

The Amish Voice



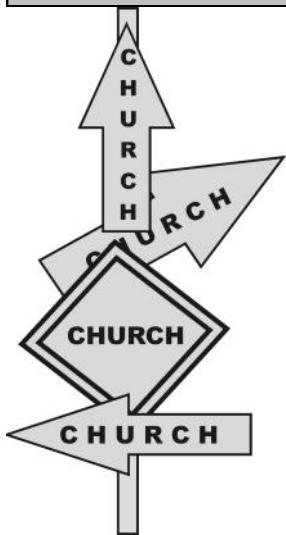
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September 2007

PART I—What is the Church:

Which Church is Right?



Do you ever wonder which church is the right church? I mean, when you get right down to it, we have all kinds, and all types of different churches in the world that we live in. According to the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, there may be as many as 34,000 different types of religions in the world today. Among the Amish alone, we have a wide range of church types. For instance, we have the Beachy churches, the Troyer churches, the Schwartzentruber churches, and the

New Order churches, the King churches, the Old Order and even those who call themselves the Old, Old, Order churches. There are the buggy Mennonites, the car Mennonites and the Black car Mennonites. There are the Brethren and Baptist churches, the Lutheran and Methodist churches, the Pentecostals, and the Charismatic groups; the list goes on and on. Sometimes I can't help but wonder why the Lord Jesus doesn't just come back and put an end to all the confusion.

Do you ever wonder if in God's eyes, there is one church among the thousands who is 100% right? According to the *World Christian Encyclopedia* there are approximately 1,000 Christian faith groups in the U.S. and Canada alone, who believe they are the *only true Christian denomination*.

At this point I would like to draw our attention back to the Amish church. Because of confusion, and probably some personal frustration and church turmoil, there have been several cases in past years when Amish groups felt led to go back to Switzerland where our Amish forefathers started out. The main purpose for one group to return to Switzerland was to go back to our grass roots and ask for forgiveness from a certain Anabaptist group. Their desire, from what I can gather, has been to start over, to start afresh, to get back to what our forefathers died for.

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REFLECTIONS WITH ANDREW

WHAT ARE YOU FOCUSING ON?

By Andy Geesey

Have you ever felt that no matter how hard you try, or no matter what you do, things just never seem to come out right? Have you ever felt worthless, unwanted or unneeded, have you felt like you are always judged because of your past failures? I must admit that I also have felt that way, but was encouraged when I read these words written by pastor & author Rick Warren who said "God's purpose is not limited by your past. He turned a murderer named Moses into a leader and a coward named Gideon into a courageous hero, and he can do amazing things with the rest of your life, too. God specializes in giving people a fresh start". I now believe this, do you? Often, we as people make the terrible mistake of comparing ourselves with one-another. The apostle Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 10:12** "For we dare not make ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves

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But the question in my mind has been... why only go back to our Anabaptist roots? Were they not just human beings like us? Did they not make mistakes and have church turmoil, much like we have today? Why only go back 270 years? Why not go back to the very, very beginning and see how we compare to the first church that was ever mentioned in the New Testament?

I think you will agree with me, the reason there is so much confusion and so many differences in church believes, standards, and traditions today is because we have strayed away from the



“STANDARD,” which is the Word of God. Clearly, the Bible teaches in **1 Corinthians 3:11, For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

Imagine for a moment, that a forefather of the past leads a group of believers to go off course by just 1 degree. At first it was so little that most people were not able to recognize it. But over the years and through and through several generations,

(Continued on next page)

Behavior in the Church

1 Thessalonians 5:14: Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

1. Warn the unruly: The unruly must be warned and admonished. They are damaging their own souls and hurting others through their unruly testimony.

2. Comfort the feebleminded: Those who are easily discouraged and disappointed; those who fear difficult situations. We must not rebuke or despise them, but instead comfort, encourage, and assure them.

3. Support the weak: Those who yield so easily to temptation; those who are so easily burdened, discouraged, defeated, and led astray. The word means to cling and hold to. The weak need us clinging to them and holding them up. They need our support.

4. Be patient toward all persons. It is being consistently patient, being very patient with people. We must bear and forbear; we must suffer a long, long time with persons, no matter the situation.

When we mistreat a person, our testimony with that person is ruined and oftentimes, we lose our opportunity to minister to that person.

From My Heart To Yours



In 2 Chronicles 7:14, God spoke to Solomon and said, If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Six years ago, God burdened my heart to start a weekly prayer meeting with some of my closest friends. It was not my desire to pray out of a prayer book, I just wanted to get real before Almighty God, humble myself and ask for forgiveness where I had failed to give Him all the honor and glory that He deserves. Secondly, I was deeply burdened to cry out to Him to have mercy upon family members and people who were not yet born again.

Today, I am overjoyed to tell you that we are still meeting every Tuesday night from 7:30 to 9:00. Our times with God as a group continue to be very special and often powerful. There have been many times when the tears have flowed from the eyes of our prayer warriors as they drew close to God and shared deep struggles and heavy burdens.

I am also pleased to tell you that two more groups have followed our pattern and are meeting in their homes for prayer meetings. Our group meets in Ashland OH, a second group meets in Sullivan OH and the third group meets in Lancaster PA.

Maybe this sounds far fetched but could you imagine the impact it would have on the Amish communities (young and old) and even the utter most parts of the world, if more prayer groups started springing up, all across the Amish communities. God could once again, send revival and heal our land! Ah, to let go of human control and let God take over.

Would you consider taking the lead in your area by starting a prayer meeting with your friends too? If so, you might let us know so that we can be encouraged as well as pray for you.

If you have questions at all, please don't hesitate to call one of the following numbers.

Ashland, OH: (419) 207-1478—**Sullivan, OH** (440) 322-6217—**Lancaster, PA** (610) 942-9788

Joe Keim, Editor for the Amish Voice

W This publishing work is registered as a charitable organization in the USA and is supported through freewill offerings. We welcome your articles, testimonies and questions. We reserve the right to edit or decline any material and are not responsible for the return of any articles. Mission to Amish People and it's subsidiaries are operated under the authority of a 15 member board.

W Since our beginning in 2000, many people have written to us, asking to be added to our mailing list while others have sent us names of their friends and family members. *The Amish Voice* is a free subscription and is totally funded by readers from across our great country, who appreciate the ministry, and care enough to support it.

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the distance widened and the gap grew further and further away from the standard. Eventually, the lie starts to look right, and the truth starts to look wrong. One day a man in our generation wakes up and starts to see where the group has come to. And the man says, let's turn back and let's get back on track again...BUT...he only goes half way back to the beginning. Most of us would say, well, at least he is headed in the right direction, but why doesn't he go all the way? Why doesn't he go all the way back to the very beginning?

And with that in mind, let me draw your attention to a time, long ago. Farther back then our Anabaptist forefathers in Switzerland; farther back then 500 years ago; 1,000 years, or even 1,500 years. Let's go all the way back to when the church started, 2,000 years ago. Let's for once, stop trusting in our forefathers and human beings and let's start trusting the Original; our Standard – Jesus Christ.

Did you know that the church is not mentioned one single time in the Old Testament? That is because the church was not in operation during the Old Testament. God worked through priests, prophets, and kings, but not once was there any mention made of the church.

In the New Testament the word "church and churches" is used 128 times. The church had become a brand new concept, thus called the New Testament - meaning a New Covenant. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is the Founder, the Owner, the Head, the Chief Corner Stone, and Foundation of the New Testament church.

The "church" idea all started at Caesarea Philippi, when Jesus called a meeting with his disciples. If you notice in the scripture below, He starts his meeting out with a question, in V-13 and ends with a statement, in V-18. Our focus will, for the most part, be on the statement He makes in verse 18.



Matthew 16:13-18

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? ¹⁴ And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. ¹⁵ He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? ¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against [overcome] it.

Peter's confession (or one might say, Christ Himself) was the rock. Christ said, "You are Peter and on this rock [I, Myself, the great truth of your confession] will I build my church." There is no question that the church is built upon Christ. He is unquestionably the builder of the church and the power behind its structure (see 1 Cor. 3:11). It is He who takes every believer, all the "living stones," and places them into the structure of His church (see 1 Peter 2:4-8). The church *depends* upon Christ, not upon Peter nor any other man or combination of men. It was first *built* by Peter after Pentecost; but it is *held up and held together* by Christ, the only foundation.

Note the exact words spoken by Christ.

Fact 1: "My church" The church is Christ's not man's.

Fact 2: "I will build" Christ builds the church.

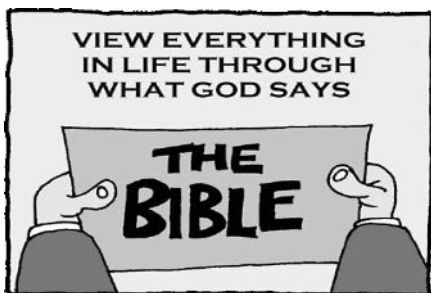
Fact 3: "The gates of hell shall not prevail" Christ Himself protects the church.

(Continued on Page 4)

WHAT IS THE CHURCH (Continued from Page 3)

This concludes the introduction part of our study on "What is The Church?" I know that we started out in somewhat of a confusing manner but hopefully, you would agree that we ended our study on a much more exciting and positive note. It is my immense desire to continue our study on "The Church" in future editions of the Amish Voice.

Below is a short list of what we will be covering.



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The Meaning of the Word "Church" | Member of the Church? |
| 2. What Are the Members of the Church Called? | 6. The Church Ordinances--Baptism and Communion |
| 3. Who Is Invited to Become a Member of the Church? | 7. The Witness of the Church |
| 4. Jews, Gentiles, Samaritans | 8. The Enemies of the Church (Ten Enemies) |
| 5. What Are The Requirements to Become a | 9. The Removal of the Church |

Before I finish, let me share something with you that just excites me from the bottom of my feet, to the top of my head. We have a study called "The Church" that is made up of 23 lessons (98 pages). The lesson outlines are straight out of God's Word and are made up of "fill in the blanks" and "true and false questions." They are very professional looking and I promise you, if you will go through these studies, your eyes will be opened to the heart of Almighty God, like never before. I cannot possibly find the words to describe the tremendous impact they have had on people, just like you. People who truthfully want to know God and His purpose for the church, cannot afford to miss this study – it will change your life forever.

If it were financially possible, I would give every single one of our readers a copy of this study but I can't. The very best I can do is offer it to you for \$6 each. This covers the cost of paper, printing, and postage to ship it to you. If you order more than one, we can save on postage and ship them to you for \$5 dollars a copy. To those who cannot afford to give anything; let me know and I will pay for it myself. I want everyone that wants a copy, to have one.

**To order: Send a note along with a check or cash for the appropriate amount to:
Mission to Amish People, PO Box 128,
Savannah OH 44874**

Here is a sample of the 23 lesson study:

The Church is called the _____ of Christ.

Who is the Head of the Church? _____

There is _____ body but there are many _____

True or False: _____ There are some members of the body of Christ that are not very important and are useless.

What are the two ordinances which Jesus has commanded the Church to observe?

1. _____ 2. _____

When does a person become a member of the body of Christ? _____

What part of the body gives the orders? _____

What does the word BAPTISM mean? _____

Who should be baptized? Why? How? When? _____

When was the BIRTHDAY of the Church? When will the Church be REMOVED from the earth?

Describe what will happen when Christ comes for the Church. What will happen to believers who have already died?

What will happen to living believers? _____

— *Written by Joe Keim*

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Have you ever wondered about the origin and background of the articles of faith? How about some other topics like the Bann and Meidung; Baptism; Justification by Faith—How do I get right with God. If you have wondered about these topics, you are not alone. You can now listen to these and many other thought provoking topics by calling the phone numbers listed below. The cost is free to you. Call (800) 744-5812 or if you live in the Lancaster PA area (610) 857-7680.

Noteworthy News

MANY FATAL CRASHES INVOLVING HORSES & BUGGIES IN THE PAST MONTH



I have had quite a number of news articles concerning crashes with horses and buggies in

various parts of the country come across my desk this past month. Let's remember that it is summertime and there are many people out traveling and vacationing and many of them probably are not used to driving in areas where there are horses and buggies. Just a reminder to always keep alert and conscious of our surroundings and do everything we can to make sure we stay safe on the highways.

Your life is precious, especially to those who love you!

LOAN FUNDS HELPING TO PRESERVE OUR AMISH COMMUNITIES

With suburban areas creeping ever so rapidly into the few farms and land available in Ohio and Pennsylvania, the community spirit once again comes through. There are several different communities who have established loan funds to help families, especially young families, acquire below market rate mortgages and allow people who invest in the fund to earn much better interest rates than you can get on a regular savings account at your local bank. In Geauga County there is the Geauga Amish Loan Fund, in Holmes County there is the Amish Helping Fund, and in eastern PA there is the Old Order Amish Helping Program. If you have not heard of these programs and think you may benefit either by applying or by investing contact your Bishop or your Deacon and they can get the information for you.

AMISH MAY SOON BE TAXED FOR ROAD USE

HERSEY, WI - County leaders say when it comes to the high cost of maintaining roads, the Amish are getting a free ride. The Road Commission is looking for ways to tax the horse and buggies of the Amish folks in and around Osceola County.

Cliff Youngs, Road Commission Manager, says it isn't the horse-and-buggy he's targeting, although he believes the horses and their steel shoes do damage roads. He is more concerned with the businesses that are run out of homes by so many of the Amish that live near Hersey.

Sam Miller says that while he understands the Road Commission's concern, he is "saddened" by Youngs' proposal. He says that the community would consider supporting a buggy license but a taxation on horse and buggies is something the leadership will have to discuss.

FROM A WOMAN'S STANDPOINT: WHAT IS FAITH?



Through numerous conversations I have had recently my heart has been stirred to see what God has to say about faith. It turns out that without faith it is impossible to please God.

The best definition I found that the scriptures give for faith is found in Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. The entire chapter in Hebrews 11 is a good place to start reading about faith. I read Abraham's story about how God spoke to him about having a baby when he was already old and Sarah's womb was dead (beyond child bearing years). I read about Abraham's faith in Romans 4:13 -25 and 5:1-11. Because of space restrictions I am not going to type all these verses, but I would encourage you to get your Bible out and read them. To this point in time Abraham and Sarah have had no children and Abraham is 100 years old and I believe Sarah was 90. How hard would it be for you or me to believe this was going to happen?

If we want to please God we have to have this kind of faith. We have to believe in a God who hung the stars and made the oceans and everything in it. We have to realize that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We also have to realize that He does not have different rules for different people. It does not matter what country you are from. It does not matter what religious background you are from. God's plan and purpose for every human on this earth is to become a part of His family. That is why He sent Jesus to make a way for us to become His children. We can only become His children through faith. God did not write a different Bible for all different people on the earth. He only wrote one.

God bless you all and let's continue this journey, learning about faith that pleases God when we meet again in a couple of months. I would love to hear from you and hear about your meditations and revelations as you study this thing called faith that God talks about so much in His Word. Please read Romans Chapter 10. It tells how we can receive this faith.

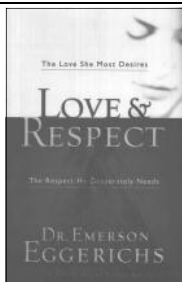
Have a blessed Fall!

Barbara Kay (Borkholder) Keim
1903 Liberty Hill Drive; Belton, TX 76513

The Must Have—Book Section

How to Order

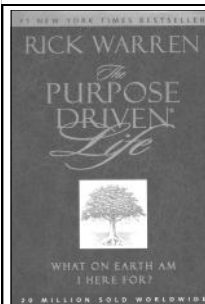
- (1) On a piece of paper, write down which book(s) you would like to have and how many. Include a check or money order for the right amount.
- (2) **Cost of Shipping:** Mix and Match any book—\$3.00 for first book/\$1.50 for each additional book.
- (3) **Send Payment To:** Mission to Amish People | PO Box 128 | Savannah, OH 44874 | Phone: (419) 962-1515



Love & Respect By Dr. Emerson Eggerichs—\$12.99

Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires, the Respect He Desperately Needs

Discover the secret that cracks the communication code between husbands and wives and reap the benefits of marriage as God intended.



The Purpose Driven Life By Rick Warren—\$9.99

In this remarkable best-seller Rick Warren will help you understand God's purpose and plan for your life so that you can learn to live the life for which you were created. The book is divided into forty short chapters so that it can either be read as a personal devotional or studied in a small group setting.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible was written:



1. **Over a 1500 year span** (from 1400 B.C to A.D. 100)
2. **Over 40 generations**
3. **Over 40 authors from many walks of life** (i.e. - kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars)
4. **In different places** (i.e. - wilderness, dungeon, palaces)
5. **At different times** (i.e. - war, peace)
6. **In different moods** (i.e. - heights of joy, depths of despair)
7. **On three continents** (Asia, Africa, and Europe)
8. **In three languages** (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek)

Facts about the Bible:

1. **The Old Testament** was originally written in Hebrew
2. **The New Testament** was originally written in Greek
3. **The book of Esther** never mentions God even one time
4. **Isaiah 37 and II Kings 19** are exactly alike.
5. **The Bible** has been translated into over 2,000 languages
6. **The Bible** can be read aloud in 70 hours.
7. **According to statistics from Wycliffe International**, the Society of Gideons, and the International Bible Society, the number of new Bibles that are sold, given away, or otherwise distributed in the United States is about 168,000 per day.
8. **The Bible was divided into chapters** around 1300
9. **Old testament was divided into verses** – 1448, by Rabbi Nathan
10. **New Testament was divided into verses** – 1551, by Robert Estienne

WHAT ARE YOU FOCUSING ON?

(Continued from Page 1)

and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise". I have found that when we begin to compare ourselves as we often do in this unwise manor that we can become mentally, or socially drained. Have you ever been there?

An unknown author once rightfully stated, "Choice, not chance—determines destiny".



I believe this now more than ever. As I grow older, I am learning that my focus should not be on myself or on others, at least not in the sense of unwise comparison, but instead it should be on the person of Christ Jesus, on who He is and on what He has done.

In Revelation 1:5-6 we read "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

It is my prayer that you will make a choice to focus on what Christ has already done for you, and that you also, will be encouraged because of who He is, and strengthened in the love that He has for you. I would also like for you to understand and then always remember that God specializes in giving people a fresh start.

Andy Geesey 66 New Rd Elverson, PA 19520

In 1631 an English Bible printer forgot the *NOT* in one of the Ten Commandments. His mistake in Exodus 20:14 read: "Thou shalt commit adultery." That edition became known as the Wicked Bible, and the printer had to pay a large fine.

BIBLE STATISTICS:

Number of books in the Bible: 66

Chapters: 1,189 | **Verses:** 31,101 | **Words:** 783,137

Number of promises given in the Bible: 1,260 | **Commands:** 6,468

Fulfilled prophecy: 3,268 verses | **Unfulfilled prophecy:** 3,140

Longest verse: Esther 8:9 | **Shortest verse:** John 11:35

Middle verse: Psalm 118:8 | **Middle chapter:** Psalm 117

Shortest chapter: Psalm 117 | **Longest chapter:** Psalm 119

Martin Luther's Bible Reading Method

Martin Luther said, "I study my Bible as I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf.

"I search the Bible as a whole like shaking the whole tree. Then I shake every limb—study book after book. Then I shake every branch, giving attention to the chapters when they do not make sense. Then I shake every twig, or a careful study of the paragraphs and sentences and words and their meanings."

SLAVE OR FREE?

After the end of the civil war, all the slaves in the United States were set free by the thirteenth amendment. The ability to read was not as widespread as it is now and slaves in particular weren't able to pick up a newspaper and see that indeed they were no longer slaves. The news was spread mostly by



word of mouth and the slave owners were not likely to try to convince their slaves that they were free. It was in their interest to try to convince them that they were still bound to their old owners so as to get as much free labor as possible. If a slave believed in his heart that he was still a slave, he would remain in bondage.



The law of the land changed and when a slave woke up the next morning he was a free person even though he didn't feel any different. While the law that bound him remained in effect, he could be punished if he tried to escape. Doubtless many were punished quite severely and would hesitate before attempting to escape again. But now the law was on their side. But one thing lacked; the full realization of what had happened kept some from exercising their freedom. Silently, an earthshaking event had occurred.

Any slave now had the law on his side when he wished to take advantage of his freedom. Hearing that freedom was at hand was not enough, the news needed to be acted upon to receive any benefit. Previously some slaves had fled to Canada, and when they set foot there, a new law that forbid slavery protected them as soon as they arrived. Law is so very important; we need to pay close attention.

A similar situation exists in our life that keeps us from understanding that we are set free from sin's bondage when we make Jesus Christ the Lord of our life. If I doubt the power of God's law to redeem my life, I will live as though I were not redeemed. I am therefore like a slave that has not taken advantage of the new law. But if I should decide to try my wings, I would find out that the old slave master is only bluster and can only intimidate me to the point that I allow him. In other words, he has no more real power over me. When I confessed I was a sinner, and called upon the name of the Lord, I came under the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus. Paul tells us in **ROM 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.** We are all under the law of freedom or the law of bondage.

God tells us in Romans 10:9 that if I would believe in my heart that Jesus Christ is the son of God and confess him with my mouth, I shall be saved. The old

master wants me to not believe this deep down in my heart. So like a slave that decides in his heart to put his trust in the new law, I decide to act as though I was a new creation. I meet with others that believe and tell them that Jesus is now my Lord. I tell them that I confessed my need and turned away from what controlled me before. The same word that told me of my need also said I was a new creation, now that I had decided to put off the old and put on the new man. How can this be, you say? I don't seem to feel like a new creature, I still have my old fears and doubts. But feelings do not always tell the truth. The real truth is deeper. It is bound in the new law of freedom that has just set me free. The same God who gave the Word that saves also says we are made new creatures in the image of Christ Jesus.



GALATIANS 5:1: *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

Confess your need now. Even if you feel nothing has happened, Heaven takes notice. And that is what counts.

**Eli Stutzman ♦ R.R. 1 Straffordville
Ontario, Canada NOJ 1Y0**

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE MONTH: John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

AMOS, ELI AND THE OLD-TIMER'S GOAT



Amos and Eli were out hunting one day when Eli all but fell into a deep dark hole. **Hey Amos, what do you reckon this hole is?** asked Eli. Amos said it was an old mine shaft. **How deep you figger it is?** asked Eli. Amos suggested they throw in a rock and listen for it to hit bottom. They did, but never heard it hit. So they decided to throw in a bigger rock. Still nothing. **Let us find something real big** suggested Amos. Soon Eli was dragging an old railroad tie out of the woods and the two Amish men heaved it into the hole. A moment later, a goat sped past them and jumped into the hole. **What was that?** Eli asked. **Looked like a goat, but I never seen one move so fast,** replied Amos.

A short time later, an old timer strolled out of the woods and asked the two Amish men if they had seen a goat. Amos told about the goat that had raced by them and jumped into the hole. The old-timer replied, **That couldn't have been my goat. He wouldn't have been able to run that fast, tied to that old railroad tie.**

PRESIDENT BUSH MEETS WITH AN OLD ORDER AMISH GROUP IN LANCASTER PA

In 2004, President Bush met with a group of Old Order Amish people during a visit to Lancaster County. He talked about their farms, hats and his Christian beliefs. Before he left, he asked them to vote for him, in the upcoming election.

The Amish told the president that they would pray for him but most of them do not vote. The President then asked the Amish to pray for him. He also told them that because of his strong belief in God it will make it easier for him to do his job; His meeting at Lapp Electric only lasted for 20-minutes.

An Amish woman who lived on a farm, right across from Lapp Electric presented a quilt to the president, along with a card, thanking him for his leadership of the country. At that point, Bush said he would like to talk to the quilter and her family—so the Secret Service invited the family to meet the president. By the time the quilting family arrived, about 60 other people had also gathered around the president and his Secret Service agents.

Every person had to walk through a metal detector before they could approach the President and as you can imagine, many of them were farmers and shop men, with vice grips, pocket knives, and nuts and bolts in their pockets. Some of the women had baby gear. They all had to empty their pockets.

After the Amish were “found not to be a threat to security,” they were allowed to go inside to the office area of Lapp Electric where they waited for 30 minutes before the president appeared.

As they waited, babies started crying and the small children squirmed all over the place. All of a sudden, here comes the president and five of his Secret Service men. As they stepped into the room, one mother said, ‘are you George Bush?’”

The president replied, “yes” as he shook hands all around. He asked each one what their names were. He made it a special point to thank the “quilt

frau,” who had made the quilt for him. “The president seemed to be very relaxed and in some sense, just like a neighbor from up the road.

Bush admitted that he had never really met any Amish before and was curious about why the men were wearing straw hats rather than black wool hats. The men explained that during the summer, they wore straw hats because it was cooler. Bush even tried on one of the hats.

When the president made a comment on the appearance of Amish farms, one Amish man sort of apologized about how he and his friends were not expecting to see the president and were wearing dirty old work clothes. But Bush said that did not bother him.

Another man remarked that he has twin daughters, as does Bush. The man went on to explain how one of his twin daughters had a dream just the night before, that she was going to be shaking the presidents hands and now she actually had done that.

A young girl tried to give Bush a whoopie pie cookie but Bush was not allowed to take it from her. One of the Secret Service men took it and said that presidents aren’t supposed to eat food before it is tested.’

When the time had come for Bush to leave again, he told them, “I trust that God speaks through me. Without that, I couldn’t do my job.” As the president left the room, one Amish man wished him good luck in the upcoming election.

“As the Amish headed back to their farms and shops, mothers took their children home for a nap and went back to their sewing and gardens.”

As for Bush and his Secret Service agents, they moved on to York County where they had another appearance scheduled, leaving behind a group of Old Order admirers who have tales to tell for the rest of their lives.

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