



Tom Rainwater  
126 Jay St.  
Chittenango, NY 13037  
(315) 706-3489  
[wtrainwater@gmail.com](mailto:wtrainwater@gmail.com)  
October 12, 2020

Dear brethren in Christ,

Greetings! It's been awhile since my last letter, and I apologize for the delay, but there isn't much new to report. We, like everyone else, continue to deal with challenges from the pandemic. Things haven't changed since July. We continue to meet in person on Sundays and on Thursday evenings. The only sicknesses in the congregation have been colds and the flu. Lanna and I both were sick with flu-like symptoms for about 3 weeks and tested negative for the coronavirus. Since the virus is not prevalent in upstate NY, most brethren here aren't worried about it and don't let it interfere with being together. Some brethren are better about wearing masks to worship than others. Some social distance better than others. People have different comfort levels. It's the way things are. But there is no division. Everyone enjoys being together in Bible study and worship. Many stay afterwards and visit for a long time. It's a nice oasis from the world outside. The children's classes, which were stopped because of the virus, have now resumed because the parents want to maximize learning opportunities for their children. So, in a lot of ways, things feel normal again when we're together.

We continue to have visitors from the community and from Fort Drum. A new family placed membership with us this week. Several visitors from a "home church" (trying to figure out what they believe) came last Sunday after being invited by one of the members. Our attendance averages around 50 on Sunday mornings. Thursday evening Bible study attendance varies between 30 and 40. We have a good variety of ages present. I'm finishing a study in Exodus this week, then moving on to Leviticus. Sunday mornings I'm teaching the Life of Christ chronologically. I've been preaching lessons on Evidences. Lanna and I continue to drive over an hour and a half one-way from home to Philadelphia, NY, where the brethren meet. Our hope is to move closer this Spring.

I'm challenging myself to do more writing. I want to write articles specifically to help people through life's problems. I've begun such a series for GROW, an online magazine co-edited by William Stewart of Kingston, Ontario. I also have a desire to write a commentary on the Psalms. Over the past decade, I've preached lessons through most of the psalms. They've been a great encouragement to me during hard times. This will be a long-term project which I hope will benefit others in their Bible study. Likewise I've been requested to produce a series of in-depth lessons on Prayer. This is something I've been slowly putting together already. Anyway, these are some of my personal goals.

As of this moment, my monthly support is able to provide for my needs in the work here. I pray that the congregations currently helping are able to continue supporting me at the same level into next year. Lanna and I are very thankful for your assistance and your prayers for us. We couldn't be here in the Northeast without your help. As the song says, "There is much to do; there's work on every hand. Hark! The cry for help comes ringing through the land. Jesus calls for reapers, I must active be. What wilt Thou, O Master? Here am I, send me." Wherever you are, my good friends and brethren, may God bless you in your work for Him!

Your brother in Christ.