Gerrit Jan de Bruin

Acquoi, Gelderland - Grand Haven, Michigan

G.J. de Bruin to Brother and Sister

January 24, 1891

Dear Brother and Sister,

Conditions are so miserable here, I could not wait any longer to let you know. For more than two months already there has been a very hard winter, so that I couldn't earn a cent in all this time. I do get from the diaconate not more than 50 cents in the week, and so whether I like it or not I have to get for the rest of my keep. But since it is lasting so long, those gifts are getting smnaller and smaller. And now I finally see no hope, so I ask you both here by if you would be so good if it were at all possible to speedily send me a little money. Believe me, if my poverty were not so urgent, I would not bother you. But now I hope you will not forget your brother who is in such dire straights. With greetings, I remain your brother,

Gerrit Jan de Bruin

P.S. Written at the request of G.J. de Bruin by W. de Jongh Mz. Sec. Church warden (Diaconate?) at Akkooi

toghan klinged lagenede, skelle blevede skeumede, ver formen de skeumede, ver formen de skeumede, ver formen de skeumede, ver formen de skeumen de skeumen. n unfermale elle Mylande be mermenderful My 24 famener 1891 · Course of from enthanter telle hal har in manned in the Bound in the Boundary of the State of the Boundary of the Boundary of the Boundary of the State of the Je Meerwel yn Hille de Bring of the State of Then hay met sengen spruch elegnoch ihr tillen geldeligt there of general her greathouses Her Germany it M beide by de neg enereent in jerimen

De Bruin, Gerrit Jan

Acquoy, Gelderland - Grand Haven, Michigan

W. de Jongh on behalf of G. J. de Bruin to W. de Jongh

December 29, 1892

Friend de Bruin,

Your brother, G.J. de Bruin will not excuse me from the responsibility to write you once more. I was not much inclined to do so because I did so last year without receiving any answer or support from your brother. However, in as much as because of his advanced age his mental state is very sad, I take my pen in hand once again. Yes! it really isn't necessary for me to tell you anything. You know that the man lives in bitter poverty and is unable to do any work. He receives at the most f 0,54 per week from hospice and from a fund for the poor. Beyond this he must beg from house to house. Now, I cannot make a judgement about you and your sister. I don't know if you are in a position to give some assistance - something that you together can do without - then do consider and extend a helping hand to your brother. Yes, if it isn't much you can give, then somewhat less. I assure you that there is no better way to do good, then to extend a helping hand to your brother. He lacks not only food, but also clothing and shelter. His condition is lamentable. At his urgent request I request that after you have read this letter you will also send it to his and your sister.

Received the hearty greeting from your brother,

G.J. de Bruin

W. de Jongh

Church warden and chancellor of the congregation

Gerrit Jan de Bruin

Acquoy, Gelderland - Grand haven, Michigan.

W. de Jongh on behalf of G. J. de Bruin.

Acquoy, 29 December, 1892

Vriend de Bruin,

Uw broeder,G. J. de Bruin, alhier laat niet los of ik zou nogmaals aan u schrijven. Ik had er al zeer weing lust in om reden ik zulks verleden jaar ook heb gedaan zonder dat uw broer eenig onderstand noch antwoord op mijn schrijven is gevolgd. Doch daar zijne verstand ten gevolge zijner klimmende jaren zoo aller treurigst wordt, heb ik nogmaals de pen opgenomen. Ja! ik behoef u niets te zeggen. Gij weet de man is bitter arm, werken kan hij niet meer. Hij geniet van het armen en gasthuis te zamen hoogstens f 0,54 per week. Verder moet hij langs de huizen bedelen. Nu kan ik de toestand van u en uwe zuster niet beoordelen. Ik weet niet of die zoo is dat u hulp kunt verlenen. Maar mocht dit wel zoo zijn en mocht u zamen wel wat kunnen missen, o denk er dan om en haast u toch aan uw broer de helpende hand uit te reiken. Ja mocht het niet veel zijn dan maar wat minder. Ik verzeker u dat ge op geen betere wijze kunt weldoen dan hier iets aan uw broer af te Het is niet alleen dat hij gebrek heeft aan behoorlijk voedsel maar staan. met kleeding en deksel ziet het er ook erbarmelijk uit bij hem. Op zijn dringend verzoek moest ik u bij deze uitnodigen dezen brief als u die gezien hebt ook aan zijne en uwe zuster toe te zenden.

Ontvang verder hierbij de hartelijke groeten van uw broer,

G. J. de Bruin.

. . . .

W. de Jongh.

Kerkvoogd en raadslid der gemeente.

The board of the state of the s General Jan de Brutton Brugon Allenoi, Geldeoland-Grand Haurn Muligan ett behoef it med to tege gjøret de en maple of while well week therman beenen chargement this well too for this in is class the hard hand were Carbon 1692 mucky Billed war on hing by he sprock builte Che Complete Constitute of the hall the Bright Cher Gewell to

Gerrit Jan de Bruin

Akkooi, Gelderland - Grand Haven, Michigan

G.J. de Bruin to Brother and Sister

December 1, 1894

Dear Brother and Sister,

Herewith I let you know that I am in good health and hope you are too. But Brother, now I have to tell you something I'd rather not, but we have had such a bad wind that the roof of my house is almost conpletely ruined and I cannot afford to get it fixed. I wish you and sister would have a little to spare because I am getting wet from the rain. I can barely exist from what I earn. Wages are so small they even have the nerve to pay people only 50 to 60 cents per day and what is that, when half of the time there is no work. Then too, potatoes are so expensive that the workman can't even think of buying them. The price is three guilders per hecto-liter. So Brother, please be so good to also tell Sister how things are. I further wish you all the best and remain your dear Brother, who calls himself Gerrit Jan de Bruin, in expectation.

Jeante broeder en Enster

Met dese had ik il is woten dat ik nig in gesonde westand wetter te suig it mogen vormane westen dock brokete te suig it mogen vormane in dock brokete te suig te mogen viet kakeste te door den wind en daar daar door den wind en daar te laven dat it en keingsleit voor mij geen door daar om te leinigsleit voor ver flaat it an kuste toet daar want ik vegen int in flaat in daar ver keinigsleit voor ver flaat in daar de verdienste.

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Gerrit Jan de Bruin

Acquoi, Gelderland - Grand Haven, Michigan

G.J. de Bruin to Sister and family

February 3, 1896

Dear Sister and children and other family,

I received your letter and money in good health and I want to thank you very much because I needed it so bad, as there is little to do here since the brick kiln disappeared, many people are now without work. You write about Marienus de Bruin how he is doing. You don't mean our brother, do you? You should know that already brother Marienus died more than three years ago. And his wife about two years. The house where they lived has been sold. A son lived there for a long time but now he is sailing and lives on his ship. That is Klaas. A son Marienus lives next door and a son Jan lives in Asperen. The last two are married but the wife of Jan is also dead. I also have to tell you that my son Willem is going to marry a girl from Asperen and I also have to tell you that Peter van Doorn and his wife have passed away. If you can tell your brother about this too. We cannot talk to each other, but we can still write. So I also expect to get an answer to this letter and I thank you from the heart for what I received from you. I remain your Brother and Uncle, who calls himself.

G.J. de Bruin

C.O. Leeuwen

P. O.

con soon obtaining mont noust min M Edoelf onte broeder tog niet il & year het huis wan to in gewoon tal tog met meter that broker en con bon ? Movienns at needs cen from of cone Zijn hier veel mendelien bouter week of him enacting day is telians Rebben is verhould dawn teeft nogis me vamende en mont er hier evening le doen vull tedont de stemoven hier is men gernally down is in getoud heid the brief in fell outrouge heb most is the was lung con won in gewoon't clock die de Bruin, live het deux mede gant er ook hund mede bonvodigt daar generally- It schrift over Manieurs Maynor is Sebruali 1896 on voldere vamielie reache linder on hindure

es to hunt deel don once brocher antwood of mijer schrijven it sermants dans orde wel weer he Lead who mede met eldander en tyn vrous syn over teden have dan top wel cons Il miller class poter mun doorne hveelen lance svýsnich dog soy lock you some is ook al Road t min won willow ook the year the van the orderinge terens most in a Conigten The met aching Word in adpener gant met en meisje en orme rich rooms cook most it achorne Schnigere

Gerrit Jan de Bruin
Akkooi, Gelderland - Grand Haven, Michigan
G.J. de Bruin to Sister
September 27, 1897

Dear Sister,

I am letting you know that I am well and healthy and hope to hear the same from you. The potatoes by us are very good and other fruit too, but that doesn't help me because the potatoes are three per hectoliter, so you can understand that I cannot buy them. I don't have any. I cannot buy any. I don't earn a cent. I cannot work any more and I don't have anything or I have to get it from somebody else. And you can understand that if you have to get it from somebody else, it is not much. Now I would like to ask you something please if you have something for me, you and my brother, them I would have something for the winter. It is not a nice picture for me to face the winter this way. The winter is long and bread is expensive, 10 cents, meat nine and bacon seven cents. It is expensive living here but everything in the field looks really good. It is a good year for the farmers. Brother, do write me how the boys are doing, I would like to know. Brother and Sister, write me how things are growing in the field because people talk so strange, that in the foreign countries it doesn't look too good. Pigs here are expensive too the...22cents and....26 cents, so that is So good-bye now to all the family and acquaintences from your dear brother who calls himself, Gerrit Jan de Bruin.

5 Thehor Wenzy Septeller way rijn hier drie jeer must dry han en ligt de my greggeen das het som my tet sam sen anderhelden u wel begreffen en af je het van een hange me mes koopren it heler geen een it I het niet reel out than the mass can hel where meeder To hoven de ance med hellen our its han niet meet werken M ved Orien gren sont need can want er cordepeler my en ge runt blen en can hoop the ven ed, colo gaet en de anderen reuhben avedukellen sig big ong heel u laar werten Clas- ih nog Geachten auster elast the goal one be housen

geheijfen compresengen gæl fæar van de sam nant de minterijspoor Early het breiter her sak vælen skrifer dry her i fælen skrifer dry her i legen mun aleg steat boeren bueder, and olif ear en nag i vat, som mos ge midt vær mer mal was as winter brucker dan homils ook een nee zoch ean a celje I may al seding dummer met vom enelig uit riet ene marken rign hier ook druck bie endel man 22 pent en ce her nor nous of not or Geriet jan de Arnin; brueder en angten u meet cok is schrijken hae het daar met het nelt ge wag i I chieved mad and weren reten 26 year any and en de sucember landen en ken eleg som elgen u sken bæren svent ben its out men brucker Chie Lignoem

Gerrit Jan de Bruin

Akkooi, Gelderland - Grand Haven, Michigan

G.J. de Bruin to sister

November 22, 1897

Dear Sister,

I am writing you to tell you I am in good health and hope to hear the same from you. I am curious to know if the letter arrived all right because it is such a long time ago, something like six weeks. I don't have any potatoes. I cannot buy any, they are so expensive here they are three guilders. I cannot buy any. I wish I had a few cents or it will look pretty bad for me this winter. I hope you will be so good and send me a few cents. We belong to one another, because you can't expect it from strangers these days. The love among the people is not what it used to be, so brother and sister, I hope you wil be so good and send me a few cents, or I won't know what to do this winter. So I hope brother and sister I will receive good news. Good-bye from who calls himself,

Gerrit Jan de Bruin

al live gulles ek hun en gen kopen ek nouv Televising of lear Rive drief sieg geen eenen aardageel und se sejn hed son goed had myen en van ben minden el gleg near my sail hat want ander rier her het now lang geleeven it hoop our was Te housen it ben niewy dat hoge in var en och sig will schrijf out the Milhor Den 22 November wogo strucce my dag een Gearliten unger der ik ny geleevery in hye

senden en eur met de ran en suter its hours branger and Sweet the breeder en support den mindel goen road Jegen woudig de liefelle ? hier nier men onde mengen have selen ill goesen Feising and your mied I gopen neem com Jest . al have need rown my benen new van ancie elhanere Se V

Gerrit Jan de Bruin

Akkooi, Gelderland - Grand Haven, Michigan

G.J. de Bruin to sister and children

February 2, 1898

Dear Sister and children,

I hope you may read these few words in good health. As for me, I cannot brag very much, for a long time I have not been very well, so you can imagine it is not too flush with me and so my sister I turn to you again and hope that you will be able to assist me. Please let Brother Arie also know how it is with me. Further, I remain respectfully your Brother and Uncle,

G.J. de Bruin

C. van Leeuwen p.o.

I am also broken, of which I cannot be healed and that is hard on me.

Acquoi & Sebruare 1898 Geachte Luster en kinderen ik hoop dat w dere weinige Woorden in goeden gerondhord Zult moge Ceren want wat my betreft han in viet hand wermen in bon needs lang niet erg goed geweest dus in han wel denken dut fret er voor my met breed aan zit daar om Kuster wend ih my nog is tol Il in leef of hoop dat is my toch noch wel wet but but buttain I wees two goed en last broeder I drie ook weten hoe de Zuken Thum verlers blighthe enex achting Uwen Croeller en com. of de Bruin Evan Leermen po

Gerrit Jan de Bruin

Akkooi, Gelderland - Grand Haven, Michigan

G.J. de Bruin to Sister

July 11, 1898

Dear Sister,

The occassion of the dayly way news puts me to take up the pen to write you a few words to let you know that in my poverty I am still in good health, which I also hope to hear from you, that God may save you all from the field of battle, because so many have fallen, as we see from the newspapers it is terrible. Here, too, some people have to suffer from it because bread and also other food is getting more expensive. For me there is little to earn because I cannot walk too good so it is very difficult to earn my bread. I would like to know how brother Arie is doing, if his sons are still at home, I would like to know how he is. Lets hope that soon the quarrel and disatisfaction of the battle is resolved because you understand that with everything expensive and nothing to earn is a bad situation, because they don't bring it to the house. This is the reason dear Sister that makes me write to you. I hope and wish you can write me a few words, you will do me a big favor. Be sure not to forget to write me how my brother is doing. Further I have nothing more to write but the best compliments from the one who dares to call himself your loving brohter,

Gerrit Jan de Bruin

grunelijk ook hier moch somige menchen en ook andere e dens midellen worder dunnder er is hier wor mig meening kwendiene want ik ook at heel meetigh om er aan mign brook door dere boestant lijde want het brook armaede gelikkig nog al gezont blijf het geen it ook van u wechte be vernemen dat god u alle van het slagt velt mogen bekomen mat ik ook eens graag wilde weken hae of broeden dan het maark of zijn jargen weken nag fehre sijn of nich sik zon graag eens weken dat spreedig den hvist en onterredenlijd berrigde als er anders nor weel valle als ons lettert over kmaken dat ik in ou kan sleckt meer boopen she shed good mig toor de kranse bekent worde dan is het De gelegenheid et den nos alle dangste bekende vorlogsbeiding vært my heden de pen berhanden om u senige Moor 11 July 1898 hed book shelf hed is man be hopen

en de skrijven ik hoop en wench dat sjij mig eens eenige woorsjes zult kenig schrijven skar zult gemij een great genoegen mee verschafen verycet boy voor at nich om boy be schrijven hae myn broeder he't maakt van dens weekik Turker het gen my aan kiding. behins . het is daar dan lieve compelle mente van I om tay be schijwen brengen the het Gerrit Jan de Bruin

Akkooi, Gelderland - Grand Haven, Michigan

G.J. de Bruin to Brother, Sister and children

October 14, 1898

Dear Brother, Sister, and children,

Again I take the pen to find out if you are all in good health, I would like to know that my dear friends. Yes you will probably enjoy life more than I, though I still manage, but no place on earth is perfect. Here you find this and there that, so there is always something though different from one to the other. Can you imagine, I am all alone. I don't have anything or I have to get if myself and I can hardly go anymore, and even if I could there is nothing to earn, sometimes I don't even have a few pennies to buy a piece of bread. Isn't that awful? And if you don't have a cent you can't buy anything because the farmers are worse than people to give something. So you can imagine dear brother you cannot plan on somebody giving you something and the bad thing for me is that the winter is just outside the door. I don't know what to do brother. Potatoes here are three guilders a sack and I cannot go find any, because of the drought none are laying on the ground and most of the land has been turned over, so it will look bad for me Aary.

My best friends are almost all gone, but I hope that God will not forget me. Brother, please excuse me if I ask you for something, dear Brother, don't forget me because I have absolutely nothing, ask the boys if they may have something for me. If everybody does something I will be able to get by, then I could buy some things for the winter. Please don't

postpone to think about me. God will pay it back to you because I myself cannot. In anticipation I send you my greetings, from the one who calls himself your loving brother,

Gerrit Jan de Bruin at Akkooi

koopen is dat niet ongeliebig en aloge goet down is hier nich hererdiere it het rome eene of den anderen skelt ne is voor dat ik nur skik alleen ben ik kan book niets nog geen prancente om een stikje brook te dikhoop ik van de rememen syrond bent viende ja zij melt wellicht men physier in weeren helben als ik wel weet it was never both een groot verschil den dit en drandat soo deende is het altijd erger at mindere menche om wat legeven geen sent help kunt gegoon door niet hebben of ik mack er self spruit en ik kun hurst neet meer en al bon it my mo het hier ook wel wat nat sign want vol behoop is want see beeven rijn hier noy market is de wereld nergens hier windt men Hederom de jæn op genomen om inn kkori den så bekkeber 1098-Sharde Breeder rusker

cens vore my of de georgens och mal nor want it had both born pleet mels was sok ieven broeder och vergeck mig our flus det sal her van my slecht. b rougen som de minder het een of ben set it ween voor eerste yeret a a what mouse may man it. god my book het monsk nich and rell iggen en breeder neemt sny as een rank hand horger be rockhen in het is nergotile voor mig het menste a bohnut sit om my te ler zoo Gerrit Jan de Bruin

Akkooi, Gelderland - Grand Haven, Michigan

G.J. de Bruin to Sister

November 27, 1898

Dear Sister,

I decided to write you a few words to let you know it is not too got of with me. I would like to ask you if you could provide for me in my poverty. If you have to wait for somebody to give you, it is a sorry long wait. I don't have anything. The potatoes here are three to four guilders per sack so I cannot begin to buy them. If you and the others can do something then I can do something. God will repay you a hundred times what you in love have given to a poor soul, because I cannot repay. I don't even have a slice of bread. And if it is like last year, it is at my door again. God knows it again with much poverty, but he who spares my life will save me for everything I let it go. I wish you all a lot of luck and blessing and prosperity in the coming year because I will probably not write again before that. I recently wrote to my Brother and am still waiting for an answer, that's all I know. I ask you please not to forget me, regards to all the family from your loving brother Gerrit Jan de Bruin, Akkooi.

by a sortoopen jour stant het vieuw nench speed want ik kan het niet beloome en now aan leiding wan het be noodke myne anmacle kont voor rich in week it het such may made anyer een such je braon als yen which most lot in gegeren word wer voor dudeur mischien weer god weep doen god rat a hondervoulig betoone elk int down dan bean it sen of once gulde let mut, dans draw kan nich van de wardappelle kook hier een gulde 3 of 4 dan dune het bedroeft lang ik heb nicht rou it a sens om ich with magen other 29 November 1898 dut it camelo at to sest were nit het always met wel arminoede lieve muster rou a voor my is wat in komen om he koopenads ag en de andere letters be shipmen en u mede høleele k heb mig voor genomen u eenige Jelieved Lunker.

