicht behandelt wurde, was ich daraus entnehme, daß ab 1. Juni 1966 die Pensionierung in Kraft gesetzt wurde und die verminderten Zahlungen begannen.
- d) Rev. Lakra steht ungleich besser da als seine mitbetroffenen Amtsbrüder. Nach dem Gehaltssystem der Gossnerkirche empfing er über 300,- Rps monatlich, während die anderen auf ein Monatsgehalt von nicht viel mehr als 100,- Rps kamen. Es muß auch von ihm gesagt werden, daß er einen gewissen Rückhalt hat, weil er aus einem ihm zu Abgaben verpflichteten Dorf in Chotanagpur in nicht ganz geringem Umfang Naturlieferungen in Reis etc. erhält.

Soweit die Tatbestände, lieber Amtsbruder Hube, aus der Sie die wesentlichen Fakten erkennen. Sie werden verstehen, daß die autonome Kirche ihre Regelung nach bestem Vermögen und unter Beratung von Fachleuten getroffen hat. An uns, der Gossner Mission, war es, unterstützend einzuspringen. Wir haben der Bitte der Gossnerkirche entsprochen, unsererseits die oben erwähnte Summe für den Pensionsfonds beizusteuern.

Trotzdem werde ich Herrn Missionsinspektor P. Seeberg bitten, im kommenden Winter diese ganze Frage noch einmal mit der Leitung der Gossnerkirche zu erwägen und etwaige Verbesserungen zu erreichen, wenn er sich im Auftrag des Kuratoriums Mitte November zu einem mehrmonatigen Besuch der Gossnerkirche nach Indien begibt.

Ich hoffe, daß Sie den Herrn Landesbischof auf Grund des Gesagten ausreichend informieren können. Ich könnte nicht raten, daß er seinerseits eine besondere Hilfe unternimmt, zu der es ihn auf Grund seiner Verbundenheit mit Amtsbruder Lakra drängen möchte, weil die Solidarität mit den in gleicher Weise betroffenen Amtsbrüdern in der Gossnerkirche dadurch wahrscheinlich tangiert werden würde.

Mit brüderlichen Grüßen  
bin ich Ihr

(Missionsdirektor Dr. Berg)

KANZLEI DES LANDESBISCHOF'S

3 Hannover , den 10. August 1966

Calenberger Straße 34  
Fernruf 1 53 12

- 3139/66 Hu/Ha -

An den Direktor  
der G O S S N E R - M I S S I O N

Herrn Kirchenrat Dr. Berg

1 B e r l i n 41

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Handjerystr. 19/20

Eingegangen

1 2. AUG. 1966

Erfledigt:.....

*Betr. J. Lakra*

Sehr verehrter Herr Kirchenrat!

Im Auftrage von Herrn Landesbischof D. Dr. Lilje übersende ich  
/ Ihnen in der Anlage die Fotokopie eines Briefes, den der ehemalige  
Präsident der G.E.L. Church, Ranchi, Rev. J. Lakra, am 24. Juni  
hierher gesandt hat. Der Herr Landesbischof wäre der Gossner-  
Mission außerordentlich dankbar, wenn über die Altersversorgung  
von Präs. Rev. Lakra eine grundsätzliche Regelung getroffen werden  
könnte, so daß sein Lebensunterhalt gesichert wird.

Präsident Lakra hat von hier aus lediglich einen Zwischenbescheid  
erhalten. Der Herr Landesbischof würde es aber begrüßen, wenn die  
weiteren Verhandlungen unmittelbar von Ihnen aus geführt werden  
könnten.

Mit freundlichem Gruß

Ihr Ihnen sehr ergebener

*Hube*

Hube, Pastor

*P. Seeborg*  
*Parkson, Lovik, Ed — passed w/ offhand?*  
*What Paul can fill? 3. The 16th in the long run*

*Aug 5/8*

August 1, 1966

The Rev. Joel Lakra  
Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Church Compound  
Ranchi, Bihar, India

- 4. AUG. 1966

Dear Pastor Lakra:

Dr. Schiotz has referred to me for answer your letter of June 18 asking if some arrangement could be made to provide that in your retirement you continue to receive the same income as you have received during the last years of your service. Actually, as you will understand there is really nothing the LWF can do to make a special arrangement of this kind. We understand that through the generosity of the Gossner Mission pension payments are being made according to a set scale to retired and retiring pastors of the GELC. I take it that inasmuch as your salary has been the highest in the church your pension will also be considerably above that of other pastors. I hope that through the assistance of your children the needs of which you write will in some way be met.

You have had by God's grace a long service in your church. I trust that He will also give you happiness as you turn over responsibilities entirely to younger hands. Do you plan to do any writing of memoirs or perhaps of other materials that would be of historical value? If so I should be glad to have a chance to read them.

Sincerely yours,

Arne Sovik

AS/lb

cc: Dr. F. Schiotz

bc: Dr. Chr. Berg

HANNOVER, den 31. August 1966



Herrn

Missionsdirektor Dr. B e r g

1 B e r l i n 41

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Handjerystraße 19/20

*Sg 9/9*

Sehr verehrter Herr Amtsbruder!

Sehr herzlich möchte ich Ihnen dafür danken, daß Sie so ausführlich zu der schwierigen Frage der Altersversorgung von Rev. J. Lakra / Ranchi Stellung genommen haben. Mit Freude habe ich zur Kenntnis genommen, daß Sie sich bemühen, alle Pensionäre in gerechter Parität zu behandeln, so daß ich eigentlich keinen Anlaß habe, mich in weitere Einzelheiten einzumischen. Trotzdem habe ich die Freiheit, nochmals zu bitten, die Frage positiv zu erörtern. Die Summe, die für die Pensionen zur Verfügung steht, ist sehr gering. Wenn ich bedenke, daß ein Ruhestandsgehalt in der modernen Vorstellung geradezu selbstverständlich ist, würde ich es sehr begrüßen, wenn eine stärkere finanzielle Hilfe für die Ruheständler erreicht werden könnte.

Aus den genannten Gründen der Parität möchte ich zunächst davon absehen, besondere Aktionen von hier aus zu veranlassen. Für eine wohlwollende Prüfung meiner Bitte wäre ich Ihnen sehr dankbar.

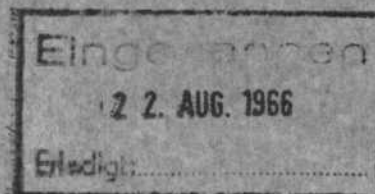
Mit herzlichem Gruß

Ihr

*Lilje.*

19th August, 1966

Rev. J. Lakra  
Gossner Evangelical Lutheran  
Church  
Ranchi Bihar  
India



Dear President,  
Dear Brother Lakra,

Thank you very much for your letter of 27th July. Before I shall leave Hamburg for four weeks to go abroad I should like to answer your letter for which I am very grateful.

I fully agree with you, dear Brother Lakra, that your pension is not sufficient. It is impossible for you to live on this pension. However, I am very glad, indeed, that this question is going to be answered by your church and that there will be a slight pay-increase for pensions. Even then you will not be able to make ends meet. You will be wanting more money.

Do you not consider it a way out if your sons are given scholarships? Due to your former presidency there certainly must be ways and means to obtain either from the church or from the Gossner Mission financial aid for your sons as long as they are at the college.

You will understand that I cannot, by any means, anticipate the decision of the Gossner Church. Furthermore, I cannot, because of our friendship, try to obtain an old-age pension for you only, whereas there are six retired pastors.

The only help I can give you at the moment is a single gift of DM 280,-- which shall be transferred to you within short.

I am sorry, I am not in a position to do more at present.

God bless you,

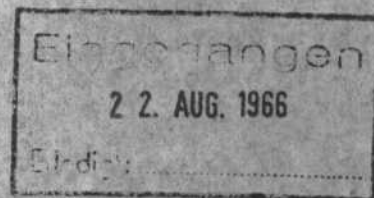
Yours,

P.

Pastor D. Dr. Martin Pörksen  
Hanseatischer Missionsdirektor  
HAMBURG 13, Mittelweg 143

15th July, 1966

Rev. J. Lakra  
Gossner Evangelical Lutheran  
Church  
Ranchi Bihar  
India



Dear President,  
Dear Brother Lakra,

Thank you very much for your letter of 23rd June. I was very glad to hear from you after quite a long time and was reminded of the many occasions when we met each other by God's grace.

I shall never forget those days in 1949 when you welcomed me in the Church of Ranchi, invited me to the Church Council Meeting and made me feel at home in the Gossner Church. Only a few days later I visited the church a second time, together with Prof. Ihmels. We covered great distances to preach the gospel. I remember you saying jokingly "We shall make you missionaries." Then you came over to Breklum for the Commission on World Mission Meeting. My wife remembers with pleasure when you delivered that big basket full of ripe mangoes. We met in Hanover at the Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation and on several other occasions.

Now I am deeply moved by your letter and I have pondered over the problem in which way to help you. I went to the Gossner-Mission when I was in Berlin the other day. Unfortunately Director Berg was just in England. As I did not want to put this matter off, I had extensive talks with Pastor Seeberg.

We agreed that a servant of God is "worthy of his hire". The pension, as a matter of fact, belongs to this hire.

However, we agreed also that this matter is first of all the concern of the Independent Church and we must be very careful not to anticipate the decisions of the Gossner Church. Any decision on this matter does not concern one pastor only, but all the six pastors of your church who live in retirement. If it concerns you it concerns the five brethren as well. If you are to be helped the others must be helped, too.

And last of all, we agreed that they all ought to be helped so that they at least reach the minimum level of existence. But as I mentioned before, it is quite impossible that one single person (I for example) takes the matter into his hands and helps one single pastor. It is for the Gossner Church to decide in this matter.

But I have some good news, too. With pleasure I learnt that the Church Council is going to consider this matter of pensions for retired pastors. Because they begin to realize that the status quo is quite unsatisfactory.

Furthermore, I was told by Brother Seeberg, that he is to go to India, still in 1966, and that he plans to stay several months with the Gosser Church. I am very glad about this, because many things can only be settled by private talks. There are problems which are very delicate and must be handled with utmost discretion.

I do write this letter with a heavy heart, Dear Brother Lakra. Because when I retire I shall receive, as a matter of fact, my old-age pension. I know that your life has been full of work and that you fully deserve a high old-age pension. But through the talks with Brother Seeberg I have gained full confidence that your matter not only rests in good hands with Brother Seeberg but that eventually it will come to a good end.

I want to add that, should you or should one of the other five pastors at any time be in a special calamity we in the Lutheran Church of Germany should do everything to help. You may be sure that at such a moment I would with great zeal come to your aid. For it is not right that in one country the pastors get their full old-age-pensions whereas in another country our brethren suffer need.

I would ask you, therefore, should any of you find himself in such a calamity do not hesitate to turn to the Lutheran Church in Germany for help.

God bless you,  
Yours,

There is one question to which both of us do not know the answer: Is there any possibility for one or the other of the six pastors to earn money by some kind of work or part-time job to reach the living wage?

17. August 1966  
drbg/el.

Kopie:

Herrn  
Landessuperintendent Peters

Herrn Schwerk, Fudi  
zur Kenntnisnahme.

31 C e l l e  
Altenhäger Kirchweg 20/22

Lieber Bruder Peters!

Ich möchte Ihnen doch gleich kurz sagen, wie dankbar wir dafür waren, daß Herr Ingenieur Goeze aus Wolfenbüttel, uns gestern und heute besucht hat und wir dadurch einen lebendigen Eindruck von dem zukünftigen Mitarbeiter unseres Bruders Schwerk in Fudi, erhielten. Das nähere Kennenlernen und die Gespräche über seine künftige Aufgabe ließen uns erkennen, einen wie qualifizierten und persönlich in jeder Weise angenehmen Sendboten die Gossner Kirche und insbesondere das TTC in Herrn Goeze gewinnen wird. Wir haben Ihnen also doppelt zu danken: Einmal, daß Sie uns Ende vergangenen Jahres auf ihn aufmerksam machten und daß Sie die direkte Veranlassung gaben zu diesem Besuch bei uns. Ich glaube, daß es wirklich ein wertvoller Dienst ist, der der Gossner Arbeit dadurch zuteil wurde.

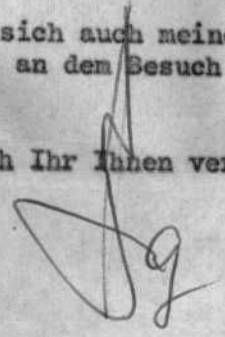
Es war mir interessant zu hören, daß Herr Goeze das erste Glied der Braunschweigischen Kirche ist, das sich durch "Dienste in Übersee" aussenden läßt, und daß darum sein Dienst in Indien in seiner Heimat besondere Anteilnahme findet. Einen besseren ersten Vertreter hätte diese Kirche kaum stellen können. Daß Sie mit Herrn Goezes Elternhaus durch die alte Hannoversche BKler-Gruppe verbunden sind, war mir ebenfalls sehr lieb zu erfahren.

Wir können jetzt nur von Herzen hoffen, daß das Visum nicht mehr zu lange auf sich warten läßt, und unsere Freunde Schwerk in Fudi und Herr Goeze selber bald von ihrer Ungeduld befreit werden. Ich nehme an, daß man in Fudi das nur irgend Mögliche tun wird, um eine Entscheidung über das Visum bald herbeizuführen, und wenn denn Herr Tirkey wieder, wie im Fall Dammer, nach Neu Delhi entsandt werden sollte.

Es ist schön, daß Sie uns auf der nächsten Sitzung des Kuratoriums mit Ihrer Erfahrung und ihrem Beistand helfen wollen, die Reise von Bruder Seeberg nach Ranchi recht vorzubereiten; so freue ich mich auf das baldige Wiedersehen.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen bis dahin denen sich auch meine Frau ausdrücklich anschließt, die gestern ebenfalls an dem Besuch von Herrn Goeze bei uns zu Hause große Freude hatte,

bin ich Ihr Ihnen verbundener



b.w.

P.S. Eben, da gerade diese Zeilen abgehen sollen, kommt Ihr Brief vom 16.8.1966. Herzlichen Dank dafür!

Die 20 Exemplare Ihres Berichts sind sogleich per Drucksache auf den Weg gebracht worden.

Und zu Ihrer Frage wegen des Bitt-Briefes von Joel Lakra an den Herrn Landesbischof habe ich Ihnen am besten meine ausführliche Antwort an seine Kanzlei ablichten lassen. Ich denke, daß diese Antwort zunächst einmal unsere Beurteilung ziemlich erschöpfend wiedergibt. Im übrigen ersehen Sie, daß ich Bruder Seeberg gebeten habe, in dieser ganzen Angelegenheit nach seiner Ankunft in Ranchi ebenfalls noch einige Aufmerksamkeit zu widmen. Wir können vielleicht darüber in Mainz-Kastel nochmals mündlich sprechen.

Pastor Soreng ist am 2.8., etwas verspätet, wohlbehalten in Deutschland angekommen und relativ rasch von Mainz-Kastel nach Filsum weitergefahren, wo er sich bis zum Gossnertag in Ostfriesland in der Obhut der Schwiegereltern von Herrn Bruns befindet. Ein Besuch bei Ihnen ist dann durchaus vorgesehen, und wir danken nochmals in seinem Namen herzlich für die Einladung zu Ihnen. Bruder Seeberg wird darüber noch näheres von sich hören lassen.

D.U.

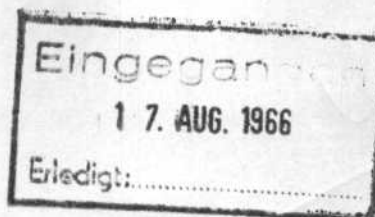
Anlage

Der Landesuperintendent  
für den Sprengel Celle

31 Celle, den 16. August 1966

Mittenhäger Kirchweg 20/22  
Tel.: 69 74

Herrn Missionsdirektor  
Dr. Christian B e r g  
1 B e r l i n 4 1  
Handjerystraße 19/20



Sehr verehrter lieber Bruder Berg!

Von den Kanzlei des Landesbischofs haben Sie sicherlich die Anfrage wegen Joel Lakra erhalten. Mir wurde das Schreiben gezeigt und es bewegt mich sehr, eigentlich in doppelter Hinsicht:

- a) Stimmt die darin skizzierte Situation, so müssen wir auf irgendeine Weise helfen, außerdem die Schaffung eines Pensionsfonds betreiben, was das Kuratorium sicherlich längst bedachte.
- b) Sollte der Brief nur eine Seite der Wirklichkeit beschreiben, so müssen wir helfen, daß daraus kein falsches Bild entsteht. Mein (leider manchmal) argwöhnischer Geist denkt sich aus, daß ein ähnlicher Bittbrief an andere Personen und Organisationen, mit denen JLakra in Verbindung stand, ging. Zugleich erinnere ich mich, daß er den Plan hatte, bei Fudi zu bauen; dort soll er sich ein Grundstück reserviert haben. Nun ist Bauen in Indien etwas anderes als in Europa. Immerhin würde JLakra über einige Mittel verfügen müssen, was von der Familie der Frau her nicht undenkbar war.

Meine Erwägungen des Argwohns gerieten leider etwas ausführlicher, doch schränken sie nicht ein, was unter a) geschrieben ist. Welches ist Ihr Eindruck?

Darf ich um nochmals 20 Exemplare meines Berichts bitten? Meine Brüder im Landessuperintendentenamt und einige andere möchten ihn gerne haben. Hoffentlich können Sie diese Bitte erfüllen.

Mit herzlichem Gruß! Alles Gute!

Ihr

PS Ist Soreng eigentlich bereits bei Ihnen? Dann grüßen Sie ihn bitte. Wir freuen uns hier auch auf sein Kommen und würden ihn gern einige Tage haben. Welcher Termin käme dafür wohl infrage?

Eingegangen

22. AUG. 1966

Erledigt:

G.E.L. Church  
Ranchi, Bihar,  
India 27.7.61

Von Rev. J. Lakra

Emeritierter Präsident

Allgemeine Evangelische Lutherische Kirche, Ranchi

An Herrn Pastor D. Dr. Martin Pörksen

Hanseatischer Missionsdirektor

2 Hamburg 13, Mittelweg 143

27. Juli 1966

Verehrter Bruder Pörksen,

Ihr sehr freundlicher Brief vom 15. Juli brachte mir grossen Trost. Die angenehmen Erinnerungen an die Vergangenheit, die Sie mir zurückgerufen haben, sind die teuren Bande,, die mich so eng mit Ihnen verbanden und die mich in die Lage versetzten, den vorhergehenden Brief zu schreiben und ich wusste, dass er von Ihnen auf das Freundlichste empfangen werden würde und wirklich haben Sie meinen Brief mit grosser Zuneigung empfangen.

Vielleicht konnte ich meinen Fall Ihnen nicht genügend klar darlegen in meinem ersten Brief. Ich schrieb Ihnen, als ich und meine anderen Kollegen durch unsere Gossner Church unterrichtet wurden, dass unsere Pension nur 25 %, d.h. 1/4 des Gehaltes, das wir bekamen, betragen würde. Dies würde bedeuten, dass meine Pension etwas 75 Rupien (fünfundsiebenzig Rupien) pro Monat betragen würde, wovon ich unmöglich leben kann.

Ich und meine Kollegen wandten uns an die Gossner Church, sie möge den Prozentsatz für die Pensionen erhöhen, was nun von der Kirchenleitung bearbeitet wird, wie Sie wissen. Wahrscheinlich wird die Kirche jedoch trotz aller Hilfe uns wohlgesonnener Leute wie Dr. Berg und Pastor Seebarg die Pensionen nur auf 35 % des Gehaltes steigern. In diesem Fall wird sich meine Pension auf ungefähr 120 Rupien (einhundertundzwanzig Rupien) pro Monat belaufen. Ich habe der Gossner Mission für diese Hilfe zu danken, ganz besonders Dr. Berg und Pastor Seebarg, die die Angelegenheit betreiben.

Dieser Prozentsatz, den die Gossner Church festzusetzen gedenkt, wird allen meinen Kollegen gewährt werden, die in den Ruhestand treten.

Wie ich aber in meinem vorigen Brief schon schrieb, benötige ich gegenwärtig 400 Rs Rupien (vierhundert Rupien) pro Monat,

weil ich neben anderen Ausgaben drei Söhne auf dem Colbge habe. Es mag sein, dass meine Kollegen andere Mittel haben, um ihren Lebensunterhalt zu bestreiten. Es kann sein, dass ihre Söhne oder nahen Anverwandten schon verdienen. Es scheint, dass alle Erfordernisse erfüllt sind und sie nicht unter Geldmangel leiden. Mir werden aber 280 Rupien pro Monat fehlen, wenn der Prozentsatz der Pension auf 35 % festgesetzt wird.

Es war in der Gossner Church nicht üblich, dass die Geistlichen in den Ruhestand traten. Sie verrichteten ihren Dienst bis zum Lebensende und bekamen ihr ganzes Leben hindurch ihr Gehalt, wie hoch es auch immer sein mochte. Das Gehalt bei der Gossner Church, die alleine dastand und sehr arm war, war sehr gering, gerade genug, um durchzukommen, aber zu wenig, um für das Alter zu sparen.

Aber nun ist seit Juni 1966 das System der Alterspension plötzlich in Kraft getreten, ohne dass für das Alter angemessene Vorsorge getroffen worden wäre. Dieses Pensionierungssystem hat mich in eine hilflose Lage versetzt.

So sind die Schwierigkeiten und das Problem ganz besonders meine persönliche Angelegenheit. Das ist auch der Grund, warum ich als Einzelperson Hilfe bei meinen persönlichen Freunden, wie Ihnen, suche.

Meine Bitte geht dahin, persönliche Freunde zu finden, die in der Lage wären, mit 325 Rupien (dreihundertundfünfundzwanzig Rupien) pro Monat auszuhelfen, wenn meine Pension 75 Rupien beträgt, oder mit 280 Rupien (zweihundertundachtzig Rupien) pro Monat, wenn sich die Pension auf 120 Rupien pro Monat erhöht.

Es scheint einige Zeit zu dauern, eine Pensionserhöhung in Erwägung zu ziehen und in der Zwischenzeit benötige ich Hilfe. Bitte ziehen Sie die Situation in Erwägung und leiten Sie die nach Ihrem Ermessen notwendigen Schritte ein.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen zeichne ich im voraus dankend

als Ihr Bruder im Herrn

gez. J. Lakra

5. Juli 1966  
psb/el.

Herrn Pastor  
D.Dr. Martin Pörksen

2 Hamburg 13  
Mittelweg 143

Lieber Bruder Pörksen!

Vielen Dank für Ihren Brief vom 2. Juli, den ich Ihnen ganz schnell beantworten muß. Bruder Berg ist z.Zt. in London beim WCC, aber natürlich können Sie auch in seiner Abwesenheit zu uns kommen. Über einen solchen Besuch freuen wir uns immer. Über die Sache, von der Sie bewegt werden, bin ich informiert, und wir können sie gern miteinander besprechen. Am Abend muß ich nach Ost-Berlin, aber das ist ja auch die Zeit, wo Sie wieder zurück nach Hamburg wollen.

Mit herzlichem Gruß bin ich

Ihr

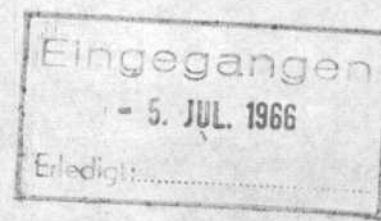


(Pastor Martin Seeberg)

Pastor  
MARTIN PÖRKSEN  
D. theol. Dr. sc. pol.  
Hanseatischer Missionsdirektor

2 Hamburg 13 , 2. Juli 1966  
Mittelweg 143 • Telefon 417021

Herrn  
Missionsdirektor Dr. Chr. Berg,  
Gossner-Mission,  
B e r l i n .



Lieber Bruder Berg!

Im Augenblick weiss ich nicht: sind Sie unterwegs nach Asien oder sind Sie in Berlin? Ich wage es aber, einfach an Sie zu schreiben in einer Sache, die mich doch ausserordentlich bewegt. Von Rev. J. LAKRA, bekam ich einen Brief, einen persönlich geschriebenen und ganz persönlich gehaltenen Brief, in dem er seine jetzige Lage mir mitteilt. Darin schreibt er sehr dankbar, dass er von der Mission 75 Rupien im Monat bekommt. Er schreibt aber, dass er als Minimum für sich 400 Rup. im Monat braucht. Besonders erwähnt er, dass er noch drei Söhne auf dem College hat. Im alten Vertrauen legt er mir jetzt die Beschaffung der restlichen 325 Rup. treu ans Herz. Da hat Joel Lakra ja schon vieles hingelegt in den 20 Jahren, seit wir uns kennen.

Darf ich Sie einfach um Rat fragen, lieber Bruder Berg, wie ich mich hier im Sinne der Gossner-Mission richtig verhalte? Kann ich Sie vielleicht einmal aufsuchen? Am Donnerstag, den 7. Juli, bin ich in Berlin. Die Sitzung dauert von 9 Uhr früh bis 14 1/2 Uhr mittags. Dann wäre ich frei und könnte zu Ihnen kommen, wann es Ihnen passt. Um 19 Uhr fliege ich wieder ab. Wäre das wohl möglich?

Ich würde mich freuen, bei dieser Gelegenheit auch sonst einiges mit Ihnen zu besprechen, was die Mission angeht. Ich hoffe, es passt Ihnen.

In brüderlicher Verbundenheit grüsst Sie herzlich

Ihr

*Marti Pöksen*

G.E.R. Church  
Ranchi Bihar

From Rev. J. Lakra M.A. B.D. S.T.M.  
India 24/6/66

Ex-President Gossner Evangelical  
Lutheran Church Ranchi  
Bihar India

To The Rt. Rev. D. Dr. Hanns Lilje  
Landesbischof of Hannover  
West Germany.  
Dear Landesbischof Lilje,

Perhaps this letter  
will surprise you, as this is the  
very first letter I am writing to you.  
But circumstances have in a way  
compelled me to address you this  
letter.

In the Gossner Evangelical  
Lutheran Church we Pastors were  
paid just for our maintenance,  
which rendered us unable to  
save any thing for old age. But  
we had no system of retirement  
and pension. All the Pastors re-

remained in service unto the  
end drawing the usual remuneration.  
But now suddenly retirement  
has been enforced without ade-  
quate provision for pension. At my  
72<sup>nd</sup> year of age I am retired  
from this month, June 1966. With great  
difficulty the Gossner Mission of  
Berlin could arrange for a small  
pension of about Rupees seventy  
five (Rs 75/-) per month for which  
I am thankful to the Mission. No-  
thing more could be done.

My minimum need at pre-  
sent is Rupees four hundred  
(Rs 400/-) <sup>per month</sup> and so I fall short  
of Rupees three hundred and  
twenty five (Rs 325/-) per month  
equivalent of about D.M. 300/-  
per month. This is my problem.

May I be allowed to place  
this problem before you also,  
with a request that you may  
kindly arrange to find the  
amount from some charitable

charitable fund or from private individuals, businessmen or so who could, at your kind instance, spare certain amounts with ease and gladness to make up 8. m 300/- per month. This help I need even from this month June 1966, as my salary already stopped from now.

I do not like to be a burden on you, but circumstances have driven me to make this approach to you. Besides other expenses, I have yet to educate three sons at college.

You may kindly consider my request and do the needful for which I shall ever remain grateful to you.

With kindest regards,

Yours in the Lord.  
J. Lakra  
24/6/66



हवाई पत्र  
AEROGRAMME



The Rt Rev. S. Dr. Hannsdilje  
Landesbischof of Hannover  
Hannover  
West Germany

SECOND FOLD

NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED

Landesbischof S. Dr. Hannsdilje  
- 1. JULI 1966  
Tgb. Nr. 2785  
Bearbeiter

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:-

Rev. J. Lakra  
G. E. L. Church  
Ranchi, Bihar  
India

23 June 1966

President Emeritus of the G.E.L. Church  
Rev. J. Lakra  
G.E.L. Church Compound

Ranchi / BIHAR  
India

Re: Pension in the GEL Church - your application to the KSS of 9th May 1966

Dear Brother Lakra,

Kind regards from the Gossnerhouse first. I saw your daughter Mini again at the celebration for J. Lakra's passed Diploma-examination last week. I am glad that she is well and always happily mastering her studies and examinations.

Let me say something to your application to the KSS resp. its chairman Rev. Bage.

Firstly,

1) I like to tell you to which I do not agree.

- a) The Pension Fund is under no circumstances a creation of the Kuratorium, and the Gossner Mission is not responsible for it. This would be unworthy of an autonomous church. The Gossner Church itself has to take care for its servants who have worked for the church for so many years. The Kuratorium only promised financial support when all regulations were cleared and the fund got started. It is the same in all fields of the Gossner Church, dear Brother Lakra, that it has to bear responsibility. Only when the Church is still too weak to take care of its tasks itself, it will ask for help either from the Gossner Mission or LNF. That is a basic mistake in your considerations. In my opinion, your second point on page two of your application of protest is not right, namely that the principle should not be contributory. On the contrary, the Pension Fund can only work if the persons receiving a pension later on do contribute a certain amount to it during their time of active service.
- b) I was not happy to learn that you have formed an official Pension Pastor's Association and that you are the President and Brother Kujur Secretary. In my opinion, one does not do this if one has belonged and still belongs to the same ministerium verbi divini of a christian church. It looks like it as if you want to institute legal proceedings. Workers unions etc. are acting like it in the secular field, but not Pastors of a christian church. You all, who will get a pension, could appoint some representatives for talks with the leading council of the church, who will take your interests. But you should not be formed in such an official association. It would also be good if those representatives came from different tribes of the church and not only from one tribe. In my opinion, tribal thinking is too much present in our dear Gossner Church, anyhow.

2. But, I can understand you who will receive a pension. At present and under the situation in India now, it will be very difficult for you to manage with 25% of your present salary. I understand that you will come into personal difficulties because of the economic situation and the probably increasing prices in your country. I do hope that the KSS will, for this reason, re-consider the regulations. On the other hand, dear Brother Lakra, has the start to be made somewhere and the fund has to be run efficiently if it is to meet its requirements during the years to come.

I think that it would be quite justified if a small amount of the money received from selling the Main-Road-Site of the Ranchi Compound were to be put into the Pension Fund. It would, therefore, perhaps be possible that 30%, 35% or 40 % were to be paid from the beginning without injuring the basic principle that the decisive capacity of the fund be formed out of contributions made by the servants of the church during the time of their active service.

These are my remarks, dear Brother Lakra. We are not responsible for the regulations. We consider it an honour to make contributions, and we shall fulfill our duty during the years to come. The decision is to be made by your constitutional Board of your Church.

With Christian Greetings  
I am Yours Sincerely,

*Christian J. J.*

cc/ Chairman of the AGS,  
President Dr. Bage

cc/ Secretary of KSS

drbg/br

Berlin 41, 23 December 1965

Padma Shri  
Rev. J. Lakra  
G.E.L. Church Compound

Ranchi / BIHAR  
INDIA

Dear Brother Lakra,

Thank you very much for your kind and brotherly wishes for Christmas which I should like to return very heartily. I wish you and your dear family a blessed New Year. May our Lord give you enough strength to carry out all your tasks as well as the new one at the Theological College.

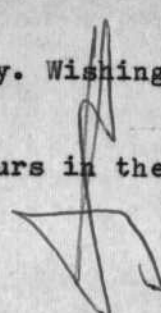
I believe, I sent you the last letter, so it was somewhat your fault that we have not heard much from each other for a long time. I do hope that Brother Lakra does not overwork himself in the New Year by carrying for the College the KSS and the Kuratorium in Berlin along with him. You see, both bodies are very big and heavy! Don't collapse! But, if you do carry it, then please entrust your burden to your Heavenly Father, who knows to which final goal he will bring this matter.

Your comments on the bad harvest in your country have been very significant. Almost every letter, which we receive from India, gives us this information. We can only hope that, with the help of LWB, it will, at least, be possible to feed the school-children during the worst period from April - September 1966. Brother Montag will surely have talked to you on this matter. We very much sympathize with every single family which will be short of food next year. Naturally, the Padma Shri cannot but send a few important, political comments to his friends in Berlin. We hope that the big Asian powers do not come to a serious collision again and disturb the peace in the whole world.

Mini is in good health and is always busy when we meet her. She will make good progress if she continues that way and will become a good German-trained doctor-lady one day.

Mrs. Berg returns your greetings very heartily. Wishing you all the very best for the new Season,

I am Yours in the Lord,



G. E. L. Church  
Ranchi  
17/12/65

From - Padma Shri

Rev. J. Laing

Dear Mr. Berg,

22. DEZ. 1965

E-digit: .....

This is just to  
say Happy Christmas and  
a Blessed New Year to you  
and Mrs. Berg.

Did I not hear from  
you for a long time, though  
Missi informed me of some  
occasions when she met you.

The KSS continues the Re-  
ligious and Social Development  
Centre with me as honorary  
director, not necessarily with  
H. Wentz as headquarters.  
From January next my main  
work will be at the Theological  
College for which I shall be

paid by the KSS. I continue  
to be the Chairman of the  
Education Board and also I re-  
main the Convener of the  
Secular College Committee.  
For College I have to carry  
the KSS and the Kuratorium  
along with me. I find it takes  
time and patience to carry  
these two bodies and yet I  
have faith in God who only  
can accomplish the task.

There was a failure of  
crop in our Church area and  
so I am afraid of economic  
depression in the Church. The  
Bihar Govt. is going to levy  
40 Kg of paddy per cultivated  
acre of land which also adds  
to the difficulty of our people.  
The Govt. has just announced  
but not yet started the

actual levy.

Pakistan and China have joined hands to disturb the peace of India. This has driven India to hang together irrespective of caste, creed or race.

Perhaps it's good for India.

Mr. Crockett has arrived and has begun visiting some outstations. Today he went to Purulia.

My greetings and wishes of the season to the Gossner family.

Kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely  
H. Baker



The Rev. Dr. Christian Berg.  
Gossner Mission House  
Berlin - Friedenau  
Handjerystr 19/20  
West Germany.

SECOND FOLD

NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:-

Padma Shri Rev. J. Lakshmi  
G. E. S. Church  
Ranchi

Gossner Mission  
1 Berlin 41 (Friedenau)  
Handjerystraße 19/20

Berlin, 15 October 1965  
drbg/br

Padma Shri  
Rev. J. Lakra

Khuntitoli P.O.  
Dt. Ranchi  
Bihar  
India

Dear Brother Lakra,

Referring to your personal letter of 1st October 1965, in which you mentioned again the Secular christian resp. Lutheran College at Ranchi, I like to summarize again what has been said so far by the Gossner Mission in this matter since July 1962.

1. You have expressed the strong wish to establish such a College. You have submitted the request at the meeting of the Kuratorium, the day after my installation as director of the Gossner Mission. At that time, the Kuratorium replied kindly and favourably, but stated the following quite clearly:

- a) The Gossner Mission will not be in the position to ~~obtain~~<sup>grant out of its budget the</sup> necessary money of some 100.000 Rs., because there are too many other tasks or because there will be many others in the coming years. Just think of the scholarships in Germany and for the three institutions in Chota Nagpur, the help for the mission work, the Ten-Year-Building Plan and the three institutions in Fudi, Khuntitoli and Amgaon.
- b) The request will have to be made by the KSS officially. It should contain financial calculations (expenses for establishment of the College, for the staff, the running costs etc.) The Gossner Mission has to have such an official request from the GELC as well as exact plans and not only a request made by some leading individuals. It would be needed for asking different bodies in the "Landeskirchen" or in the EKD to support this plan.

2. I know that the KSS has appointed a sub-committee to consider the matter carefully and to put up such a plan. Obviously, this committee has not fulfilled its task yet. I do not know why. Maybe, because the problem is such a difficult one or because of the staff in the committee. Anyhow, neither the Gossner Mission nor the LWF have up till now received such a detailed request. That is why we could not take any further steps in this matter here in Germany.

I once heard that the Anglicans sold their old, traditionell college in Hazaribagh. This might have shown the difficulties for a christian church in Chota Nagpur to run such a college. Maybe, many people put forward the question in the GELC of whether a college could be established at a time when the Anglican Bother Church was not in the position anymore to find enough christian professors for their college and enough money to meet all the running costs.

3. That is the present situation. We have not yet received an official request from the Gossner Church. Because of the many other tasks in the GEIC, we are not in the position to help, if we do not even know the exact amount of money needed for building up the College and then for the running costs every year.

I think you will understand, dear Brother Lakra, that the autonomous Gossner Church will have to take initiative and make decisions in this important and not easy matter. We are ready to sponsor a clear plan - as it was expressed in the meeting of the Kuratorium on 9th of July 1962. We shall consider very carefully as to which body would be willing and in the position to grant the money needed. First, however, we have to receive the plan which has to convince us. Evidently, you lacked people up till now. Or are there too many difficulties which prevent you from reaching a decision in the committee?

I believe I have stated quite clearly how I see the situation from here. Please understand my sending a copy to the Pramukh Adhyaksh as well as to the secretary of the GEIC to prevent any misunderstanding. They will have it in their files, then, and can have a look at our comment at any time.

With kind regards,  
Yours Sincerely,



cc/ Dr. Bage  
Secretary of KSS

cc/

|            |   |                                                |
|------------|---|------------------------------------------------|
| P. Kloss   | ) |                                                |
| K. Schwert | ) |                                                |
| R. Montag  | ) | zur Stellungnahme gemeinsam bzw. nacheinander. |

Berlin 41, 15 October 1965  
drbg/br

Padma Shri Rev. J. Lakra

Khuntitoli P.O.  
Dt. Ranchi  
Bihar  
India

Dear Brother Lakra,

Thank you very much for your letter of 1st October 1965 which we received on 12 October. If the mail is somewhat in time, we, then, know that the conflict between India and Pakistan has not affected the life in Chota Nagpur too much. We are following the situation in India with deep sympathy, and are thinking of you all and our dear Gossner Church and hope that you will not be affected by it too much.

Before answering the different points of your mentioned letter, I want to write some lines about Mini. She has passed her "Vor-Physikum" with a good result and has obtained good marks in all subjects. I have not seen her much during the last weeks, because she has been working and studying so much. Mrs. Berg invited Mini recently and told me that Mini is now very happy to have the examination behind herself. I wish her much success for her further study !

Now, let me answer your questions:

1. I was pleased to know that you have- obviously on the occasion of the conferences of the Central Meeting Place - called the Headmasters of the Schools to discuss with them problems of religious instruction in the schools, finances and other pedagogical matters. We quite understand that the few brothers from Assam were not invited, due to heavy expenses etc.

It was with great pleasure that I heard that Headmaster Tirkey from Chainpur has been appointed for the Gossner High School in Ranchi. I think that they will miss him in Chainpur, but I am very glad that he has been appointed to the traditionell Highschool to Ranchi, since he is an efficient man.

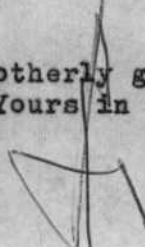
I hope that he will accept this appointment and that his work there will be much blessed.

2. Brother Weissinger had to write a serious letter to Mr. Sinha in India concerning his son Tarkeshwar. Tarkeshwar has not made much progress yet. He has not adapted himself to the German way of studying much yet. In these circumstances, we could not transfer him either to Berlin or Munich. Quite a few Indian students have difficulties in adapting themselves to the German standard. Others, however, do not find it so difficult (your daugther). But, Tarkeshwar does have difficulties. It will have to be decided in the near future as to what chances he will have for a successful study here. Brother Weissinger, as I just heard, has sent you a copy of his letter to Father Sinha.

3. Let me now say something to the matter of a christian resp. lutheran College in Ranchi, in which you are so interested. I was quite surprised that you had the "Gossner Mission special issue" translated to you and that you followed every item with deep interest. Concerning the college in Ranchi, I have to correct a misunderstanding. We have not included the college at Ranchi in the programme of the GELC for the next ten years. The KSS has done it at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> of March 1965. Since this matter is so important, I want to give my opinion in a special letter again and shall send copy of same to the Pramukh as well as to the secretary of KSS, so that it may be in the files. ~~The Gossner Mission will send its comment as frank as possible so that~~ no misunderstandings will arise, regarding responsibilities and possibilities.

Let me thank you again for your personal letter, dear Brother Lakra. I am always glad to hear from you, although we are, sometimes, of a different opinion. But, our Lord has bound us together and will be with us.

With brotherly greetings,  
I am Yours in the Lord,



Khunti P.O.  
Dist. Ranchi  
Bihar India

From Padma Shri

Rev. J. Baker

11/10/65

Dear Dr. Berg

Missouri  
Pg 2

1) It is for some time I have  
not written you and so I thought  
I better write to you.

I am just preparing to  
hold the next Seminar at Khunti  
toli beginning from the 4th Oct. 65.  
This time I am calling the Head-  
masters of the G.S.L. Middle  
Schools. More than even the  
High School Headmasters it is  
the Middle School Headmasters  
who are responsible for the re-  
ligious instruction of the Church.  
We have to complete the basic  
knowledge of Christianity and  
Lutheranism in the Middle School

Standard. Therefore Religious  
teaching in the Middle Schools  
is a main subject of the  
Seminar. Other problems in-  
cluding the Financial, of the  
Middle Schools, also will be  
considered. I am counting  
on forty members in the  
Seminar. Due to heavy ex-  
penses, Dr. Berg, advised  
me to exclude Agam

2) from the Seminar.  
Mr. C.P. Sinha spoke to me  
about Tarkeshwar his son, now  
at Mainz. We were wondering  
whether or not Tarkeshwar  
could be prepared for a degree  
instead of a diploma. In that  
case he may be transferred  
either to Basel or Thuruch. He  
is a B.Sc. and so perhaps  
he is qualified for a degree.

You may kindly consider his  
case of thanks.

3 Your Ten Year Plan for the  
Gossner Church, as published in  
the Gossner Mission Magazine  
was translated to me and I  
followed every item with deep  
interest. I am specially thank-  
ful to you for keeping the  
College at Ranchi (Calcutta)  
among the major items. You  
have certainly seen through  
the future development of the  
Gossner Church in the correct  
way as it ought to be. Now I am  
just thinking how we can im-  
plement your Plan. You certainly  
can not do it yourself from far  
off Germany. Unless the Church  
leaders, particularly the Pramesh  
make the whole Plan their own  
own, the Plan may remain only in  
the Paper. Kindly give special  
direction to Bro. Hind. I shall take  
care of the College but leaders must  
give me all the encouragement.  
Love and greetings of Fischer's  
yours very sincerely, H. K. K.

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION  
हवाई पत्र  
AEROGRAMME



The Rev. Dr. Christian Berg  
Gossner Mission House  
Berlin Friedenau  
Handjerystr. 19/20  
West Germany

SECOND FOLD  
NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:-

Padma shri Rev. J. Lakee  
Khuntale P.O.  
St. Ranchi  
Bihar India

From - Padmasree Rev. J. J. - ! G. E. L. Church  
Ranchi  
21/7/68

Dear Mr. Borg,

Ever since I replied to your letter on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1965, I have been waiting for your message. I am just wondering why you have not been writing although my letter was a ~~letter~~ reply to your letter over which you were very much exercised because of some report which was not factual. I asked for the copy of the report but I do not insist on it. You can see how an unauthorised report can play a mischief and havoc in the Church or the Field. I wish you warn all coworkers not to send unauthorised reports. Even from nationals no unauthorised reports should disturb the Church as well as the Kuratorium. The good and loving relationship between the Gossner Church and Gossner Mission should not be marred by any means and by any body whether Indian or European. Any inaccurate thing should be challenged and rectified but the good and loving relationship should remain inviolate.

You wrote a letter also to Mr. Bage but he was so much disturbed about it

that he did not let any body  
know about it even now  
he was afraid to inform  
for a long time. I would  
wish that there is no un-  
necessary disturbance in the  
Church and that you get the  
correct picture of the Church.  
Through misinformations,  
misunderstanding is caused  
and misunderstanding becomes  
the mother of countless evils.  
I am writing these things only  
because I cannot account  
for your silence.

I am sure God is guiding  
the Gossner Church and He  
will never let her down. I  
am humbly ready to serve  
her by God's grace, wherever  
and whenever required.

With kind regards

Trusting in God  
Yours sincerely  
H. C. Chakraborty

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION  
हवाई पत्र  
AEROGRAMME



The Rev. Director C. Berg S.S.  
Gossner Mission  
Berlin - Friedemann  
Handjerystr. 19/30  
West Germany

SECOND FOLD  
NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:-

Padma shri Rev. J. Lakra  
G.E.L. Church,  
Ranchi, Bihar  
India

21 July 1965

Padmashri Rev. J. Lakra  
G.E.L. Church Compound

Ranchi / BIHAR  
INDIA

Dear Brother Lakra,

Let me acknowledge receipt of your personal letter of 26 June as reply to my personal letter of 15 June. We as christians and disciples of Jesus Christ have the privilege of frankly talking to each other and asking earnest questions. However, our personal connections need not be affected by it, all the more as we have not written each other on an official level and our letters will neither be included in the files of the GEL Church nor in the ones of the Kuratorium.

I, now, like to refer to some points of your letter of 26 June 1965:

1. We have a common basis which should always make talks possible: Our love for the Gossner Church and the Gossner Mission. I am not so sure as you are that they are standing like a solid rock. There are quite a lot of weak points to be seen in the Gossner Church and in the Gossner Mission. But, in spite of those shortcomings, we hope that our Lord's Grace will be with the Gossner Church and the Gossner Mission and that our love will remain in good and bad times. For, this love is more important than the judgement of different matters and people and will show its results.
2. We, evidently, agree on another point: The resolution which was passed on 18 June 1965 concerning the Property Board, is quite satisfactory and shows progress in this matter. I am not sure, however, whether it is satisfactory for the future. But, this may be considered after the completion of the big survey which is being done by the Financial Adviser with the help of Brother H. Lakra and N.E. Horo. Further steps to make the Property Board more efficient may, then, be considered !
3. Our opinions may differ with regard to the importance of the Property Board for the G.E.L. Church in the coming years. Regarding the main task of Gossner Church and Gossner Mission, the matters of the Property Board may seem to be comparatively "petty ones", as you wrote. But, on the contrary, I think that they are a key point to the whole work of the Gossner Church during the next years. The dreadful pay scale of the Gossner Church, its buildings which are partly in a very poor condition, its Compounds which are unused, are very much matters which are connected with the inefficiency of the Property Board. It is not a credit to a christian church. The Gossner Church will not be a good example to the new generation in India. But, you have admitted it yourself: You praise the solid standing of the Gossner Church "apart from her economic conditions." I would like to see if you and other Brethren suffered more under those conditions and tried to change it to the better. I do not like to mention it at random as you have done in your letter.

4. Your words, dear Brother Lakra, do not sound nice in my ears:  
"The wish of the autonomous Kuratorium is fulfilled." It must be the decisive wish of all who are responsible in the Gossner Church to make the Property Board more efficient ! The wishes of the Kuratorium are secondary. We, only, do not want to invest money in a Church which does not make enough efforts to raise its resources itself.
5. I fear that you and many others are more troubled about the tribal balance of the Church than about the necessity to make the Gossner Church really independent. Improving the financial condition of the Gossner Church is one of the most important steps to reach real independence.

This, I kept in mind in Mid-March - and not the person of Mr. Benghra. I would have been also glad if another able brother amongst the Uraons had been found and appointed. It was and it is not my duty to see that nothing happens against the Constitution regarding the appointment of co-workers. That is the duty of the leading brethren of the autonomous Church. But, it has to be my interest resp. the interest of the Kuratorium to see that the Constitution will not hinder real progress. Was it wrong that I feared that some people would be quite satisfied with the status quo in the Property Board because the tribal balance was not disturbed ? You have not suffered enough under the inefficiency of the Property Board and the harm done to the whole Gossner Church. These were my earnest worries in my letter to you.

6. You have asked me twice to send you the reports which I received in this connection. I would like to fulfill your wish if our letters had been official ones. It would have been my duty then. But, I cannot do it since our correspondence has been on a very private level. All official reports from the co-workers from abroad are available to the President of the Gossner Church. I have recommended it strongly and have been pleased to note that Amgaon, Fudi, Khuntitoli, Printing Press and Purulia are now having Managing Committees. The President of the Gossner Church is the chairman of those committees ex officio and is, thus, even more in the position to have access to all official documents. He only need to ask for the reports sent by the co-workers to the Kuratorium. However, those co-workers, mainly sent out by the Kuratorium and receiving their salary from there, are also obliged to submit reports to Berlin. But, the President can note as to whether a co-worker has given wrong statements on the situation which must, then, be corrected. Please, ask the President occasionally if I am correct in saying so.

In sum: We agree on many things; on other points, however, differ our opinions. I do hope that this will turn to the better in the future.

With kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,



# GOSSNER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PRAMUKH ADHYAKSH : Rev. Dr. M. BAGE  
UP-PRAMUKH ADHYAKSH : Rev. C. B. AIND  
SECRETARY : Mr. H. SAMAD  
TREASURER : Mr. C. A. THAKUR

HEAD OFFICE  
G. E. L. Church  
Ranchi, Bihar  
India  
Phone : 510



Dr. C. Berg,  
The Gossner Mission,  
1, Berlin 41 (Friedenau),  
Handjerystrasse 19-20,  
West Germany.

Dear Dr. Berg,

Reference: Personal Correspondence with Revd. Lakra  
and his answer dated 26th June 1965.

- 1) In reply to the first paragraph of Revd. J. Lakra's letter, I think it absolutely unnecessary to try and convince the Gossner Mission that I am in no way attempting to create any tension between the Gossner Church and the Mission.
- 2) In paragraph 2 of the letter, Revd. Lakra points out that the matters of the Property Board are petty matters. I am absolutely in disagreement with this statement. The matters of the Property Board are of vital concern to both the Gossner Church and the Gossner Mission. As I pointed out so many times, and which apparently the Revd. Lakra does not seem to appreciate, the key to the whole matter of the Gossner Church lies with this Board.
- 3) In paragraph 3 Revd. Lakra points out that he loves the Gossner Mission from the bottom of his heart. This statement is very pleasing to have in writing, and let us sincerely hope that he has this thought foremost in his mind for the future.
- 4) As a citizen of a democratic country I can fully appreciate Revd. Lakra's rights to stand for all that is just and fair, and at no time would I suggest that he should not continue to take this stand.
- 5) In paragraph 5 the Revd. Lakra states that he did not interfere in the affairs of the Property Board. Not only is this incorrect, but I maintain that Revd. Lakra as good as took over the Chairmanship on the first two meetings.

Revd. Lakra states that he had no objections to Mr. Bhengra being a manager, yet it was his suggestion that Mr. Bhengra did not possess the necessary qualifications to deal with high ranking public administrators, so that in his opinion the status quo should remain and that Mr. Herman Lakra be left as Secretary/Manager until the new term

# GOSSNER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PRAMUKH ADHYAKSH , Rev. Dr. M. BAGE  
UP-PRAMUKH ADHYAKSH , Rev. C. B. AIND  
SECRETARY , Mr. H. SAMAD  
TREASURER , Mr. C. A. TIRKEY

HEAD OFFICE  
C. E. L. Church  
Ranchi, Bihar  
India  
Phone : 510

-2-

of office in 1966.

I agree that it was not quite tactful to make Mr. Bhengra both Secretary and Manager, but it was agreed in the very first meeting that a Secretary should be found from within the Property Board members and hold this post as an honorary one. However, there was no necessity to frame a charge, as Revd. Lakra puts it, against Mr. Herman Lakra.

6) In paragraph 6 of the letter, Revd. Lakra brings up the position of the tribal question. Apparently Revd. Lakra was the only person at the meeting who thought this question to be a great problem. In the case of the Ranchi Sub-Committee there are four Oraons and only two Mundas, never once has Revd. Lakra considered this as being unjust.

7) In paragraph 7 Revd. Lakra accuses the reporter as being ignorant of the situation and making a distorted report. This of course is quite untrue, both Revd. Ishida from the L.W.F., and Dr. Bage, the Pramukh Adhyaksh have read all my reports to you regarding the Property Board, the Pramukh Adhyaksh would surely have definitely taken a stand if he had thought that I had not reported the true facts. It is a great pity that the minutes of the Property Board meetings are so badly kept that it is not possible to evaluate any one meeting.

8) In paragraph 8, Revd. Lakra claims that the appointment of Mr. Bhengra as co-manager, and the resignation of Mr. Herman Lakra and appointment of an Oraon as Secretary was his advice. This is completely untrue and makes Revd. Lakra a liar (I use the same term as he uses about the reporter to you). The whole idea of the resignation of Mr. Herman Lakra and appointment of another Oraon Honorary Secretary came from me, Pastor Ishida can confirm this as I brought this matter up during the Property Board meeting which he attended. You will be able to confirm this by reading my report on the full Property Board meeting from the 21st to the 25th May, where you will find the complete details, and my suggestions on page 2, items 1-3. Revd. Lakra suggests that the wish of the Autonomous Kuratorium is fulfilled and the Constitution of the Autonomous Church is kept. It is obvious from this statement that he considers the whole matter of the reorganisation of the Property Board as a wish of the Kuratorium and not apparently that of the Gossner Church.

# GOSSNER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PRAMUKH ADHYAKSH     , Rev. Dr. M. BAGE  
UP-PRAMUKH ADHYAKSH     , Rev. C. B. AIND  
SECRETARY     , Mr. H. SAMAD  
TREASURER     , Mr. C. A. TIRKEY

HEAD OFFICE  
G. E. L. Church  
Ranchi, Bihar  
India  
Phone : 510

-3-

I do not think it necessary for me to comment about the supposed distorted report, or your becoming an easy prey to this distorted report.

9) In his last paragraph Revd. Lakra says that the reporter is a "designing fellow", who wants to bring about friction between Dr. Bage and Revd. Lakra, it is inconceivable to me how he can justify this statement. With regards to his contention that the Kuratoirum cannot take up a report from a co-worker in the field, officially, I am not clear how far this statement is justified. As I previously stated, it is a great pity that the Minutes of a four day meeting of the Property Board were so badly kept that they are condensed into barely a type-written page. It is part of my duties to see that not only the Gossner Church receive my advice on financial matters, but also the Gossner Mission in Berlin and the L.W.F. in Geneva are kept fully informed of this advice, and that even these two bodies should be given my ideas and advice. If this is not the case then I have misunderstood my whole work here in India.

I leave it entirely up to you whether you send a copy of my report to Revd. Lakra, personally I have no objections at all, as everything I have reported as an faithful and honest and sincere report, as to what actually took place in the Property Board meetings. I again confirm that you are quite correct in stating that Dr. Bage the Pramukh Adhyaksh was shown a copy of my reports to you.

I sincerely hope that my reply to the points in Revd. Lakra's letter will be of assistance to you in drafting your reply to him. I would like to point out at this stage that the attitude of Revd. Lakra in the past weeks has changed to a point of non-recognition. He gives the impression of being a very tired and old man. About a fortnight ago he expressed the desire to talk over a few points with me over a cup of tea, this I agreed to, but insisted that I invite him at my expense. During this meeting his whole attitude was one of friendliness and his views on various points quite changed. It is with regret that I must state out of past experience, that I treat this change with very great reserve, and it does not influence my opinion that Revd. Lakra was to blame for the past situation which arose, and that his main reasons were for personal gain. However, I do not intend to

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G. E. L. Church  
Ranchi, Bihar  
India  
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-4-

turn aside this friendly spirit, but will accept it, as I have stated before, with great reserve.

Many thanks to you for keeping me so well informed in this matter. I will be most interested and grateful if you would send me a copy of your reply to Revd. Lakra's letter.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Maty.

From Padmashri Rev. J. Lakra.

G.E.L. Church Compound, Ranchi.

Dated, Ranchi the 26<sup>th</sup> June, 1965.

Dear Dr. Berg,

your letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> June, Thanks. you have been wrongly informed and so your <sup>inferences</sup> ~~impressions~~ are all wrong. Whoever, reported to you has wronged me and wronged you. He has tried to bring a misunderstanding and friction between you and me and thus he has tried to injure the Gossner Church and the Gossner Mission. He has reported to you too early while the matter has been under discussion and that without understanding the points at issue.

The Gossner Church and the Gossner Mission are too big matters to be disturbed by comparatively petty matters of the Property Board. I am sorry you are affected and moved by some body's report without verification.

I have led the Gossner Church in the past in thick and thin and the Gossner Church is standing like a solid rock apart from her economic conditions, and let no one cause friction between the Gossner Church and the Gossner Mission which I love from the bottom of my heart whatever happens in petty matters.

you know I take a strong stand on what I consider to be just and fair for the good of the Gossner Church, and even at this age, I maintain by God's grace my spiritual vigour.

I have not interfered with the Property Board affair as you have been made to believe. I was formally invited by the Property Board to attend the meetings of the Board and I attended the meeting where the

(Contd. to next page)

minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> May, were to be confirmed. The minutes were read and I pointed out the Constitutional position of the proceedings of the meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> May. I did not and do not object to Mr. Bhengra's being a Manager, but did object to Mr. Bhengra's being the Secretary of the Board. Mr. Lakra was Secretary and the Secretary's post is constitutionally the highest in the Property Board. Now to remove Mr. Lakra from Secretaryship without framing a charge against him was wrong. Mr. Lakra did not even resign. In his absence he is treated in this way which is contrary to all common sense.

Moreover, the equilibrium and the harmony of the Property Board was disturbed and went against the Constitution (see Art. XVII 3(b)). When the Board was constituted it was carefully considered and a Munda was made President of the Board, an uraon was the Secretary and the Treasurer a Munda, and all were satisfied. By making Mr. Bhengra the Secretary, the equilibrium was disturbed for now a Munda is President, a Munda is Secretary and a Munda is Treasurer, which the said Constitution does not allow.

You were ignorant of the situation in the Autonomous Church otherwise you would not go against the Constitution. This I pointed out as a member of the meeting. It was my duty to point it out. Would you call it an interference? In that case, all discussions would be interference and we shall have a Dictatorship in the Autonomous Church. The man who reported to you is equally ignorant, it looks, and in order to prejudice your mind against me, makes a distorted report to

(Contd. to next page)

you and to my utter surprise you became an easy prey.

Two days before I received your letter, the last meeting of the Board was held where I was not invited and so I did not attend this meeting and I was told that the matter has been finished according to my advice. Mr. Bhengra becomes a Co. Manager, Mr. Lalra resigned his Secretaryship and another Union is made Secretary. Mr. Herman Lalra becomes the Agriculture Manager only. Thus the wish of the Autonomous Kuratorium is fulfilled and also the Constitution of the Autonomous Church is kept and your reporter turns out to be a liar.

I regret you listen to wrong things and you are misled to say unnecessary and painful things. I can only say that the reporter must be a designing fellow and he wants to bring frictions and misunderstanding between you and me and he has so well succeeded in his design. I respectfully request you to send me a copy of his report. In fact, according to the established convention, the Kuratorium can not take up any report from a Co-worker in the field, officially. For such Co-worker may report his own view point only which in the past has been found faulty. Kindly treat this report as such, but please send me a copy of the same.

May God keep us from the falsehood of this world and preserve the peace of our mind.

Kindest regard.

Yours very sincerely.

H Lalra  
26/6/65

W. Vor. 20. Juli

From Padmashri Rev. J. Lakra

G.E.L. Church Compound, Ranchi

Ranchi, the 26th June, 1965

Dear Dr. Berg,

Your letter dated 15th June, thanks. You have been wrongly informed and so your interference are all wrong. Whoever reported to you has wronged me and wronged you. He has tried to bring a misunderstanding and friction between you and me and thus he has tried to injure the Gossner Church and the Gossner Mission. He has reported to you too early while the matter has been under discussion and that without understanding the points at issue.

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You know I take a strong stand on what I consider to be just and fair for the good of the Gossner Church, and even at this age, I maintain by God's grace my spiritual vigour.

I have not interfered with the Property Board affair as you have been made to believe. I was formally invited by the Property Board to attend the meetings of the Board, and I attended the meeting where the minutes of the 11th May were to be confirmed. The minutes were read and I pointed out the Constitutional position of the proceedings of the meeting of the 11th May. I did not and do not object to Mr. Bhengra's being a Manager, but did object to Mr. Bhengra's being the Secretary of the Board. Mr. Lakra was Secretary and the Secretary's post is constitutionally the highest in the Property Board. Now to remove Mr. Lakra from Secretaryship without framing a charge against him was wrong. Mr. Lakra did not even resign. In his absence he is treated in this way which is contrary to all common sense.

Moreover, the equilibrium and the harmony of the Property Board was disturbed and went against the constitution (see Art. XVII 3 (b)). When the Board was constituted it was carefully considered and a Munda was made President of the Board, and Uraon was the Secretary and the treasurer a Munda, and all were satisfied. By making Mr. Bhengra the Secretary, the equilibrium was disturbed for now a Munda is President, a Munda is Secretary and a Munda is Treasurer, which the said Constitution does not allow.

b.w.

You were ignorant of the situation in the Autonomous Church, otherwise you would not go against the Constitution. This I pointed out as a member of the meeting. It was my duty to point it out. Would you call it an interference? In that case, all discussions would be interference and we shall have a Dictatorship in the Autonomous Church. The man who reported to you is equally ignorant, it looks, and in order to prejudice your mind against me, makes a distorted report to you, and to my utter surprise you became an easy prey.

Two days before I received your letter, the last meeting of the Board was held where I was not invited and so I did not attend this meeting and I was told that the matter has been finished according to my advice. Mr. Bhengra becomes a Co-Manager, Mr. Lakra resigned his Secretaryship and another Uraon is made Secretary. Mr. Herman Lakra becomes the Agriculture Manager only. Thus, the wish of the Autonomous Kuratorium is fulfilled and also the Constitution of the Autonomous Church is kept and your reporter turns out to be a liar.

I regret you listen to wrong things and you are misled to say unnecessary and painful things. I can only say that the reporter must be a designing fellow and he wants to bring frictions and misunderstanding between you and me and he has so well succeeded in his design. I respectfully request you to send me a copy of his report. In fact, according to the established convention, the Kuratorium cannot take up any report from a co-worker on the field, officially, for such co-worker may report his own view point only which in the past has been found faulty. Kindly treat this report as such, but please send me a copy of the same.

May God keep us from the falsehood of this world and preserve the peace of our mind.

Kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

J. Lakra

23 June 1966

President Emeritus of the G.E.L. Church  
Rev. J. Lakra  
G.E.L. Church Compound

Ranchi / BIHAR  
India

Re: Pension in the GEL Church - your application to the KSS of 9th May 1966

Dear Brother Lakra,

Kind regards from the Gossnerhouse first. I saw your daughter Mini again at the celebration for J. Lakra's passed Diploma-examination last week. I am glad that she is well and always happily mastering her studies and examinations.

Let me say something to your application to the KSS resp. its chairman Rev. Bage.

Firstly,

1) I like to tell you to which I do not agree.

- a) The Pension Fund is under no circumstances a creation of the Kuratorium, and the Gossner Mission is not responsible for it. This would be unworthy of an autonomous church. The Gossner Church itself has to take care for its servants who have worked for the church for so many years. The Kuratorium only promised financial support when all regulations were cleared and the fund got started. It is the same in all fields of the Gossner Church, dear Brother Lakra, that it has to bear responsibility. Only when the Church is still too weak to take care of its tasks itself, it will ask for help either from the Gossner Mission or LWF. That is a basic mistake in your considerations. In my opinion, your second point on page two of your application of protest is not right, namely that the principle should not be contributory. On the contrary, the Pension Fund can only work if the persons receiving a pension later on do contribute a certain amount to it during their time of active service.
- b) I was not happy to learn that you have formed an official Pension Pastor's Association and that you are the President and Brother Kujur Secretary. In my opinion, one does not do this if one has belonged and still belongs to the same ministerium verbi divini of a christian church. It looks like it as if you want to institute legal proceedings. Workers unions etc. are acting like it in the secular field, but not Pastors of a christian church. You all, who will get a pension, could appoint some representatives for talks with the leading council of the church, who will take your interests. But you should not be formed in such an official association. It would also be good if those representatives came from different tribes of the church and not only from one tribe. In my opinion, tribal thinking is too much present in our dear Gossner Church, anyhow.

2. But, I can understand you, who will receive a pension. At present and under the situation in India now, it will be very difficult for you to manage with 25% of your present salary. I understand that you will come into personal difficulties because of the economic situation and the probably increasing prices in your country. I do hope that the KSS will, for this reason, re-consider the regulations. On the other hand, dear Brother Lakra, has the start to be made somewhere and the fund has to be run efficiently if it is to meet its requirements during the years to come.

I think that it would be quite justified if a small amount of the money received from selling the Main-Road-Site of the Ranchi Compound were to be put into the Pension Fund. It would, therefore, perhaps be possible that 30%, 35% or 40 % were to be paid from the beginning without injuring the basic principle that the decisive capacity of the fund be formed out of contributions made by the servants of the church during the time of their active service.

These are my remarks, dear Brother Lakra. We are not responsible for the regulations. We consider it an honour to make contributions, and we shall fulfill our duty during the years to come. The decision is to be made by your constitutional Board of your Church.

With Christian Greetings  
I am Yours Sincerely,

cc/ Chairman of the KSS,  
President Dr. Bage

cc/ Secretary of KSS

cc/ P, Seeberg für Indien-Reise mit Vorgängen

drbg/br

Berlin-Friedenau, 15 June 1965

Rev. J. Lakra  
G.E.L. Church Compound

Ranchi / Bihar  
INDIA

Dear Brother Lakra,

It has taken some time of consideration to write this letter to you today. It is not easy for me. But, after years of close cooperation, specially during your presidency in our dear Gossner Church, I feel obliged to write to you personally very frankly.

I bear in mind that it is obviously the first time to discuss contrary views on a most important issue in the policy of the G.E.L. Church. There is danger that it will have serious consequences. I had to write a letter to the Pramukh Adhyaksh, and I assume or even hope that Rev. Dr. Bage will have informed you of it.

There has not even been such a great difference as in the matter of the "Lutheran College." Surely, I have hesitated taking up your favourite idea, but have not said anything against it. I have left it up to you to take initiative and work out plans in Ranchi and have been waiting ever since for a recommendation on this matter thorough proper channels either to Geneva or Berlin. Since July 1962, at which time you made an urgent request to the Kuratorium of the Gossner Mission, we have been waiting for it.

But, there is a difference with regard to the re-organization of the Property Board.

I.

According to the results of the meetings of April 12th and May 20-24th on this matter, I like to know the following: What is your positive aim in order to reach progress in the GEL Church ?

- a) You have obviously taken special initiative to cancel the decisions we reached in the middle of March and to take up the status quo again.
- b) You have predicted conflicts and tensions amongst the different tribes if a second co-worker would be appointed besides the present manager of the Property Board. Why should there be any disturbance in the balance of tribes if Mr. Bhengra (Munda) got appointed besides Mr. H. Lakra (Orao) ? Why do you judge the situation like this ? It is rather a matter of whether the present management of the Property Board is able to carry out the work properly or of whether it is of most importance to appoint another co-worker to this Board in order to improve the work which is now being carried out very insufficiently and is doing harm to the whole GEL Church.

- c) Are you of the opinion that the efficient agriculturalist N. Lakra is in the position to manage a property of some million Rupees (in rural as well as in urban areas) to satisfy modern needs and the Gossner Church in India of today ?

I have told Mr. Lakra quite frankly that he is over-charged, and I repeat this to you once more: I am not of the opinion that Mr. Lakra is able to do the above mentioned task ! I am surprised that Rev. J. Lakra, Padma Shri and member of a high power commission of the central government in educational matters, is judging the situation, in my opinion, not in the right light.

- d) Or do you want - for whatever reasons - to have personal influence over this part of the tasks of the Gossner Church and think that this can best be done with the present staff of the Property Board ?

You are pastor emeritus and are the chairman of the Board of Education as well as the Director of the Central-Meeting-Place. You deserve rest, but on the other hand, you have still much responsibility and much work to do; quite enough for an emeritus. I, therefore, do not understand your point of view and your serious interference in this matter. What do you really want ? This is my first question.

## II.

My second question: Did you think of the consequences of your interference ? In this connection, I remember that you have contributed - as a member of the drafting committee - a great deal to the answer of the KSS to the memorandum of the Kuratorium and have also worked out the tasks of the Gossner Church in the coming ten years. How shall this all be done or started, dear Brother Lakra, if you interfere in the re-organization of the Property Board which is of most importance ? The plans of the Gossner Church will then be null and void.

But, I like to state this in detail.

1. The own financial power of the Gossner Church could not be developed. The almost neglected compounds will remain like it in future. Land will be expropriated by the authorities and important work will not be done. Everything will get worse.
2. The Financial Adviser, who was urgently requested by the Gossner Church, will stop his work in Ranchi at the end of this year. You will not obtain another one, neither from the Gossner Mission nor probably from the Lutheran World Federation. The concerning people in Berlin and Geneva would consider it senseless to send such an efficient worker to India and pay his salary if the opposite of what he suggests is done.
3. 1 1/2 to 2 lakhs for the Ten-Year-Plan pro anno will not be sent to Ranchi anymore. The Kuratorium cannot send this amount every year to a church which does not take enough initiative to improve its own financial resources. In this respect, the memorandum has stated the danger of corrupting a young church by dispensing it from its own responsibilities.

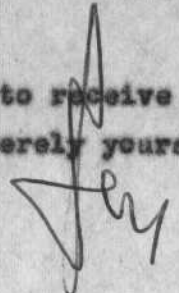
4. The relationship Gossner Church / Gossner Mission will also get deeply influenced in other points of cooperation during the coming ten important years if necessary and urgent steps will not be taken in this matter, because personal views are of priority.

I like to state this quite clearly, dear Brother Lakra, so that you know what you have done and what consequences it will have. The future of the Gossner Church to which you devoted your life-time, has reached a critical stage. Do you want that history once states: Rev. Joel Lakra has taken wrong decisions at an important stage in the development of the Gossner Church ?

I seriously hope that you will not do such harm to yourself and to the Gossner Church.

Very anxious to receive a helpful reply.

Sincerely yours,



persönl. Briefbogen  
Rev.

7. Lakra

Prüfung

---

S. W. 1/2

1/2 viele Copien für privat.

14. 1/6.

July 14/6.

Anders ist das jetzt bei der sachlichen und personellen Reorganisation des Property Boards.

Angesichts der Ergebnisse der Sitzungen vom 12. April und 20.-24. Mai in dieser Frage möchte ich wissen: Was ist Ihr



II.

Meine zweite Frage ist: Haben Sie die Konsequenzen dessen, was Sie taten, bedacht? Dabei denke ich daran, daß Sie entscheidend an der Antwort des KSS auf das Memorandum des Kuratoriums mitgearbeitet und vor allem auch die Aufgaben der Goßnerkirche in den nächsten 10 Jahren mitformuliert haben. Wie soll das alles in Gang kommen, wenn Sie einen entscheidenden Motor, das zu reorganisierende Property Board, drosseln und da alles beim alten belassen? <sup>2</sup> Ihre Pläne werden unter diesen Umständen Papier und schöne Worte bleiben.

Aber ich will das noch etwas im einzelnen aussprechen.

1. Die eigene finanzielle Kraft der Goßnerkirche, die potentiell da ist, wird nicht entwickelt werden. Die z.T. verwahrlosten Compounds werden weiter ein Bild der Heruntergekommenheit bieten. Enteignungen durch öffentliche Stellen werden geschehen, wichtige Aufgaben nicht angefaßt werden können. Es wird alles noch böser werden.

2. Der Finanzberater <sup>(dessen Fortsetzung, die Leitung der Goßnerkirche, Angelegenheiten betreffen)</sup> wird mit Jahresende seinen Dienst in Ranchi quittieren; Sie werden keinen neuen bekommen: Weder von der Goßner Mission, noch wahrscheinlich vom Lutherischen Weltbund. Es würde in Berlin und Genf als sinnlos angesehen werden, eine derartige qualifizierte Kraft zu entsenden und zu besolden, wenn das Gegenteil seiner Empfehlungen getan wird.

3. Die 1 1/2 bis 2 lakhs des Zehnjahresplans pro anno werden nicht mehr nach Ranchi kommen. Wie soll das Kuratorium sich der Mühe unterziehen, jährlich diese Summe für eine Kirche zu mobilisieren, die es unterläßt, den gewiesenen Weg der Stärkung ihrer eigenen finanziellen Hilfsquellen zu betreten? Das Memorandum hat davor direkt als einer die junge Kirche korrumpierenden, sie von der Verantwortung entbindenden Gefahr gewarnt.

4. Das ganze Verhältnis Goßnerkirche/Goßner Mission wird in den nächsten 10 entscheidenden Jahren auch in anderen Punkten der Zusammenarbeit tiefgreifend davon beeinflußt werden, wenn an einem so wichtigen Punkt das Fällige und Notwendige nicht geschieht, weil untergeordnete persönliche Gesichtspunkte den Vorrang erhalten haben.

Ich möchte Ihnen dies so klar sagen, lieber Bruder Lakra, damit Sie erkennen, was Sie getan haben und welche Folgen Sie heraufbeschwören. Die Zukunft der GEL Church, deren Wohl Sie Ihre Lebensarbeit gewidmet haben, steht an einem entscheidenden Punkt auf dem Spiel. Soll das das Ende Ihres Lebenswerks sein, das die Geschichte einmal feststellen wird: In einem wichtigen ~~Punkt~~ Augenblick hat Rev. Joel Lakra die Weichen unheilvoll gestellt?

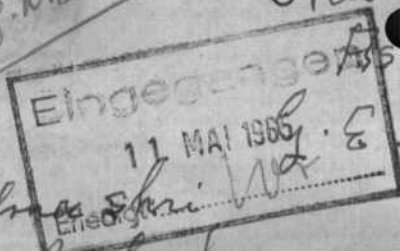
Ich hoffe ernstlich, Sie werden nicht für die Goßnerkirche und sich selbst diesen Schaden herbeiführen.

In tiefer Sorge grüße Sie mit diesem Brief  
Ihr



P. Seeberg 3. 11. 65

New Delhi



from  
E. L. Church

Ranchi.  
7/5/65

Rev. J. Askers.

Dear Dr. Beeg.

Here I am again at New Delhi on the same business of Education Reform of India and it is found that I have more time to write letters than when I am at the Headquarters at Ranchi or Khuntitola.

I must thank you for both your letters of 22 & 23. 4. 65. Yes, I also felt that I could not have private engagements with you while you were in India although I wanted to discuss with you several matters of interest.

one of the things I wanted to speak on the very subject you have dealt with in your first letter. After my talk with the Chief Minister and the Revenue Minister of Bihar, there is no objection from Government to allow us to teach Christian religion in all our schools, for near about half an hour, outside school hours, every day. Our teachers gladly give religious instruction during this time. Just after you left India we have so arranged that all our Ranchi Pastors are engaged to teach religion in our different schools at Ranchi. As Chairman of the Education Board, I lost no time to bring the subject of the Syllabus for

Religious Instruction before the  
 Headmistress' Seminar at Kheni  
 told <sup>last year (1964)</sup> this was the very first topic  
 we took up and produced one  
 syllabus based on one pre-  
 vious one. This was submitted  
 to the K.S.S for implementation.  
 The K.S.S again sent it to a com-  
 mittee consisting of Praveen, up-  
 praveen and myself. We verified  
 the syllabus with a German syllabus  
 which Mrs. Bage has. This is the  
 final product.

I was extremely glad to learn  
 of Mini and her work through the  
 lines in your kind letter. Please  
 look after her as you have been doing.

The Ranchi Compound matter  
 was still pending when I left Ranchi  
 on May 1. The proper authority will  
 contact you on the subject in due  
 course.

My work on the Education Commis-  
 sion at New Delhi is progressing  
 fairly well.

With kind regards,  
 Yours in the Lord  
 H. B. Bage

BY AIR MAIL

हवाई पत्र

AEROGRAMME

NO ENCLOSURES  
 ALLOWED



Director Dr. C. Berg

Gossner Mission House

Berlin-Friedrichshagen

Handjersstr. 19/20

West Germany

Corr. - 66

Sender's name and address

Rev. J. Bage  
 G. B. Church  
 Ranchi  
 Bihar  
 India

drbg/br  
Berlin-Friedenau, 23 April 1965

Padama Shri  
Rev. J. Lakra  
G.E.L. Church Compound

Ranchi / Bihar  
BIHAR

Dear Brother Lakra,

Our letters have crossed, but I like to send you a reply to your letter of 17 April immediately, after having sent another one yesterday.

1. We are very glad here in the Gossnerhouse that your daughter Mini likes her practical work in the Elisabeth-Diakonissen-House. Her efficiency and diligence has been appreciated there. We spoke to the Matron of the hospital some days ago, and she told us these news. Mini will surely be tired when she returns home from her work so that it is quite understandable that she does not write more frequently.
2. It must be quite a rumour, dear Brother Lakra, that I have the possibility of giving you a loan for your house. I have never said anything in this respect and could not even think of offering you a loan. I know how difficult it was for Brother Lokies to make available the first amount of money with the help and kindness of Professor Sörensen. We cannot possibly give you anymore help for your new house from here. Obviously, I have to defend myself of getting to known as a man who has unlimited resources. The reason for this is that many requests are fulfilled and much help is given.  
Good, that you have the possibility of getting a loan from the Government!
3. I was very much interested to read your lines about the Ranchi Improvement Trust and the request of the Property Board. I have, indeed, heard something about a note in the Press during my stay in Ranchi. For this reason, the finance adviser has visited Mr. Aurora Montag at once and has personally answered the mentioned letter by you to the Pramukh Adhyaksh. The meeting of Mr. Aurora and Mr. Montag must have, obviously, been quite satisfactory. Mr. Aurora has informed Mr. Montag that the GELC can develop its own plans regarding the land on the Main Road. He, however, pointed out that this will have to be done during the next one or two years, otherwise the Improvement Trust would have to take initiative itself. Mr. Montag has taken the necessary consequences and has stressed in all meetings that the new arrangement of the Ranchi Compound is, indeed, very urgent. For this reason, a Sub-Committee for the Ranchi Compound has been found. I attended its first meeting. Therefore, I cannot quite understand the request of the Property Board put to you. Maybe, this is an act of politeness to answer the letter of Mr. Aurora by written matter now. In my opinion, things are quite clear. It is duty of the GELC to take initiative and activity concerning the Ranchi Compound.

Therefore, I have been very glad to learn from the minutes of the meeting of the KSS that the Property Board will get another co-worker and Mr. Benghra will start working as Secretary from 1st of May 1965. The Property Board has passed this resolution some time ago, and I am glad that the KSS has agreed to it. It is very necessary, dear Brother Lakra, for the Property Board has been working insufficiently with its present staff. How can a property of some Million Rs. be properly administered and managed - especially during this difficult period - if it lacks the necessary staff? No profit can then be expected. Mr. Hermann Lakra is an excellent agriculturalist and rural expert, but not at all the kind of manager who is needed by the GEL Church today and in the years to come. Only if things change at this point, I am quite hopeful that the Gossner Church will fulfil and overcome the problems which it is facing now.

I do hope that you have had some good days and consultations in New Delhi and can use your impressions and experiences at the negotiations regarding the educational work of the Gossner Church.

With brotherly greetings,  
Yours,



Berlin 41, 22nd April 1965  
drbg/br

Rev. J. Lakra  
Pramukh Adhyaksh Emeritus  
G.E.L. Church Compound  
- Chairman of the Board of Education -

Ranchi / Bihar  
INDIA

Dear Brother Lakra,

Remembering the busy weeks I spent in Chota Nagpur this year, I have often felt sorry that we did not have time to talk with each other in more detail. But besides my tight schedule, you had also to go to Nagpur and New Delhi so that time was, indeed, short.

May I, therefore, raise two points in my letter today ? In many conversations, the question of christian teaching of religion in the schools of the Gossner Church was again and again raised. There were complaints regarding the irregular teaching which would not give the children the solid and lively knowledge of the Bibel and the Hymn Book anymore. There are the following questions to the Chairman of the Board of Education:

- 1) Is it the custom in the Gossner Church to hold christian teaching for one hour before the actual teaching about 10 a.m. is starting ? This is meant for the children belonging to the GEL Church. In my opinion, ~~this~~ could be carried through. Or is it up to the Director or Headmaster of a school of whether time will be provided for it or not ? Or do long distances to the school prevent the children from having christian teaching for about 45 minutes with a short break before the actual teaching is starting ? Or another question: Do the families have breakfast so late that it will not be possible for the children to arrive at the school at 9.am. ?

Perhaps you have talked about this matter with teachers and head masters of the schools at your meeting in the Central Meeting Place in Khuntitoli last year so that you will be able to answer my questions without any great difficulties ? Or: Is there a shortage of teachers who would give christian teaching in the different classes ?

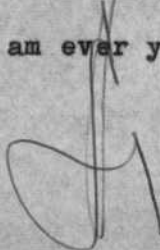
- b) Another question in this connection: Does a clear plan exist for the teaching of religion in the different classes according to which the teachers can und must orient themselves ? This plan could, certainly, only <sup>be</sup> put up by the Gossner Church. But, has this been done ? Does the teachers obtain means of help for the lessons ? Is it clear which hymns in the Sakshibani will have to be learnt between the first and eight scholastic year ?

Please excuse me for putting these questions to you in my letter instead of having talked to you about them during my stay in India. But I like to obtain some good information on these points which have and will always come up in discussions.

If there are essential needs in the mentioned points, it would be quite good to found a Sub-Committee by your Board which could examine the situation and give helpful advice. Don't you think so ?

I hope that you are well and that you can move to your house soon - and remembering the pleasant hours we spent together -

I am ever yours,

A handwritten signature, possibly 'JH', written in dark ink.

G. E. L. - Church  
Ranchi  
17.4.65

From - Padama shri  
Rev. J. Lakra.

Dear Dr. Berg,

I left Ranchi for  
New Delhi while you were having  
certain meetings at Ranchi.  
By the time I returned to Ranchi  
you were gone.

Mini is too busy with  
her Hospital work and she  
could not write to me till  
yesterday when I received  
her first letter after several  
weeks.

The most important thing  
which has happened since you  
left Ranchi, is the news given  
by Mr. Aurora, the chief Exe-

cutive Engineer of the Ranchi  
Improvement Trust, that  
a notification has been gene-  
rated to the effect that the  
Ranchi Improvement Trust  
is going to acquire the  
open land between the  
Stosh Hostel and the Main  
Gate 800 x 100 feet for build-  
ing a Marketing Centre.

The Trust had intimated  
the same about three months  
ago by a letter addressed to  
the Prammak Adhyaksh. But  
the letter remained unreplyed  
and the Gazette notification  
is the result.

Now the Property Board  
has asked me to prepare  
a reply to the action of the Trust.  
Today I have asked for the  
Gazette and the letter, in

22  
..

order to enable me to draft  
a proper reply. I hope to  
do it after Easter.

I have not yet moved to  
the new house, as the light,  
water and latrine arrange-  
ments are yet to be made.

never. When I returned from  
New Delhi, there was a flying  
news which was interesting for  
me. It said that Dr. Berg was  
going to grant a loan to Mr. Lakra  
in order to complete the house. This  
is a news for me, for I am thinking  
of applying for a loan from any  
source, preferably from Government.  
Govt. loan involves a lengthy  
procedure. If you could arrange  
for a loan, I would much prefer  
this. You might be knowing  
that about Rs 10,000 of this building  
is a gift through Dr. Sorensen of  
Augsburg. The <sup>next</sup> sum of Rs 10,000 is my  
Providence fund etc. my own. The next  
Rs 10,000 will be a loan. This completes the  
house.

Kind regards.

Yours very sincerely  
J. Lakra

BY AIR MAIL

हवाई पत्र

AEROGRAMME

NO ENCLOSURES  
ALLOWED



The Rev. Dr. C. Berg, Director  
Gossner Mission Society  
Berlin-Friedrichs  
Handjerystrasse 19/20  
West Germany

CORR - 66

Sender's name and address:-

Rev. J. Lakra  
G.E.C. Church  
Ranchi Bihar  
India

# Religious and Social Development Centre

Director

Padma Shri Rev. Joel Lakra,

M. A., B. D., S. T. M.,

1) P. Seebay 3.11.64  
2) S. D. J. 3.11.64  
Khuntitoli The 23rd ... 1964/5  
Simdega P. O., Dt. Ranchi,  
Bihar (India.) 2. MAR. 1965  
Eledigt: ...  
Indragan  
lv

Dear Dr. Berg ,

As I am leaving Hkuntitoly to-day for Ranchi, to attend meeting, I am writing this Letter, as I have not had any opportunity to Talk to you, particularly on the subject of College which is so full in my mind ever since it ~~since it~~ caught hold of me three years ago.

I am aware that I have to convince many people of the need of the College and also I know that it is not given to many to see the right thing. It is only few, some times, one or two, who can foresee what is necessary for the full growth of the Church. The Mission area is different from Europe or America. Here we have to build up every thing ourselves if we want to compete with our non-Christian neighbours. secular Govt. will not show any favour to a religious minority and in this competition we the religious minority always lose. We have to take care of ourselves by God's help.

During this second World War period when we had no Missionaries and no money, I realised the truth that Education institutions in the Mission field, are the roots of the Church Christian life. Therefore I moved to build up High School almost at every Ilaka Centre. But no money no men, That did not discourage me. There was a small group in the Church charred with vision and faith. Therefore I tried the impossible a sanctified audacity. I allowed a High School to be opened at Takarma in 1942. For about 100 Years we had only one High School and Mr. Stosch my beloved teacher declared that one School was enough for the whole Church and that there was no money to start a second High School. Mr. Stosch left the field in 1942 when the Takarma High School started. Now we have full fledged High School in the Church and two are yet to be recognised and two have been abolished because the heads of the Church in those areas lacked vision and faith, not money.

In building up these School and many Middle and Primary School in this period, we had apparently on money and actually not enough qualified men. We could not depend a budget as the superintendent of the Bethel Hospital in Germany with about 9000 patients and 300 workers told me when asked, "We have no budget and we dare make no budget" But God's power has done it, and we have competed with the Roman Catholics in the matter of educational institutions except the College-

The Roman Catholics obtained their money from the West and we only depended on God with meagre income of our own poor Christians.

In the meantime call came from Surguja to do the Mission work there. I responded without money. The National Christian Council of India called the representatives of all the nine or ten Missions ready to enter Surguja for Mission work. I attended this meeting and the whole of Surguja was distributed like a watermelon into nine parts and the Gossner Church was allotted the smallest strip of the Country to evangelize whereas some American Missions were given large portions. When asked, I was told that the Autonomus Church as the Gossner is, has no money to work, hence the small strip.

Next year all these Missions were again called by the national Christian Council, to make a report on the work done. When all the Missions reported "no conversion" I reported 700 conversions by baptism. Immediately all the big Missions packed off and left Surguja to be worked only by the Gossner, the moneyless Church.

I believe in money but more so in God, in whose hand are both money and men. I like the business like approach to projects with definite plan, estimate and working machinery envisaged and forethought. But I would like to have more vision and faith a sanctified audacity surcharged with God's power.

If I were left to myself I would have started the College by now, but I must carry the autonomous Church and the autonomous Kuratorium, to work out the project. I definitely know that the Kuratorium has no money and the autonomous Church is still worse.

But I have immense faith in my German Co-believers and I know God had enough wealth in their hands to invest in a good cause like a Christian College at Ranchi. I also trust the Kuratorium is sure to play the holy beggar in Germany when plan is placed before them.

I have asked the young men of our Church whether or not they would come forward for College service if and when it is established and I have enough encouragement.

I must also place another plan which I have thought of. We shall approach different Churches in America, Canada, Scandinavia, Australia, and Germany, directly through by I.W.F. to endow different Depts in the College, to send men with their pay for different periods. This will be real Joint Action in Mission (J.A.M.) If I have enough men in the Sub-committee with enough vision and faith, I shall carry the day and you will have a cut and dried plan as soon as possible.

The above will give us enough food for thought till we meet at Ranchi next week. I attend the National Christian Council E X. meeting at Nagpur March 1-5- '965 after which we meet in the Kalisha Sangh.

The Government of India has appointed an Education Commission For India which is going to ~~give~~ overhaul the whole Education Syatem of India and will introduce a National System of Education in India Within this Commission there is another organigation called working Group which will consider the education of the Backward Classes of India along with the Commission. Last week the Government has appointed me a member on the Working Group. The first meeting of the Working Group has been called at New Delhi on the 15th and 16 of march 1965. I shall leave Ranchi for this ~~meeting~~ meeting on the 13th. March.

I hope to be present at the K.S.S. meeting on the 11th and 12th, on invitation.

Let us pray that Gods will be done for His Glorly and the good of the G.E.L. Church.

Kindest regards

Your very Sincerely

J. C. Lake

Kenn der Benz

My Kinkadee!

The right account to  
the wrong man.

Heulich

Wm. H. J. J. J. J.

eingetragen

22 JAN 1965

## dedication: Mission

From - Rev. J. Baker

camp  
G. S. Church  
Ranchi.  
1912/164

Dear Bro. & Mrs. J. J. J. J. J.

Wish you both a  
very happy Christmas and  
a prosperous New Year.

I hope you have joined  
your new post and it is to  
your liking.

At present I am at Ranchi  
for school business and I shall  
be here till Christmas when I  
am scheduled to preach the  
Christmas sermon.

The Breuer are expected  
here tomorrow. Bro. Weissinger  
is here to welcome them. Some

of us are going to receive  
them at the Ranchi Air Port.

Dear Brother I want to  
propose as follows which you  
may consider with Mrs. J. J.  
J. and let me know:-  
The G. S. is unable to do  
anything more towards  
my monthly income which  
is Rs 30/- per month. Now  
may I approach you for a  
solution? Is it possible for you  
to supplement to this income  
to make it at least Rs 50/-  
in all. This means an  
additional amount of Rs 19/-  
per month which you will please  
find. This I dare to propose,  
for some time ago, you and  
Miss Martine had an inter-

to creat a fund for this kind  
of help. Perhaps now you are  
in a better position to help  
with your present ~~enrollment~~.  
I have made a bold proposal  
and I trust you will consider  
it.

The Regional Deputy  
Director is just now going  
to Lohardaga to examine our  
High School for final recognition.  
Mrs. Linke also joins in sending  
a very respectful Christmas  
greeting with a sincere wish  
for a happy and blessed  
Christmas and a very pros-  
perous New Year.

With kind regards.

Yours truly  
H. C. [Signature]

BY AIR MAIL

हवाई पत्र

AEROGRAMME

NO ENCLOSURES  
ALLOWED



Dr. H. H. Jungmans  
Süd Asien Institut  
Universität  
Heidelberg  
West Germany

CORR - 66

Third fold here

Sender's name and address:

Rev. J. L. [Signature]  
H. C. [Signature]

P.O. Lohardaga

Dr. Ramkrishna

Bihar

India

drbg/br  
Berlin-Friedenau, 14 Jan 1965

Rev. J. Lakra  
G.E.L. Church

Ranchi / Bihar  
INDIA

Dear Brother Lakra,

Thank you very much for your kind letter and your Christmas Greetings which I received just before Christmas. From your letter I learned how busy you still are with attending and conducting many meetings of the various Boards of the Gossner Church.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you again and discussing with you many important matters during my stay in Chota Nagpur from 1st of February to 20th of March 1965. I hope that you are still well and healthy. Please, do not send any construction plans and resolutions to Berlin anymore at the moment, since it will be surely be better to discuss them in India.

I am glad that you are missing Thiels and Junghans's who are working on other tasks already. I assume that they themselves will not forget their years of hard pioneering work in India so easily, too.

I was pleased to read that you baptized another seven new converted families in a village near Ranchi. It is the top task of a christian to bring near the Gospel to other people, and if people like to become christians in full freedom and without force, we have to thank our Lord all the more.

It was not good, dear Brother Lakra, that you have acted against the 10th commandment ! You wanted to snatch Brother Weissinger away from us ! He told me that during a joyful conversation you had at once been willing to ordain him as pastor for the Gossner Church ! Well, I have to do some serious talk with the honourable Ex-President of the Gossner Church ! To invite me as assistant for this task - that is just too much !

I hope that I shall have some good weeks in Chota Nagpur; there will certainly be quite a lot of serious talks, but I hope that there will also be much joy and pleasure. I am also anxious to get to know your new Central-Meeting-Place.

Mini is well; I am seeing her sometimes. I hope that your other children are also well.

With brotherly greetings,  
I am yours,

Camp  
G. E. L. Church  
Ranchi

17.12.64.

From - Rev. J. Lakka

Dear Dr and Mrs. Berg,

This is just to send  
my Christmas Greetings and a very  
prosperous New Year to you.

I have been here at Ranchi  
conducting many meetings as  
the Chairman of the Education  
Board of the Gossner Church.  
School year is closing and I  
had to submit to the RSS so  
many budgets. Also we had  
a Gossner College Committee  
meeting where we considered  
the Plan of the College prepared  
by the Director Schwark. When  
the final Plan is accepted I  
shall send you a copy of

the same. Now the RSS is very  
anxious that the Church has  
a College of her own as soon  
as possible.

Only few weeks back I  
had a meeting at Rhenitoli  
of Synod Sauchalak's and  
Ilaka Chairmen at which  
I also invited the Adhyakshas  
and the Praveph Adhyaksh.  
We had Evangelism and  
Finance of the G. E. L. Church  
as the Themes. Some new  
thoughts and schemes were  
introduced which may  
bring some change in the  
Gossner Church. I hope to  
send copies of the resolutions  
unfortunately they are in Hindi  
and must be taken into  
English before I send them  
to you.

I personally miss Messrs Thiel and Jungmans. They did real pioneering work and I was glad I could help them. Mr. Schwark is doing good work and I wish him all success. Mr. Weisinger has started his work and I wish him Godspeed.

About three weeks ago I was called to baptize seven new converted families in one village near Ranchi. They were all baptized and this brought the Aiyasamajit in the scene.

Ranchi is cold now, rather unusual. We are looking forward to your arrival here in the beginning of Feb. 1915.

God's name be praised for all His blessings of the last year.

Kind regards, Yrs. Friend  
J. L. Laker

BY AIR MAIL

हवाई पत्र  
AEROGRAMME  
NO ENCLOSURES  
ALLOWED



Dr. & Mrs. Christian Berg  
c/o Gossner House  
Berlin-Friedenau  
Hindenburgstr. 19/20  
West Germany

Cons. 66

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Sender's name and address:

Rev. J. Laker  
G. E. L. Church  
Ranchi, Bihar  
India

drbg/br

Berlin-Friedenau, 21 September 1964

Padma Shri  
Rev. Joel Lakra  
Religious and Social Development Centre

Khuntitoli P.O. Simdega  
Dt. Ranchi / Bihar / India

Dear Brother Lakra,

Thank you very much for your important letter of 10th September 1964 in which you enclosed your short autobiography. Most interesting pages, as far as I went through them ! After they have been translated into German, I shall read your autobiography more carefully, and we shall then consider how and where we best publish it. But I should like to thank you already today for your account of life and work which was guided by our Lord.

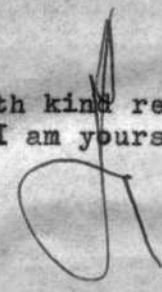
May I also acknowledge receipt of your letter of 4th August 1964 in reply to my letter of 14th July. I hope that brother Weissinger, who will come to Berlin tomorrow, will tell us that Sinha Tarkeshwar has safely arrived in Mainz-Kastel and will start studying soon.

A young American pastor and his wife will move into the flat where Mini lives, at the end of October so that Mini will have good companionship. This will surely help her to get over the not easy time of the last months, so that she will continue with her studies this winter successfully.

We have talked about the other matters with Brother Bage during his stay in the Gossnerhouse. I was especially grateful to hear from Brother Junghans that you have accompanied him during his troublesome journey and discussions and have helped as much as possible to solve the problems. We do hope to receive the Import Licence for the cattle as well as the visa for Bruns and Marianne Koch soon, for time is getting short. These problems trouble us most at the moment and also cost us extra money.

I was very glad to receive some news from you. I hope to come to Chota Nagpur next February again and see you there, also.

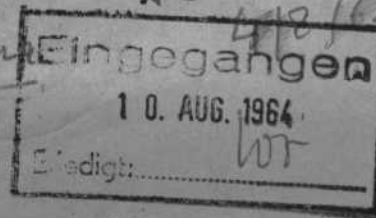
With kind regards,  
I am yours,



P. February 3-1964

Rhantitoli.  
Mrs. Sindiga  
At. Ranchi

From Rev. J. Lakshmi



Dear Bro. Berg,

Most gratefully I  
acknowledge the receipt of your  
letter of July 14, 1964.

I believe Tarkishwar is leaving  
India for Mainz along with Bro.  
H. Bage. I met them all last week.

Yes, the hurricane in Rhantitoli  
has been found unusually  
violent, perhaps, due to the hill-  
ranges around Rhantitoli. I  
thank you gratefully for your  
kind offer to help us out.

Many thanks for news about  
Mimi. I am sure she is safe,

by God's grace, under yours and  
Mrs. Berg's parental care. I  
am glad Eugie has been  
sent away to Mainz.

I have written to the Bernitts  
about Mimi's visit. I shall  
also write to the Friedrichs.  
They have been very loving  
to the Lakshmi family.

Along with the All India  
Lutheran Conference, I am  
also arranging the North  
India Lutheran Conference  
of which I am appointed co-  
venor. I am sure you will  
be with us in your prayer.

I informed Dr. Bage  
about the silence of Rev. Piza,  
but I did not find much  
on the scene about his going  
to Germany.

It appears Bro Jungmans  
may not continue for long.  
Perhaps, he was not satisfied  
with the mind of the U.S.S on  
the subject. He heard the  
members talk that Dr. Jung-  
mans should stay as long as  
the farm is not self-supporting.  
Dr. Jungmans thought that that  
Farm could be made self-  
supporting in one or two years.  
what then, no security for  
his service. Then the U.S.S made  
it six years which Bro Jung-  
mans did not take so seriously.  
In the Gharbandhan it was  
published only three years.  
I informed these matters to  
Bro. Bage and requested him  
to meet Dr. Jungmans. I am  
personally interested in Bro.  
Jungmans and so I am mention-  
ing these things unofficially.  
Very kind regards to Mrs. Berg  
and self. Yours in the Lord.  
J. L. K.

BY AIR MAIL

हवाई पत्र

AEROGRAMME

NO ENCLOSURES  
ALLOWED



The Rev. Director Chr. Berg  
Gossner Mission  
Berlin Friedenau  
Hardenbergstr. 19/20  
West Germany.

CORR - 68

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Sender's name and address:-

Rev. J. L. K.  
Hardenbergstr. 19/20  
P.O. Sindolga  
St. Ranchi  
Bihar - India

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drbg/br

Berlin-Friedenau, 27 July 1964

Padma Shri  
Rev. Joël Lakra  
Religious and Social Développement Centre

Khuntitoli P.O. Simdega  
Dt. Ranchi / Bihar / India

Re: Plan of a Lutheran College at Ranchi

Dear Brother Lakra,

Thank you very much for your letter of 18th July on this matter which I should like to answer today. From the minutes of the KSS, which we receive here in the Gossnerhouse, I already learned that the brothers are expecting from you, as the chairman of the sub-committee, a report. May I state once more in this connection as to how things have gone so far.

1. At its meeting on 9th July 1962 the Kuratorium attentively noted your urgent request for help in building up a college at Ranchi. The Kuratorium did not deny its support. But it made it clear that
  - a) the Gossner Mission could not give financial support in this matter; special funds would have to be found for it in Germany.
  - b) before submitting an application, the Gossner Church would have to pass a resolution, concerning the building of the college.
  - c) this resolution could only be carried out after proper and clear plans had been put up, that is, stating the amount needed for building the place as well as the running costs after the college has started to work.

Therefore, dear Brother Lakra, it is not up to the Kuratorium to give a general financial promise for help in this matter. It is rather up to the Gossner Church and your committee to put up exact plans as to the amount needed for building the place and the running costs, if you find it absolutely important to establish the college.

Your report to the KSS would have to include these facts and figures worked out by the sub-committee.

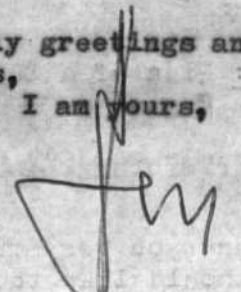
I do not want to conceal that there are great doubts as to whether the Gossner Church will be able to carry the project, because it will probably not have the appropriate teachers as well as the necessary money for running the place in the future. There is also doubt whether this college will really be independent enough to state its clear ev.luth. character, because the management of the University of Ranchi, to which all colleges in Bihar have to be affiliated, has great influence, extending to personnel engagement. For this reason, I always doubted in talks on the matter of building a college whether, under these circumstances, it is possible and useful to build up such a college.

b.w.

However these questions might be handled, I have to answer you: Exact plans, regarding the costs, personnel engagement etc., have to be worked out at Ranchi. Only after that, we here in Germany can try to find out whether the necessary money can be found for these detailed plans. The Gossner Mission itself cannot bear the necessary money; other places would have to be found.

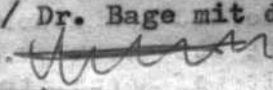
I do hope that I now made it clear to you as the chairman of the sub-committee, how we see this matter from Berlin.

With brotherly greetings and  
kind regards,  
I am yours,



cc/ Dr. Junghans, member of the committee - for information

cc/ Dr. Bage mit der Bitte, den Brief hier in Berlin zur Kenntnis zu nehmen.



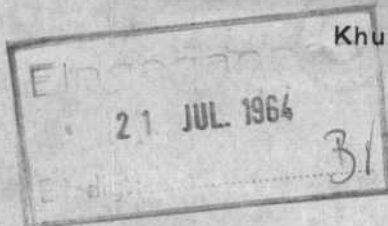
# Religious and Social Development Centre

Director

Padma Shri Rev. Joel Lakra,  
M. A., B. D., S. T. M.

Khuntitoli The 18th July, 1964

Simdega P. O., Dt. Ranchi,  
Bihar (India.)



Dear Brother Berg,

The K.S.S. asks me to submit a report on the progress made with regard to the secular College in the G.E.L. Church at Ranchi. I am the Chairman of the College Committee, as such I must submit the report to the K.S.S. at the next full meeting of the K.S.S.

As you know the Raja Bungalow Compound has been selected for the College site. I consulted Dr. and Mrs. Wolf as suggested by you on the subject, and they submitted their inability to help in the matter as they had never dealt with College or College building. Next I consulted Dr. Gyani the Principal of the Government College Ranchi. He expressed his ready willingness to help us in every way. The first site of the proposed College was the large open space between the two gardens but subsequently the Raja Bungalow Compound has been finally selected. Thus the delay was caused.

Now in consultation with Dr. Junghans an important member of the Committee, before bringing up the matter in the College Committee I would like to enquire as follows:-

1. How soon the Kuratorium will be ready to help us in the Project of starting the College.
2. Will there be any condition on the part of the Kuratorium in offering the help envisaged.

The K.S.S. is very anxious to start the College in the nearest future possible. At present there is dearth of Christian Staff for the College but I am thinking of selecting few worthy Candidates for preparing them as teachers in the College. If I know definitely from you on the above points I shall be able to report to the K.S.S. accordingly. The authorities of the Government College are ready to help us in the preparation of the plan and the estimate of the proposed College.

With very kind regards.

Yours very sincerely,

drbg/br

Berlin-Friedenau, 14 July 1964

Rev. J. Lakra

Khuntitoli P.O. Simdega  
Dt. Ranchi / Bihar  
India

Dear Brother Lakra,

Thank you very much for your letter of 15th June, reminding us of the matter of Tarkeshwar Sinha.

Shortly before, I have spoken with brother Weissinger about this matter and asked him to write to Mr. Sinha in Ranchi directly, regarding a further inquiry. Thereby, the father of Tarkeshwar doubtlessly knows that we take the invitation of his son seriously and that we are prepared for his coming to Germany. Everything has been done which is possible and necessary.

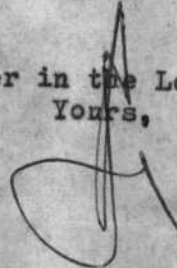
We have been very sorry to hear of the hurricane which has destroyed the new building of the middle school on 18th June. Dr. Junghans informed us about it. Obviously, your plans of your work have also been involved. On 12 July, I have authorized Dr. Junghans to build up the house once more, so that there will be no hindrance for your tasks in the Religious and Social Development Centre.

We have had some trouble with your daughter Mini in the last few weeks. The Kuratorium had to resolve to send Mr. stud. phil. Kujur to Mainz in order to continue with his studies there. The friendship of Mini to Mr. Kujur has become too close. It would be advisable if you sent a word to Mini telling her to devote her time to studies only. We do hope that she will finish with her preparing course in the coming days and that she will be able to start with her medical studies in autumn. She has received a very kind invitation from P. Frerichs in Aurich-Oldendorf / Ostfriesland (aunt Mia) and from P. Borutta to spend her holidays there.

May God bless your work, especially when the All-Asia-Lutheran Conference will be held in October in Ranchi.

We regret that Rev. Tiga has not replied to our invitation to come to Germany this summer and visit the Gossner congregations here. This invitation has been given to him in March already.

Ever in the Lord  
Yours,



From: Rev. J. Lakka

P. O. Lindega  
at Ranchi  
Eingegar 12/6/64  
22 JUN. 1964  
Erledigt: *hr*

Dear Dr. Berg,

The other day Mr.

C. P. Linha met me and we had a talk about his son Tarkeshwar, who is preparing himself to go to Germany for joining the Mainzer University, I believe. He was mentioning of the letter of invitation from the University authorities. It has not yet arrived and perhaps, the young man must start in the month of July, 64 as I understood it.

The invitation will be addressed to

Tarkeshwar  
c/o Shri C. P. Linha  
Regional Deputy Director  
of Education  
Ranchi.

Shri Linha is anxiously waiting for the invitation.

I am thinking of inviting the Alaska Chairmen and the Synod Sanchalaks, as the next group for this year. But there are two big Conferences which also must be held. One is the Regional Conference of the

For the India Lutheran Churches of which I am appointed as the Convener. The other is the All Asia Lutheran Conference to be held at Ranchi Oct 8-18 1964, under the auspices of the L.W.F. C.W.M. The RSS is going to form a Committee for the Central Meeting Place. They are sitting now.

The rest is O.K. by God's grace.

Kind regards,

Ever in the Lord  
Yours sincerely  
J. Lakhera

BY AIR MAIL

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ALLOWED



The Rev. Director Christian Berg  
Gossner Mission  
Berlin Friedenau  
Handjeruysstr 19/20  
West Germany

Corr - 66

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Sender's name and address:

Rev. J. Lakhera  
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P.O. Sindolga  
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Bihar  
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