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Dear brethren in Christ,

Greetings from upstate New York! As the weather warms, the landscape looks more like Spring with green grass and flowers finally making their appearance. Oddly, there's a chance for snow flurries on Wednesday. This usually happens every April, but without any accumulation. So, some days are chilly, others are warm. Temperatures will normalize in May.

Things are going well in the Indian River church of Christ. Attendance is excellent on Sundays with a total of over 50, with visitors every time, especially from the army base at Fort Drum. Thursday evening Bible study has a lower attendance, partially due to the work schedules of some of the members. Attendance has increased as pandemic fears have lessened. Fewer now tune in on Zoom. The overall spiritual health of the group is good. Attitudes are upbeat and enthusiasm is evident in worship. Participation in Bible studies is very good. Worshiping God together is encouraging. The brethren here have a love for singing; and we're blessed to have good song leaders who continually teach us new hymns. This month they've begun projecting hymns digitally, and the singing sounds better with folks looking up to sing. This past year the congregation has grown numerically, financially, and most importantly, spiritually. Several men here have become capable Bible class teachers who can also present good, thoughtful, applicable sermons. And so, being confident that the congregation is doing well and will continue to do well, I have no reservations about my family making a change at this time.

My wife Lanna and I have decided to move to Florida at the end of July. Lanna has joined the faculty at Florida College and will be teaching Business and Marketing classes this Fall. The college has hired me as the Director of Experiential Learning with the responsibility of securing internships for students in their fields of study. I look forward to being a positive influence for the students as an advisor/mentor. Also, there are opportunities for me to preach part-time in the Tampa area. It's a long story how all this occurred, but I'm amazed at how the doors suddenly opened wide for us to make such a change. It's been difficult for me to be apart from my sons and Mother, who live in Tampa. So much is happening in their lives that I want and need to be there. Looking back, I've lived and worked in New York State for 20 years. There are a lot of incredible memories here, both happy (many spiritual victories) and sad (Sonia's passing), but it's time to move on. Change is what is needed for me and my family to keep growing.

I have the utmost love and gratitude for all the congregations that have helped support me in my work in New York. A few have supported me the entire time I've lived here. I will always value that close bond of fellowship. I will continue to work here in New York through the end of July. Please continue your financial support through July. I request that you also send support for August to help us with moving and housing expenses, and to bridge the gap in income that will occur as our first paychecks from Florida College will not be until late in August. Please pray for us during the transition. I'll continue to send you letters through August. I love you all very much. Without your help, we couldn't have been in the Northeast these 20 years. The precious souls up here that were converted and encouraged in the Word have you to thank!

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Tom Rainwater".