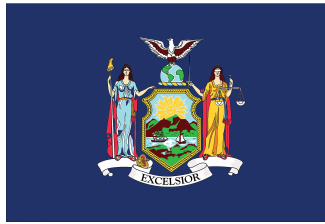


New York State Flag



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Dear brethren in Christ,

Greetings! All is going well. This summer has been very busy: Lanna and I were married on July 25 in Oregon City, OR. After our honeymoon, we flew home to New York for a few days to spend with the boys. Then we drove Samuel and Joshua to Florida College in mid-August to start the school year, and we left the car for them to use. Then Lanna and I flew to Portland for a few days to pack her things, then we drove a moving truck towing her car from Oregon to New York. So, since then, we've been doing a lot of unpacking, sorting through our things, and redecorating the house. It feels good to settle in at home.

Part of my time has been preparing for my gospel meeting at the North Beach church of Christ in Ft. Worth, TX. As I type this, we are in Ft. Worth now. The meeting starts tomorrow. The elders asked me to preach my series on "Dealing with Adversity." I've revised and updated the lessons, and I hope they will benefit those attending.

The work in Canastota, NY, is going well. We are adapting to a lot of the changes that have happened this summer. Being a small congregation, it is always a challenge when brethren move away, and we've had several move recently. Also, Lyman Compo, the ex-Jehovah's Witness with whom Dave Barry and I studied for several months, decided to end our studies and attend the liberal congregation closer to where he lives. He did this as a matter of personal convenience. And I think he is letting his health problems become an excuse for not studying like he did before. I hope and pray the things we taught him will stay with him, and that he will continue to compare what he sees and hears with God's word. I thought he was close to being baptized, but I have doubts about that now. But I will maintain contact with him in case he decides he wants to resume Bible study with us.

We have a couple of college students from Morrisville attending with us again this year. Sometimes their relatives from the area visit with them. Also, one of our members, Mel Soule, came forward and repented of his absence from the assembly and his unfaithfulness to the Lord. He has been attending regularly since. My bride, Lanna, is a great addition to the group here. She is an encouraging presence to everyone.

Lanna and I have been married 2 months. She is indeed an answer to my prayers. The Lord has comforted me in many ways and restored my loss. In our midweek Bible class, we concluded a study in the book of Job. We noticed how, in the end, God restored Job's losses and blessed him greatly. We discussed how Satan is always wanting to take away, but the Lord keeps adding. I praise God for adding Lanna to my life. She is already a wonderful preacher's wife, and I'm sure she will be a great help to me in my life and in my preaching the gospel. God be praised!



Thank you for your prayers and for your interest in the work here in upstate New York. Your encouragement means a lot to me. I love you all very much. If any of you wish to come visit us, please let us know. We'd be happy to welcome you into our home. May God bless you in your work for Him!

Your brother in Christ,

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