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Dear brethren in Christ,

Wishing a warm hello to you all. I hope and pray you are doing well and growing in the Lord. My family and I are well and happy to be enjoying the extra time together that Summer brings. Our son Sam will be heading back to Florida College in a couple of weeks. All four of us are going by car and visiting relatives on the way there and back. We will stop in Harvest, AL, where I'll be preaching a gospel meeting August 14-17 at the Kelly Spring Road congregation. The brethren there asked me to preach 6 lessons on "Dealing With Adversity." I've been working on those lessons and meditating on this topic for quite some time. The lessons are, in order, "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." There is much in these lessons that we learned during Sonia's courageous battle with cancer. I pray the lessons will help encourage and comfort the hearers and help them see how much love and strength is available to us in the Lord. My next letter to you will be after I return from our trip at the end of August.

This past month, one of the brethren here, Mara Scanlon, was restored to the Lord. Mara fights a daily battle to be strong as her husband is anti-religion and prefers that she and their children not go to worship. Mara became discouraged and started giving in to her husband, which meant that she stopped coming to worship and started despising Sonia's admonishments. We were very concerned that we had lost her to the world. But Mara came to herself and humbly repented, asking the brethren to forgive her, and to pray to God for her forgiveness. Since then she has been doing better spiritually and bringing the children to worship. She is also coming for Wednesday Bible study now with the children. Her niece, who is a teenager, has moved to New York to live with her and is also worshipping with us now. In addition, Mara is close to 5 months pregnant, so a lot is going on in her life now. Please pray for her.

Melissa Holmes, who I mentioned before as having successful cancer surgery, is doing well and confirmed to be cancer-free by her scans. She is still receiving radiation 5 times a week to prevent the cancer from returning. I know she and her family would appreciate continued prayers.

Earlier in July, Sonia and I were counselors at the Northeast Florida College Camp in New Jersey. We took our younger son Josh and two other young people from the congregation. It was an uplifting time for all. The Sunday after we returned home, our son Sam preached an excellent lesson on Daniel 6. I'm very proud of him.

Our special Bible study in Cicero continues on Thursday or Friday mornings. We just finished a study of the Law of Moses and are starting the book of Joshua next week. Other classes are on the gospel of Mark and the book of Acts. I'm preaching a series on Genesis 1-11 with the emphasis on the fact that the world needs to understand these foundational chapters and see them as historically true. From them we learn the basics about the power of God in Creation, the principles of marriage and family, and the consequences of sin. Today's society, like in the days of Noah, has forgotten God and discarded His truth on these things to their corruption. May God help us find people in this evil generation who are honestly searching for answers to sin and life's problems. May we help them see Jesus as the Savior they need.

I was notified by the Greencastle congregation in Indiana that I will be losing \$200 in support in 6 months. They are unable to continue helping support other preachers. The brethren there are special to me, and I'm grateful for all they have done for me and my family over the years.

Thanks again for your support and encouragement in our work in New York! Without you, we couldn't be here. We want you to know how much we appreciate you all. May God bless you in your service to Him.

Your brother in Christ,