

The NY State flag



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Dear brethren in Christ,

Greetings from New York State! We hope you are doing well. The weather up here is finally beginning to turn warmer. Some days we still have some cold wind coming off of Lake Ontario or from Canada, but the grass has turned green and starting to grow once again. Mowing season here is usually between May and October. We were fortunate to be able to view the totality of the eclipse from our house. And, yes, the long ordeal about the houses is over. Our old Florida house finally sold, then after a few weeks of working with the local bank, we closed on a house here in Northern New York. Thankfully, the sellers held the house for us so we could get the one we wanted in Dexter, which is to the west of Watertown. Since we live outside the village on a highway, we will keep our Post Office Box for a mailing address as a more secure mailing option. We are still unpacking and trying to fix up the house the way we want. Lanna is happy that we have a much bigger yard than the one we had in Florida so she can grow a lot of plants and perhaps do a garden. It is very beautiful and peaceful here. After we get settled in, please come and see us!

The work here continues to go well. Our theme for this year is "Relationships." The theme verse is Colossians 3:14, "Put on love, which is the bond of perfection." I presented a lesson on the context and application of that passage. I've also talked about James' admonition to "confess your sins to one another," and how we grow closer together through humility. Lord willing, more lessons will be presented on the different roles and relationships and what God commands. We will learn from Jesus' example of love and selflessness. We will study the Biblical principles of forgiveness, respect, compassion, and godly communication. We will learn how to resolve conflicts in a Biblical manner and reconcile. I plan to talk about more things on the subject of "Relationships." The brethren wanted us to do a yearly theme together, and I thought that we should start learning how to build each other up better.

I continue to teach through the prophets of the Divided Kingdom for midweek study. In Sunday's class, we are in chapter 7 of 1st Corinthians. I was delighted when our old landlord came to Bible study to hear me teach class. We keep in touch and I pray he will return again soon and continue discussion. Some of the soldiers that regularly attend from Fort Drum are about to be deployed elsewhere, but should return here after awhile. We are fortunate to have some zealous young men in the congregation who are always teaching us new songs and volunteering to help do whatever needs done.

Two weeks ago, I woke up with a racing heart (184 bpm) and very high blood pressure. By the time I got settled in the hospital, my vitals went down to normal. I have had episodes of tachycardia in the past, but it's been over 10 years since the last one. All the tests came back fine. I can't explain it. I am doing well now, but will undergo more testing. Hopefully this won't happen again.

Thanks for your many prayers for us. I received some cards of encouragement from a couple of congregations. Thank you very much! These made my day. It helps knowing you are thinking of us in our work in Northern NY. May God be with you in everything you do for Him!

Your brother in Christ.