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Dear brethren in Christ,

Hello from snowy New York! After a fairly mild January, February has brought us normal temperatures and snowfall for this time of the year. My wife Lanna is happy about any new snow since she enjoys skiing. I've taken a few skiing lessons, though I took a tumble in our last skiing outing. I'm fine but a little sore in the ribs. For the rest of the season I think I'll take her to the local slopes but study in the lodge. :-)

In my last report, I mentioned our financial woes. Thankfully, much of that has been resolved. First, the New York State healthcare marketplace finally applied the appropriate tax assistance to our monthly premiums. I also changed to a cheaper policy that will still meet our coverage needs. So our insurance premium is more affordable. Also, thanks to some one-time assistance from brethren and a couple of congregations, plus additional monthly support I'm receiving for the year, we are on track financially for this year. I was able to pay the remaining tuition balance for the boys at Florida College this semester. For all of this I am extremely grateful! Praise the Lord for your prayers and your help!

As I also mentioned in my last report, our attendance is drastically down from what it was in recent years. After several families moved away or fell away from the faith, and the young folks went away to college elsewhere, we are down to two core families, mine and the Hurleys. At our peak, we had close to 30 in attendance, but now we are down to 3 members. It so happened last month as we were discussing the future of the congregation here, that the congregation in Philadelphia, NY, (north of Watertown, near Fort Drum) contacted me asking if I would work with them again. This is the group with which I labored for 4 years when I first moved to New York (in 2001) before I started the work in Canastota (in late 2004). After much discussion and prayer with everyone here and there, we decided that it is best for all involved that I begin working with the Indian River church of Christ in Philadelphia, NY, starting in May. Since the Hurleys already live halfway between the locations, it will be easy for them to make the change. The last Sunday we will meet as a congregation in Canastota is April 26. Lord willing, Lanna and I will leave the next day to go to FC and attend Sam's graduation before we bring the boys home for the summer. Upon our return to New York, we will begin our work with the Indian River church of Christ in Philadelphia, NY. For a time, we plan on commuting from here to there on days of worship and whenever we are needed for Bible studies. The brethren there indicated that they need my help in Bible studies they're having with the Amish. Lanna and I will still live in the Syracuse area in case Bible studies can be started again here. After a time, we will evaluate whether to move further North to be closer to the brethren up there. If you have any questions about these changes, please let me know. (And please note the change in my phone number at the top of the letter.) I'm still committed to the work in New York State and pray that we can continue to convert more people to the Lord through the gospel.

My uncle Jim (Mom's brother) passed away from his cancer last month. My aunt Charlotte (Mom's sister and last remaining sibling) is having a serious recurrence of melanoma. Mom went to visit her in Arkansas this past week. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Thanks again for your interest in the work here in the Northeast! Spreading the truth in this region in which there are few local churches and evangelists is a challenge. Thanks for helping us! We love you and appreciate you very much! May God continue to bless you in your work for Him.



Me and Lanna

Your brother in Christ,