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Dear brethren in Christ,

Greetings from central New York! I hope and pray you all are doing well. We've had a hotter than normal summer here with little rain. Hopefully we will get rain this week to revive the dried grass. Temperatures are more pleasant now.

This is incredibly personal, but since I've been very open in the past, it's only fitting I continue to be so. In the months since my wife Sonia passed away, friends often ask privately how I'm doing, how things have been, and where I'm at emotionally. They care, and I appreciate that. I don't mind opening up. I think some friends are surprised to learn how far along I am in the grieving process. Know that this process is different for each person and circumstance. It helps that Sonia was so ready to go home and that her suffering came to an end. The boys have gotten through this last part even faster than me. I'm thankful to the Lord. It was hard for me emotionally when everyone left after the funeral. Life was going to be so much different. April and May were especially difficult for me, but June was so much better. I felt I had turned the corner. July has been even better. I feel like my old self again — more confident and more focused. I'm planning for the future and even thinking about dating again when I'm ready. Sonia had urged me to let go of her after she died — that I should move on and find another companion. It's what she wanted for me since she knew I'd be happier married and loving someone as I loved her. So that's what I intend to do. I certainly don't want to spend the winter feeling sorry for myself. Yes, I still have brief moments of sadness when something triggers a memory of her, but it's not nearly as frequently or as mournful as before. It doesn't rule me anymore. Thankfully I now think more about the future than the past. I'm also in better health. I've been exercising and dieting, and have lost weight. I feel so much better. For all this progress I praise the Lord and thank you all for your many prayers for me and the boys.

I will soon be taking my older son Samuel (who turned 21 this month) to Florida College to resume his studies as junior. He will be taking Bible and History courses toward a bachelors degree in History. He took a year off of college to be with his mother, and now he is ready to return. He will be missed here. My younger son Joshua will begin his senior year in high school in September. The three of us attended the FC New Jersey camp the first week in July. Sam and I were counselors. It was the 6th year-in-a-row I've been a counselor. Josh was a senior camper, and he is planning to go to FC after he graduates. Just before we take Sam to Florida, we're participating in SOL (Sons of Light) Camp for young men in Pennsylvania. I'm teaching a class on "What the Bible Says about Dating, Courtship, Engagement, and Marriage." This will be interesting as I have an added perspective as a widower. I think the young men will be better able to relate to me since I'm now in the same boat as they are. I'm looking forward to the class.



Me. Thanks for your prayers!

The work here in central New York continues to be challenging. Unfortunately one of our core families, the Holmes, has moved to Alabama. We already miss them greatly. Also we are dealing with a loss of another family, but due to unfaithfulness. This is a family that Sonia and I had devoted a lot of time teaching and encouraging, and the mother of that family considered Sonia her best friend. I feared she would fall away after Sonia died, but I hoped we had trained her enough that she could stand on her own faith and would keep moving forward, especially being mindful of Sonia's example. But, sadly, this is not so. In contrast, everyone else is doing well spiritually and growing. Hopefully we can find more people interested in studying the Bible with us and bring them to Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Thanks for your support and prayers. I love you all. To God be the glory!

Your brother in Christ,