

*A picture of our family  
taken on Memorial Day.*



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Dear brethren in Christ,

Greetings from New York State. The weather here is beautiful and sunny today after many days of rain. The temperatures have been milder than normal and we haven't needed the air conditioner much, which is really nice.

An update on Sonia's health: It's been awhile since my last letter to you, and that's primarily because we have been occupied dealing with the return of Sonia's cancer. This time, the cancer has spread to her bones and lungs. She suffered from leg pain for several months, and it was assumed by the doctors that the pain was caused by something else. But after her pain grew severe, bone scans revealed that the colon cancer had spread to the tibia in her right leg and also to the sternum in her chest. When the orthopedic surgeon saw her for the first time and saw how the tibia was deteriorating, he scheduled her for leg surgery the next day. In surgery, he scraped out much of the tumor in her upper tibia, added bone cement in its place, and screwed a steel plate onto the front side of her leg bone. The surgery was on May 16. Since then, she has recovered very well and is walking without assistance. She finished physical therapy last week, and they were amazed at her progress. It will be another two weeks or so before she will be cleared to drive a car. Last week she began radiation treatments to her leg and her sternum. She finished her 5 treatments to the sternum yesterday, and she has 4 more treatments to her leg. Thankfully she has no more pain in her leg, and the radiation should take care of the cancer there. The real problem now is the tumors in her lungs. Since she has multiple spots in both lungs, radiation or surgery are not options — only chemo. Since chemo cannot completely eradicate tumors, but can only shrink them or halt them temporarily, her situation will eventually deteriorate. These past 7 years, Sonia has already had all the major kinds of chemo for colon cancer. Our oncologist is researching what options she might have, including new and experimental forms of treatment. We will have that conference with the oncologist next week and make the decision on what treatments to pursue. So, unfortunately, we have transitioned from the goal of preserving life to that of prolonging it. We've been preparing ourselves for such a scenario these 7 years, and our faith has been strengthened by adversity. We have friends who are going through the same thing right now or have already gone through it, and we are encouraged by their example. Sonia's attitude is as upbeat as it always has been. She knows that cancer can only affect the body. It can neither defeat the spirit nor take away hope. We serve a loving Lord who gave Himself and was raised, thus giving us hope that we will live with Him forever. Please keep praying for us in the weeks and months ahead, especially for the boys. We know the Lord will help us through this.

In mid-April, before the discovery of Sonia's latest bout with cancer, I preached a gospel meeting in Wallingford, CT, using my series on "Dealing with Adversity." It was well received. Sonia and our son Joshua was able to go to CT with me. We were very encouraged by the brethren there. At the end of April, I drove to Florida College for our older son Sam's 2-year graduation. It's great to have Sam back home this summer. He is scheduled to do some preaching while he is home.

Next Sunday I finish a class series on Evidences for the teenage class. The following Sunday we will combine the teen and adult classes together for a study on Ecclesiastes. I'm printing my own workbook for that class. The Thursday/Friday morning study that we have in Cicero, NY, has met both in person and over the internet, depending on circumstances. We are progressing well through 1Samuel. On Wednesdays, I am teaching Romans. I am currently preaching a series of lessons in 2Peter. So we have been very busy.

We appreciate very much your prayers for us and for Sonia during this time. We pray that the circumstances will work according to the Lord's will and work in such a way as to give Him the glory. We love you all very much!

Your brother in Christ,

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