**Citation:** James W. Lowry, "Document 62, 22 September 1710, translation," in *Documents of Brotherly Love: Dutch Mennonite Aid to Swiss Anabaptists* (Millersburg, OH: Ohio Amish Library), 331-33 (odd).

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**Date:**  22 September 1710

**Sender:**  Brechtbuhl, Benedict

**Sender Place:**  Mannheim, Germany

**Receiver:**  Vorsterman, Jacob

**Receiver Place:**  Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Language:**  English

**Translation:**

62. September 22, 1710. From Bendicht Brechtbühl at Mannheim to Jacob Vorsterman at Amsterdam in answer to his letter of September 16 in which he asks for information about two swamps. Concerning this he hopes to serve Vorsterman further with a recommendation. But since he has heard nothing from his wife and children in Switzerland for a long time, he requests approval from the Dutch friends to return to Switzerland in case he receives no answer to a letter he has recently sent there. Meanwhile he also intends to ask permission of the government at Bern for this.

[recto]

Jacob Vorsterman

Mannheim September 22, 1710

Beloved friends and brothers in Christ,

I wish you all health in soul and body and also a hearty greeting. Your valued letter of the 16th of September I received on the 22nd with love and joy, and in it I have observed your brotherly love and concern for us poor exiled believers. I have also observed from it, dear friends, what is discovered about H. R.[[1]](#footnote-6) You desire an answer to this from me about the two waste lands lying in Switzerland. Concerning this I cannot give any report, and at this time I have no one else who could report to me about it. Nevertheless, I want to make it my business that I could give you dear ones a report of it. I hope, however, if it pleases the dear God—that He knows certainly how to create a home for His people, and so I entrust it to God.

I want to let you know, dear ones, how it goes here. We are well (praise to God), I and the friends here. But the time is rather long for me because I can receive no news from Switzerland and in particular from my wife[[2]](#footnote-7) and children and the others who have departed again up through the country. A short time ago I put a letter into the mail and am waiting for an answer. When I receive something, I will let you know.

I also have in mind what I promised you, dear ones. Consequently

it is my request, if I cannot receive any report from my family, that you would release me and grant me to travel up there because the time is often very long for me. I have yet in mind to write a letter to the government at Bern with a very submissive plea and request whether they will grant me permission to visit my family.

Now I want to close for this time and commit you into the gracious protection of the most High together with the beloved friends, all brothers and sisters.

The friends here, Tielman Kolb, Hans Jacob Schnebely, greet you. May the Lord give us and all of you strength and ability to do His will. Amen.

From me Bendicht

Brechtbühl

[verso: Address]

fio ffort.[[3]](#footnote-8)

To

Mr. Jacob Vorsterman

merchant in Amsterdam

to very kind hands

Amsterdam.

[Also appearing on the verso is the same seal in red wax which appeared on Document 58, described in a note there.]

1. What this refers to is unknown. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
2. A record in Eggiwil, Switzerland, mentions Bendicht Brächbühl of Trachselwald whose wife in February 1709 is Verena Meister. Brächbühl was imprisoned at the time and his children Ulrich age 5, Magdalena age 19 [sic], and Barbara age 2 were baptized by order of the government on Feb. 1. Christen Brächbühl is a brother of the parent. “Tauf Rodel 1697-1750,” p. 64, Gemeinde Archiv, Eggiwil, Switzerland. A photocopy of this record is in the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, Lancaster, Pa. However Jecker reports that Bendicht Brechtbühl had been married for 10 years to Verena Meister from Sumiswald (StABE, A II 621, 372 f.) and that three children from them had been baptized in Eggiwil on February 2, 1709: Ulrich (5), Magdalena (9), and Barbara (2). Kirchenbuch Eggiwil 2, 64. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
3. These words were written later. The meaning is unknown; however, the first three letters could be read as fro and stand for franco, “postage paid.” Perhaps the last word means Frankfort. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)