



Tom Rainwater
126 Jay St.
Chittenango, NY 13037
(315) 687-9135
wtrainwater@gmail.com
January 29, 2019

Dear brethren in Christ,

Hello from snowy New York! The beginning of January was mild, but it quickly turned bitter cold and we were inundated with snow. But the weather has not slowed things down.

In the past month the work here has been productive. We have several new visitors in regular attendance. Two of them have come out of one of the liberal churches in Syracuse. They said they weren't being instructed well from the word of God there and were dismayed at what they believe are compromises with truth. They heard of us from others who feel the same way, and thus came to be with us. It's nice we have a reputation of teaching the truth straight from the Bible without using any "feel-good" filler material. Kenny and Patty have brought friends to worship. So new contacts are being made through them.

Also, I have a regular study on Thursday mornings with a former Jehovah's Witness in Liverpool, NY. By his own study, he came to believe the JW's were teaching error and he needed a way out. He said he prayed that someone would help him find the truth. He searched online for answers, and came across the website for the Jordon Park congregation in Alabama and contacted them. They then called me about him, and I promptly set up a Bible study with him. His name is Lyman. He is disabled, so we go and get him for worship. My Bible study with him is going really well and we are becoming good friends. Please keep his progress in your prayers. I have good hopes that he will obey the gospel.

We also have two college students from Morrisville who drive from there to worship regularly. So things are looking good as far as new growth. This has been a boost to us since we lost two families toward the end of last year. My mother has decided to move to Florida this Spring. She wants to settle permanently in an area where the weather is warmer and there are many Christians. She has put her house here up for sale, and is looking to temporarily move in with my brother Brian in Temple Terrace, FL, in May. She will then get to spend more time with him, and also see her grandchildren when they both are at Florida College next Fall. She has been such an influence for good in the work here, and she will be missed. I have no plans to follow her to Florida. I am needed here. Lord willing, I will continue to do the work here in central New York in the foreseeable future.

I am personally doing well. Grief has not been nearly as recurrent. A lot of new healing has taken place, especially since November. The holidays were not as difficult as I imagined they would be. In fact, the boys and I had a very good time together over the holidays. Yes, I still miss Sonia from time to time, but the new year has given me a lot of hope and encouragement in moving forward. I am much more focused now. We are coming close to the one-year anniversary of Sonia's passing, and that seems like an important milestone as the final step in letting go. At the same time, I'm entering into a new dating relationship with a strong Christian woman who has been a great encouragement to me the past two months. I think we will be deciding soon how serious a relationship we want to have. She is very spiritual-minded and is incredibly supportive of my preaching work. Whatever the outcome, I'm looking for a relationship that will give God the glory. So your prayers in this matter are greatly appreciated.

For the moment, I'm doing fine financially. But I was informed by the men of the congregation here that they will have to cut back the monthly amount they pay me due to declining contribution. This will probably take effect in March. I'm not sure of the amount. My guess is that they will need to cut at least \$500 of what they are currently paying, maybe more. I will know for sure within the next week or two. I will need to raise the difference. Any help would be appreciated.

Thanks again for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support! You are making a difference by helping me make a difference in the lives of the people here. May God continue to bless you in all you do for Him! I love you all.

Your brother in Christ,