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Dear brethren in Christ,

Greetings! I hope and pray you all are doing well. Springtime is finally here in central New York, so hopefully we are done with snow for awhile. Things are starting to turn green.

The last two months have been especially busy here, and it looks like this Spring and Summer will likewise be challenging. I have a regular Thursday morning study with Lyman Compo, an ex-Jehovah's Witness. One of the members here, Dave Barry, also joins us in the study. Lyman is growing in his knowledge of the Scriptures. He has a hunger for the truth and is very studious in reading his Bible and asking questions. Dave and I are going through the gospel of John with him. Because of his background, I feel it is important to show Lyman the emphasis on Jesus' Deity in the book of John. That is going well. Lyman also requested an additional study about baptism, which I completed and answered all his questions. I hope and pray he makes that decision soon to confess his faith in Jesus as the Son of God, repent, and be baptized. Dave and I alternate in picking up Lyman to bring him to worship on Sundays.

A month ago, I got a call from the Madison County Sheriff asking if I would be willing to teach a weekly Bible class at the county jail to the inmates. I accepted the invitation, received training, and have taught 4 classes in the jail so far. Attendance in the class is voluntary, and I've had between 15 and 21 inmates present each time. I have no idea what these men have done to be there, and it's probably good I don't know. But I can't help but feel compassion for them as men who have lost their way and need to get their lives straightened up. A few inmates attend merely as something to do, but it seems that most of them appreciate my coming there to teach them and they say so. I talk to them about Jesus Christ the Savior. I've taught lessons from the gospels regarding Jesus' Deity, His miracles and wisdom, His message of repentance and the hope of eternal life, His sacrifice, and His power over death. I pray that I'm at least planting seeds in their minds, and that the gospel message will transform their hearts.

In our Wednesday Bible class, the congregation here is studying the book of Job. I really enjoy teaching the class, and it's fascinating for me to reexamine Job again after I've experienced the loss of my spouse. I feel like I have at least a little more insight, and notice some things about the book I didn't before. Speaking of which, last month was the one-year anniversary of Sonia's death. That particular weekend was difficult for me, but overall I'm doing well and getting better all the time. It also helps that I'm in a dating relationship with a strong Christian lady who is very understanding about my situation as a widower. I mentioned her in my last letter. Lanna has a solid faith and is very encouraging to me and supportive of my work as a preacher. She is a source of sunshine. Currently our relationship is very serious. I'll keep you updated as that progresses. Friends of mine on Facebook can follow our relationship easily from there. Please keep me and Lanna in your prayers as we make important decisions about our future in the days ahead.

I'm teaching Galatians in the Sunday morning class. Some of my sermons lately have been on the Proverbs at Mom's request. She loves the Proverbs. Mom is moving to Temple Terrace, Florida, in early May. She sold her NY house and will move in with my brother Brian until she can find a place of her own. Lord willing, me and the boys will load up the moving van for her, and I'll drive her and her dog on the journey to Florida. We will miss her here, but are excited for her new life there. We had a potluck at my house earlier this month in her honor, and brethren from NY and Canada came to wish her well.

Brethren, thank you again for your continued prayers on our behalf. Your encouragement, and support are deeply appreciated. May God bless you in all you do for Him! I love you all.

Your brother in Christ,