



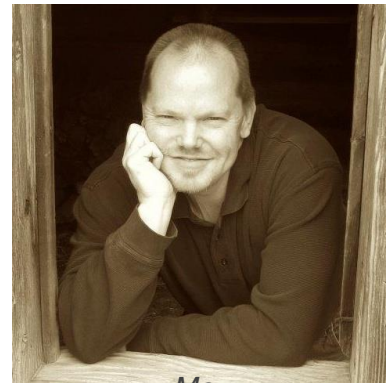
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Dear brethren in Christ,

Greetings from central New York! Winter has arrived in the Syracuse area as we've had a total of 23 inches of snow so far this season. It didn't set a record for November, but it came close. We had a white Thanksgiving weekend as usual.

Things are going well in the work here at Canastota. We are few in number right now, but steadily working to find new people to study with. I'm teaching a weekly class on prayer. We're going through both testaments learning about the necessity and manner of prayer from the examples of God's people. I'm also teaching the minor prophets, putting emphasis on the Messianic prophecies as evidence for Jesus as the Son of God. We are working hard to build each other up in the faith and look forward to another year of working together for the Lord in New York State.

Personally I'm doing well. The holidays have been difficult without Sonia, but I'm learning to adjust. My youngest son Joshua and I are redecorating the inside of the house. We felt we needed that kind of change. It was getting depressing living in the house with Sonia's decor everywhere, so we put away a lot of things, added new things, and completely rearranged the furniture. We are pleased how it's going so far and feel we've made some good improvements. The house has more of a masculine look but we kept some of the feminine touches for a good balance. Being here in the house feels much more comfortable now. It feels good to get something like this done. It's an important step in the grieving process.



Me

I mentioned in my last letter that I started dating again. I'm no longer seeing the Christian woman I previously described as things did not work out between us. So I'm looking again to find someone. I doubt I will say much more in my letters about my dating life unless it begins to impact my work. I would however appreciate your prayers in this regard. At least at this point I no longer feel awkward about dating as I'm somewhat used to it by now. However I do miss Sonia a great deal from time to time, and I know that is just part of the grieving process. I'm very much looking forward to my oldest son Samuel coming home from Florida for the holidays. My brother Brian will also be with us then. It will be nice to have some good family time. My mother is doing well and in good health for someone who is 76. We are blessed.

Since my last letter, I preached a gospel meeting in Campbellsville, KY, using my "Dealing with Adversity" series. I adapted it to my situation now as a widower. It went well, and I feel we were all mutually edified. My week with Steve and Kami Lee was very encouraging. When I came home I promised my son Joshua I wouldn't be away preaching any more meetings until he begins his first semester at Florida College in the Fall. I need to spend as much time with him as I can before he leaves the nest. But when both sons are at FC in August, Lord willing, I plan to do some traveling to connect with the congregations that support me. It's time to make those rounds again as I was prevented from travel during the last months of Sonia's life. I look forward to seeing many of you!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support! Your love and kindness are a boost to me. May the new year bring much success in the spreading of the gospel, both where you are and here in New York!

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Rainwater".