

Walter Beltz

Berlin-Zehlendorf, den 13.10.1960
Teltower Damm 163

Sehr geehrter Herr Paton !

Ihre schriftstellerischen Arbeiten haben mich bewogen, mich mit einer Bitte an Sie zu wenden.

Am 24. Juni 1961 wird der Propst zu Berlin, D.H. Grüber, 70 Jahre alt. In Würdigung seiner Verdienste um die Kirche in Deutschland, die aus rassischen Gründen Verfolgten, die Diakonie und den Frieden hat sich ein Kreis konstituiert, dem Pastor Dr. A. Freudenberg, Frau Margarete Lachmund, Pastor Dr. Poelchau und Pfarrer R. Weckerling angehören, der eine Festschrift für den Jubilar herausbringen möchte. Diese soll im Käthe-Vogt-Verlag Berlin unter dem Titel erscheinen:

Brückenbauer des Friedens
Selbstzeugnisse von Zeitgenossen
Heinrich Grüber zum 70. Geburtstag

Im Auftrage des Herausgeberkreises möchte der Unterzeichnete höflich fragen, ob Sie bereit sind, sich mit einem Beitrag an dieser Festschrift zu beteiligen. Die Beiträge sollen biographischen Charakter tragen und vom Werdegang, von Erlebnissen, Erfolgen und Niederlagen im Ringen um die Ziele Ihrer Arbeit handeln. Junge Menschen, für die dieses Buch vor allem gedacht ist, entbehren solche lebendigen Zeugnisse sehr. Da die persönliche Würdigung den Grußworten und der Biographie vorbehalten sein möchte, bitte ich Sie, die Berührungspunkte mit dem Jubilar nicht in den Vordergrund zu stellen.

Die Beiträge sollten eine Länge von 5-10 Schreibmaschinenseiten nicht überschreiten. (1 1/2 zeilig).

Wir beabsichtigen, den Reinertrag aus dem Verkauf der Festschrift der Arbeit von Propst Grüber an den aus rassischen Gründen Verfolgten zur Verfügung zu stellen. So wird diese Festgabe ein dreifaches Geschenk sein, den Lesern, dem Jubilar und letztlich auch seinen Betreuten. Ich möchte Sie herzlich bitten, mir bald eine Nachricht zukommen zu lassen, ob Sie mitarbeiten wollen. Die Beiträge erbitte ich bis spätestens 31. Januar 1961.

Im Namen des Herausgeberkreises möchte ich Ihnen schon jetzt herzlich danken und grüße Sie in vorzüglicher Hochachtung

Walter Beltz

As from

Walter Beltz

Berlin-Zehlendorf, 9.12.60
Teltower Damm 163

Dear Mr. Paton,

although we are unknown to you we dare to write you as we are convinced that we are one in the cause of peace.

In this regard we are planning a book for the purpose of helping the young generation to take their place among those who set their feet on the path toward peace and understanding between peoples. We are dedicating the book to Propst Dr. Heinrich Grüber who will be 70 years of age June 24th 1961. He spent his energy and his health in helping the Jews and other racially persecuted during the period of national socialism and Hitler in Germany. For his efforts he was confined in the concentration camp of Dachau. Since the end of the war in 1945 he worked for the refugees and for a better understanding between East and West. He named himself "pontifex" i.e. bridge builder and unceasingly appealed to others to be bridge builders also.

In that we do not propose that the book be a monument to Propst Grüber as such. A complete knowledge of his person and work is not necessary for effective contribution.

The reader we have in mind is the younger generation between 18 and 30 who we feel should become acquainted with the person, life and work of those who have given themselves for the purpose of peace in all spheres of life in our time. The example of less known peacemakers may be even more encouraging .. ~~the~~

In that the young people of our generation are extremely sceptical of theory we are asking the contributors to write in as practical a way as possible revealing themselves, their backgrounds, their lives how they were won for and in which way they have tried to serve the purpose of peace.

Therefore, knowing of your contribution to the cause of reconciliation we are asking you to send us a contribution for our proposed book. We would appreciate keeping your essay within the maximum of 1500 to 2000 words. They should reach us not later than January 31st, 1961. Should there be any gain from the planned publication the funds will be used and contributed to the continuing work of Propst Grüber on behalf of those still suffering racial discrimination.

In the name of Margarete Lachmund, Dr. A. Freudenberg, Dr. H. Poelchau, Walter Beltz and others

Yours sincerely,

(Rudolf Weckerling)

276

23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal, South Africa.

4th February, 1961.

Dear Herr Beltz,

I must apologise for having neglected so long to reply to your letter of 9.12.60. If I am still in time, I would like to write, not an article, but perhaps an account of an experience which helped me to think in a non-racial way. Please write to me at once if you still want such a contribution.

Yours sincerely,

Collection Number: AD1169

Collection Name: Alan Paton Papers, 1952-1988

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

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