



Tom Rainwater
126 Jay St.
Chittenango, NY 13037
(315) 687-9135
wtrainwater@gmail.com
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Dear brethren in Christ,

Greetings to you all from the Empire State! This week the weather is finally beginning to warm up. Two Sundays ago we had to cancel worship because of blizzard conditions as I couldn't see through the blowing snow to drive. Now it's nice to go outside without a jacket.

I apologize for this letter being sent later in the month than intended. The last two weeks have been difficult, mostly because my Mother has been in constant pain and needs attention. Her pain has kept her in bed. It especially hurts her to walk. So far pain medicines have not helped. I've taken her twice to the emergency room and to several doctors to determine what the problem is. The spine specialist told us yesterday that her MRI shows she has severe vertebrae slippage. His recommendation is physical therapy and pain management, and if that doesn't work, then she will need surgery. Please pray for her. I've postponed my gospel meeting in Connecticut until after Mom gets through this.

It's been exactly one year since my wife Sonia's last surgery. Thus she has been cancer-free now for a year. We are very thankful to the Lord. Rejoice with us! Sonia will have routine tests next week to verify that she is still cancer-free. Please pray for good results.

One of the members here, Melissa Holmes, was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer. Thankfully, her chemotherapy treatments has shrunk her cancer. However, her treatments resulted in side-effects that have put her in the hospital a couple of times. Overall she is doing well, but has a long way to go before she has surgery to remove the cancer. Pray for her physical and spiritual strength, for her eventual freedom from cancer, and for her recovery. I consider Melissa and her husband David one of the core families in the congregation here. They have two young children, Kaylee and Caleb.

I've been working on a series of 6 lessons with the theme, "Dealing with Adversity." I was asked to preach on this topic in Harvest, AL, in August on the way to taking our son Samuel back to Florida College. Lord willing, my lessons will be "Job: The Shock of Adversity", "Paul: The Pain of Adversity"; "David: Prolonged Adversity"; "Facing Adversity as a Family"; "Facing Adversity as Brethren"; and "Facing Adversity like Jesus." I suspect that I was asked to speak on this because of Sonia's 5-year battle with cancer. I certainly include what we were blessed to learn through that experience. When the brethren first asked me to do 6 lessons on adversity, I wondered how I could possibly do that many. But after much study, I find it difficult to limit it to 6 lessons. The Bible is full of help and comfort on this topic. Studying this has been a great joy for me.

All is going well in the work here. We've invited Jerry Falk, a classmate and old friend of mine from Florida College, to preach our gospel meeting in May. Jerry will be bringing his whole family. We are excited for this opportunity to be edified. Jerry is an excellent preacher and devoted servant of God. We hope and pray our advertising will bring visitors to hear the word of God. Our Bible studies continue. In addition to the regular classes on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening, I teach a Friday morning class for the men in Cicero, and Sonia teaches the women at various times that they can get together. We are always looking to study the Bible with people we meet. Continue to pray for our work in expanding the Lord's kingdom in New York.

My email address has changed. It is now wtrainwater@gmail.com. I'm canceling my Verizon account and moving my email and contacts over to Google. **Please make note of this and change my email in your contact lists.** Thank you for all your love and prayers! May God bless you all in your work for Him!

Your brother in Christ,