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Dear brethren in Christ,

Hello from central New York! Fall has arrived and the leaves are beginning to change color. Cooler weather means sometimes we need to turn on the heat at night. Fall is usually short for us as things become winter-like by Thanksgiving.

Everyone usually asks how I'm doing personally, so I'll discuss that first. I am doing well and have adjusted to life's changes. I still miss Sonia from time to time, but have moved on after her death in many ways, as she wished me to. I mentioned in my last letter that I was thinking about dating again. Well, I've been doing exactly that. I'm now seeing a godly woman in Kentucky. I've gone to visit her a couple of times already, and things are going well. She is a strong Christian, is close to my age, and has never married. She is an old friend of mine and Sonia's. If Sonia knew, I'm certain she would approve 100%, rejoice in it, and be proud of me that I've taken that step forward. Starting to date again was awkward for me, but it is feeling more natural now. My sons and other family members, including my in-laws, have been very supportive. This is a unique circumstance in that I can demonstrate to my sons how to court someone in the Lord. Please pray for me in this circumstance that I may show wisdom in whatever decisions are ahead, and that the Lord will be glorified.

Life at home is different in many ways. My oldest son Sam is away at Florida College in his junior year. He is taking upper-division courses in Bible and History. He is missed, but I know he is exactly where he needs to be to thrive and grow as a Christian. He is very involved in the North Boulevard congregation in Tampa. My youngest son Joshua is home with me. Joshua is a senior in high school, and plans to go to Florida College next Fall. He will be presenting his first sermon in the congregation here this month. One of the members here, David Barry, has moved into our basement temporarily. We don't see him much because of the hours his job requires, but he is a welcome presence in our home. Last week we celebrated my Mom's 76th Birthday. She is doing well and is in good health for her age. Speaking of good health, I've lost 35 pounds since April 1, and I'm feeling much better. I'm very thankful to the Lord for how things are going.

Lord willing, I'm preaching a gospel meeting in Campbellsville, KY, this next week (Oct.7-12). The brethren there requested that I present my series on "Dealing with Adversity." I added a new lesson to the series entitled, "Dealing with the Loss of a Loved One." I started working on that lesson not long after Sonia died, and it has been very helpful therapy for me. The lesson is not so much about my experience, though I discuss it briefly, but it is more about what the Bible says about that kind of grief. I preached that lesson here in New York recently, and it was well received. Your prayers are appreciated for the success of that meeting.

The work here in central New York is going well. We have two new college students from Morrisville Community College attending with us. Also, one of our neighbors has been attending whenever she is not having health problems. Mom is studying with her every week. One of our members, who has been sporadic in attendance, promised this past Sunday that he would be more consistent in his service to the Lord and more involved in the work. So all this helps counter our recent losses. The brethren here continue to grow spiritually in their knowledge and commitment. I'm teaching the minor prophets in our midweek Bible class, and doing a series Sunday morning analyzing the prayers of God's people in the Old Testament. Thanks for your support, your prayers, cards, and kind words of encouragement! I couldn't be doing the work in New York without you. May God bless you in your work for Him!

Your brother in Christ,