

# The Amish Voice



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January 2008

## PART III—What is the Church:

# The Meaning of the Word Church

I have to confess that there was a time in my life, probably around my 18th birthday, when I oftentimes wondered how it was possible that God could accept people into His Kingdom who were from all walks of life. For instance...

1. How was it possible and right for some people to meet in church buildings, and others had to meet in homes.
2. How was it possible that so many people from all different backgrounds, cultures and religions could believe in the same God, read the same Bible, and claim to get their prayers answered?
3. How was it possible that some God fearing people could get behind a steering wheel, turn on the heater, and move at a high rate of speed to get to their destination, while others were born into families who drove horse and buggies and unless they continued in that life style, they would be excommunicated, shunned and turned over to Satan by their own families and the church.



4. How was it possible that that some God fearing people were considered O-K and right with God if they were hooked up to electricity and used all kinds of power tools, while others were born



into families who believed you could only have oil lamps, flashlights and hand tools.

I still remember so well, it happened during a time when we had a barn raising in our home community. Hundreds of people showed up to help that day—some were of course from our community in Ashland while others had traveled in from Holmes county and Indiana.

About halfway through the day, a Holmes County Amish man walked by me and immediately, something caught my eye. It was his shirt! He wore a laid down collar and the buttons on his shirt went all the way from the top of his shirt to the bottom. Now this really bothered me because in Ashland, we were only allowed to have three buttons and no lay down collar. I couldn't help but think of what the reaction would be from my church if I wore that man's shirt, even though he was Amish. Matter of fact, it bothered me so much that I went straight to Bishop John Brenneman and asked him about it.



Well, let's go back to our original question... how is it possible that God could accept so many people from all walks of life to come

into the same place? The only answer that ever made half ways good sense to me was what the following man told me one day...

He said, "Joe—it's just like this, people from all kinds of backgrounds and beliefs are walking up on different sides of the mountain of life. Some are coming up on the north side; others from the west side; others from the south side and still others from the east side". This man went on to say, "and in the end, we all meet together at the top and that is where God then accepts us just the way we are".



I went home that day and thought to myself, that's it!!! I just need to continue on in my travels but make sure that I stay on my side of the mountain by continuing to follow the rules and doing as I had been taught by my parents and the church. And then, once I arrive at the top, God would let me in with all the other weary travelers.

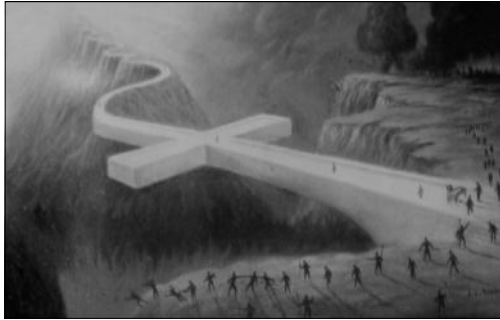
Yes, that sounded perfect!!! So perfect that I thanked God for helping me understand the whole picture.

But then one day I found a scripture that brought me to a halting jolt. It was the scripture that would totally wreck the mountain idea.

Notice particularly, the little phrase in the middle — **"I am the way"**

*Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:5-6)*

Notice that Jesus did not say that He was "a" way. He very clearly pointed out that He was **"The"** way. Four chapters earlier, (John 10) we are told three times that Jesus is **"The Door"**.



Just like Noah and his family had to enter through "The ONE Door" in the Ark, so we must enter through "The ONE Door" which is Jesus. Don't wait for the door to shut and the judgment of God to come. Do it now while it is called today.

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We have been studying the one true church. In (part I) we learned who the builder of the church is. In Matt 16, Jesus looked at the Apostle Peter and said...

*...thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matt 16:18)*

In (part II) we learned that Christ sent the Holy Spirit to breathe eternal life into the church, and when He did, the church became alive! Acts chapter 2 says...

*And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind... And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost... (Acts 2:2-4)*

At this point, let's dig right into (part III) In our study today we are going learn the following truths about the Church that Christ is continuing to build at this very moment...

1. The Meaning of The Word "Church"
2. What Were The Members of The Church Called?
3. Who Is Invited to Become a Member of the Church?

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**The Meaning of The Word "Church"**

The dictionary defines the word "church" as "a **BUILDING** for public worship." Let's see if the word is used the same way in the New Testament.



In Acts 12:5 we are told of Peter who was in prison... *but*

**From My Heart To Yours**



Hunting is a popular sport in Ohio. I have enjoyed many days in the woods while hunting squirrel, rabbits and deer. I've learned that although you have the right equipment, the proper skill, great weather and territory, you do not always find the game you're hunting for.

I've also learned that there is another kind of hunting that takes place all the time. You don't need a gun, a license, or hunting guide. This other kind of hunting is easy to do. It takes no training, no talent, no particular territory and no practice. What you're hunting for is in great supply and easy to find anywhere. What is this game you're hunting for? It's called **FAULT!** Have you ever gone hunting for **FAULT** before? (Be honest now!) And when you found **FAULT**, did it ever really make you feel better or help anyone else?

The Pharisees used to exercise judgment and find **FAULT** with everyone, including Jesus. Therefore, He deals with the subject of judging and **FAULT** finding in the following scripture.

**Matthew 7:1-2**, *Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.*

The Pharisees would "hunt" for someone to judge, **NEVER** thinking that one day God would judge them. Please note that

there are two **guaranteed results** of judging others: **(1)** We **WILL** receive from people **EXACTLY** what we give out! It's a mirror. **(2)** Someday you and I will stand before a Holy God and be judged with the same measure we judged others!

Maybe you are one who says, well I have tried to quit judging others but I just can't seem to overcome. Would it help if I shared a story with you that helped me a couple of years ago? It's just a simple little story but it really got my attention and best of all, it stuck. Here it is...*A Buzzard and a Humming bird fly over the same desert. One is looking for something dead and rotting. The other is looking for pretty, colorful flowers. BOTH find what they're looking for!*

In order for us to change from being a Buzzard to a Humming bird, we have to decide ahead of time that when the next situation of fault finding and judging arises, we have to immediately take action and block all negative thought and action from our mind. And let's not forget that oftentimes we are guilty of doing the very same thing we judge others for. Just like the following scripture says.

**Romans 2:1** *...for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.*

— Joe Keim, Editor for the Amish Voice

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prayer was made without ceasing **of the church** unto God for him.

In Acts 15:4 we are told that when Paul and Barnabas had come to Jerusalem... they were received **of the church**.

In I Cor 15:9 Paul writes that he is unworthy to be called an apostle because he... **persecuted the church of God**.

From these three scripture passages alone we can tell that the church is not made of brick and mortar; the church is made up of believers in Christ. But wait a minute, there is some sense in which the CHURCH is a building. Jesus said in Matt 16:18 **"I will build my church"** and in 1st Peter 2:5, Peter describes the church as a spiritual house that is made up of lively stones (born again Christians). See also 1st Cor 3:11-17

*Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.* (1 Peter 2:5)

Thus, the CHURCH is not a literal **building**, but it is a spiritual **building** made up of those who have been QUICKENED (MADE ALIVE) in Christ (Eph. 2:5).

In the New Testament, the word "CHURCH" always meant **"AN ASSEMBLY, (A COMPANY OF PEOPLE GATHERED TOGETHER FOR A CERTAIN PURPOSE)"** Therefore as we read



the New Testament we are not surprised to find the word "CHURCH" used with words that mean "gather together, come together, assemble together." For some examples, please read Acts 11:26; 14:27, 1st Cor 11:18; 14:23.

Now, I would like to point something out that always bothers me, when I hear it. How often have you heard someone say something to the effect of... "oh yes, that is Bishop John Yoder's church" or "I belong to the Amish church". Lest we forget who owns the church, let's read what Paul wrote.



**...feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with his own blood.** (Acts 20:28)

Christ "bought" the church with His own blood. There-

fore, it is His church; He owns it and He is allowed the say-so concerning everything in the church. Leaders are but overseers, appointed by the owner (Jesus Christ), to shepherd His church.

## What Were The Members of The Church Called?

### 1. They were called "Believers"

*And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.* (Acts 5:14)

### 2. They were called "Saints"

*Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints...* (1 Cor 1:2)

The word "SAINT" means... a person who has been SET APART by God; SET APART for God's service.

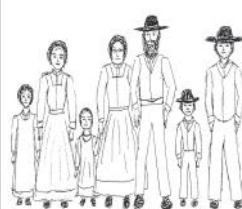
Suppose you were sitting in the living room, during a church service, waiting to hear a very famous preacher get up and preach the next sermon. And all of a sudden the preacher walks up to the place where you are sitting, takes you by the hand, leads you to the front of the church, and sits you down right next to him! By doing that he has SET YOU APART from all the other people. He has put you in a very special place and made you DIFFERENT than all the other people who are there.

### 3. They Were Called "Brethren."

God's Word tells us that as members of the Church we are BRETHREN (brothers), one with another. Shortly after Paul (Saul) got saved, what did Ananias call him?

*And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord...* (Acts 9:17)

See (Gal. 1:2 and I Thess. 5:25-27) for more on who God calls "brethren".



If we have been BORN-AGAIN (John 3:3,7). Then we have all been born into the same FAMILY and now we are all the family of God.

*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God...* (John 1:12)

*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as he is.* (1 John 3:2)

As members of this special FAMILY, how many FATHERS do we have? According to the Bible we have...

*One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.* (Eph 4:6)

How can we enter into this wonderful FAMILY relationship? Paul tells us in Gal 3:26.

*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.* (Gal 3:26)

Notice again, what Gal 3:26 really says...you and I become a child of God **by faith "ALONE" in Christ**. Nothing more; nothing less.

Once when I was discussing the truth about **"faith in Christ"** with a 50 year old mother, she suddenly looked up and said, "and it does not say anything about the hair having to be cut a certain way, does it?" I was so glad that I could say—yes Laura, you are right. The Bible says that we become a child of God **by faith in Christ** + nothing!

### 4. They Were Called "Disciples."

*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them...* (Acts 20:7)



The word "DISCIPLE" means "one who LEARNS, or a LEARNER. In Bible times, the disciple would oftentimes work

with his teacher, walk and travel with his teacher, eat with his teacher and spend much time with his teacher. The disciple would learn from his teacher's lips but also from his teacher's life.

For now, let's move on. Some day, it is my desire to come back and study more on what a disciple is. Maybe you would consider doing your own study on what a disciple is. If so, please share your study with me.

### 5. They Were Called "Christians."

*...And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.* (Acts 11:26)

What name (made up of six letters) do you find in "Christian"?

Christianity is not a RELIGION (man trying to DO things to please GOD) but it is a RELATIONSHIP to a PERSON (who has already DONE the work necessary to save sinful men & women--as a reminder, lets look at Jesus' last three words, before he died on the cross.

*When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished": and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. (John 19:30)*

What did He mean when He said, "it is finished"? Answer: The penalty for sin has been paid in full! —Those who accept the payment as paid in full, are placed in Christ through the new birth and called CHRISTians.

In Acts 11:26 we learned that "the DISCIPLES were called CHRISTIANS first in Antioch" Who gave them this name? Does the verse say that the disciples CALLED THEMSELVES Christians?

They did not give themselves this name, but they WERE CALLED "Christians" by the unsaved people who lived in Antioch. As the unsaved world looked at these disciples, they were forced to THINK about CHRIST. That is why they gave them the name "CHRISTIANS."

What about YOU? Can people look at your life and tell that you have a PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with CHRIST? If for some reason you would say, well yes...

1. I don't swear and use God's name in vain
2. I wear plain clothes
3. I am a pretty good person
4. I use a horse and buggy for transportation
5. I have given lots of money to the poor
6. I am Amish
7. I was baptized and joined the church

...therefore unbelievers can tell that I am a Christian.

A true CHRISTIAN is a person who is able to say what Paul said in Galatians 2:20.

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of*

*God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)*

Paul had a LIVING and PERSONAL relationship with the Son of God! Do you have such a relationship? Can others see CHRIST living in you?

Suppose one of your friends were to ask you this question: "What is a CHRISTIAN?" How would you answer that question?

Suppose someone else were to ask you, "What religion do you belong to?" How could you answer this person in a way that would help him (or her) to see the difference between RELIGION and CHRISTIANITY?

How can a person become a CHRISTIAN (compare Acts 26:20 with Acts 26:28)?

Think again of the word...

## CHRISTIAN

If you remove "CHRIST" from this word, you are left with three letters which stand for...

I  
AM  
NOTHING

I am a Christian, and without Christ I am nothing! Please compare this with John 15:5, where Jesus clearly says...



I AM THE VINE

*I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (John 15:5)*

### Who Is Invited to Become a Member of the Church?



All are invited! The following verses teach us that EVERY SINGLE PERSON without exception is invited to be a member of the church that belongs to God:

Acts 10:43 "that through his name "whosoever" believeth in him shall receive remission

(forgiveness) of sins.

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth "all men every where" to repent:

Romans 10:11-13 For "whosoever" shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved".

Romans 1:16 "for it (the gospel of Christ) is the power of God unto salvation to "every one" that believeth"

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if "any man" hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

1. Do you consider yourself part of the group called "ALL MEN EVERYWHERE" (Acts 17:30)?
2. Would you consider yourself a "WHOSOEVER" (Rom 10:13)?
3. Are you included in the group called "EVERY ONE" (Romans 1:16)?
4. Would you consider yourself part of the group called "ANY MAN" (ANYONE)--Revelation 3:20?
5. Therefore, have YOU been INVITED to be a member of God's Church?
6. Have you accepted this INVITATION?
7. Are you SAVED and a MEMBER of His church?

Revelation 22:17 says...

*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

As you compare Romans 3:22 with Romans 10:12—(the next two scriptures) you will discover that the same phrase (made up of 5 words) is found in each of these verses. What are they?

Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Romans 10:12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.



Written by Joe Keim

## Simple Thoughts From Eli

### Hay-Ropes, Ice and Faith

When I was young and growing up, we had one of those large old barns, with four hay-mows. When we put loose hay in the back mows, we children often had the job of



pulling back the carriage to the center for the next load. My older cousins who happened to be helping with hay showed us that you could ride the rope down from the crosstie.

That looked risky, so we would climb half-way up and try that first. When we came to the point where we believed that was safe, we would climb higher and grab the rope for a ride down. I began to have faith in that rope. And to gain faith, I had to become familiar with the object—in this case the rope.



We also used to skate in the winter. First we had to find ice that would bear our weight. If we put our trust in thin ice, we soon found out that what is really needed is thick ice. If I say I have strong faith in weak ice, I'll soon need rescuing. If I have weak faith in strong ice, I need to build a stronger faith in the ice; I need to know what the ice will hold before I trust my life on it. It also helps to know how deep the water is, under the ice. In other words, know your ice. I can say, I hope the ice will hold, but that is not faith. Test the ice, drill a hole through it or ask someone who knows. When the evidence is there, then I'll move on it. In this case the ice is the object of my faith and trust. The proof

of my faith is when I begin to skate on it.

Hebrews 11:1 says; *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

Just as we are careful before we place our confidence in hay ropes, or ice, we also choose carefully what we believe in matters concerning our soul. Will it hold? Of course I can see a rope, but what about the unseen things? That's where we need some help.

Romans 10:17 *So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.*

We have to become familiar with the object of our faith, Jesus Christ. To do that, we have to study what the Bible (Word of God) says.

Matthew 3:16-17 says *And Jesus, when*



*he was baptized, went up straight-way out of the water: and, lo, the heavens*

*were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

Here is one witness as to who Jesus really is. A voice spoke from heaven. Is there more, you ask? Let's take a look at Matthew 9:6.

Matthew 9:6 says, *But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.*

The reason for this healing was to give us confidence that Jesus was indeed able to



forgive sins. There we have two pieces of evidence. There are many different places in the Bible where you will find more pieces of evidence that build faith. Also, ask other people that have already built their faith according to scripture.

I know that in everyday life, I cannot forgive a debt that is owed to uncle Henry. Since the debt is owed to him, he is the only person with the authority to forgive. Anything else is fraud. That is why we have to establish that Jesus Christ has the authority to forgive sins. Is He indeed the Son of God? Yes, you say, but is he willing?

John 3:16 says; *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

The word 'whosoever' means anybody. Let someone who is very wealthy write a check and put on the 'pay to the order' of line the word 'whosoever'. The bank will have you endorse it and you get your money. The bank believes that you are 'whosoever'. If I didn't believe it was real, I wouldn't even take it to the bank.

John 6:37 *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

That tells me if I approach Jesus seeking forgiveness and redemption, I will not be turned away. There is much more to base our faith and trust upon, but that's a start.

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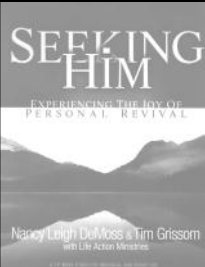
### Don't skip over this, just because it looks weird—Believe it or not, you can read it.

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid Aocdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the first and last ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it wouthit a porbelm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh?

## 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:** MAP Ministry | PO Box 128 | Savannah, OH 44874 | Phone: (419) 962-1515

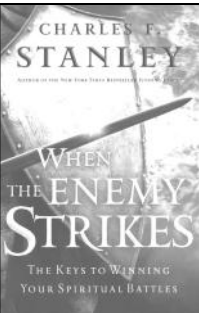


### Seeking Him

Nancy Leigh DeMoss, Tim Grissom —\$13.99

If you are hungry and thirsty for more of the Lord and want to be challenged to grow and mature, this is an excellent study. There is nothing more important than for us to humble ourselves and see ourselves honestly through the light of the scripture. This 12 week "fill in the blanks" Bible study can be done individually; it also makes a great study for couples who are wanting to grow together.

12 - week  
Bible Study



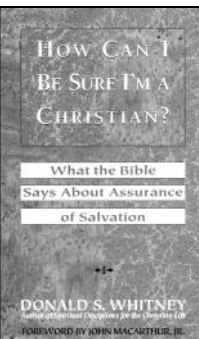
### When the Enemy Strikes

(Keys to Winning Your Spiritual Battles)

Dr. Charles Stanley—\$5.99

At some point every Christian will experience a satanic attack - a willful, determined assault by the devil to harm spirit, soul, or body. God wants you to be under His control, but the enemy will do his best to destroy everything good in your life. So the question is not how to avoid satanic attacks but how to overcome them.

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Reading Book



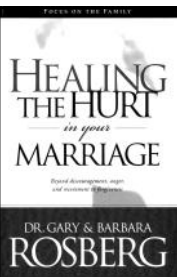
### How Can I Be Sure I'm A Christian

(What The Bible Says About Assurance of Salvation)

Donald Whitney—\$8.99

Nearly everyone hopes to end up in Heaven and yet the Bible claims that only a few will find the "road that leads to eternal life." So how can anyone be sure of spending eternity with Jesus Christ? In this book, Whitney explores the issue of assurance and outlines how Christians can experience a satisfying certainty of eternal life. Whitney provides encouragement for believers and gentle warnings to those who base their confidence in themselves rather than in God.

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Reading Book



### Healing The Hurt in Your Marriage

Gary & Barbara Rosberg—\$10.99

Do you and your spouse know how to deal with conflict in your relationship? If you answered no, you're not alone. The Rosbergs coach couples through a step-by-step biblical process of confession, sorrow, repentance, and forgiveness. Learn how to resolve issues in a practical, meaningful way.

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Reading Book

## Amazing Facts In The Bible

1. The Bible tells about a time when the **sun actually stood still in the sky** for about one day. (Joshua 10:13)
2. Another time, the **sun went backwards** in the sky. (Isaiah 38:8)
3. There have been two men in the Bible who **never died**, but went to be with God. (Genesis 5:24; 2 Kings 2:11)

### Does the Bible really claim that the Flood covered the ENTIRE Earth?

1. **All The Mountains Were Covered.** The tops of all the high mountains under the entire heavens were at least 20 feet beneath the waters surface (Genesis 7:19-20). In addition, the waters remained at this awesome, mountain-covering height for five months! (Genesis 7:18-24, 8:1-5).
2. **The Ark Was Huge.** The ark was necessary to prevent the extinction of humans and animals. If the Flood were merely local, God could have sent them to a safer part of the world.
3. **Humans Populated The Entire World.** After more than 1600 years of habitation on Earth, the planet's population was surely large (millions or billions). The Bible confirms that (a) Man had multiplied upon the face of the Earth (Genesis 6:1), (b) Violence and corruption filled the Earth (Genesis 6:11-12).
4. **All Humans Were Killed.** The Bible clearly teaches that all flesh died...every man (Genesis 7:21). Genesis 9:1 confirms that only Noah's family was saved and that every person living today is descended from his family.
5. **All Air-Breathing, Land Animals Killed.** The world's entire population of air-breathing, land animals died, except those taken into the ark (Genesis 7:21) - "everything on Earth" (Genesis 6:17) - "all living creatures of every kind on the Earth" (Genesis 9:16).
6. **God's Rainbow Promise.** God promised never again to send a global flood (Genesis 8:21, 9:8-17). This promise is demonstrated by the symbol of the rainbow, a sign for God's promise to all the Earth. The rainbow is a sign to every living creature, mankind and animals. If this promise was not made to all creatures on Earth, then God has broken His promise. Local floods have repeatedly killed hundreds and even thousands of humans and animals since Noah's time.
7. **Why Stay In The Ark A Year?!** Noah was in the ark for more than a year, not just 40 days (Genesis 8:14). 53 weeks is absurdly long to stay in the ark for a local flood since dry land would have been just over the horizon. After the flood waters had been going down for 4 months, the dove could still find no suitable ground (Genesis 8:9). This does not seem to fit the circumstances for a local flood in which the dove could fly to dry land. However, these situations are consistent if the Flood was global.
8. **The Whole Earth Was Devastated.** God said, "*behold, I will destroy them with the earth*" (Genesis 6:13b). The global extent of the Flood is referred to more than 30 times in Genesis 6-9 alone! In Isaiah 54:9, God states, "*I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth.*" Peter delivered a clear global warning, confirming that God created the Earth, devastated it by the Flood, and will one day destroy it again by fire (2 Peter 3:5-7). Peter certainly did not mean that just a local area on Earth would be burned. Just as the Flood was global, so will be the final judgment.

## It's Hard to Be a Leader, If You Are Addicted to Anger?

**(James 3:7-8) For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.**



**Anyone can become angry.** That is easy. But to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose and in the right way — that is not easy.

Anger can eat a person up.

**People who explode and express anger easily can cause great harm** to those they are

called to encourage. It's important for us to understand anger and it's ability to destroy.

**Exploding because someone hurt you.** When most people get hurt, they cry out. This is natural. But it is not healthy to express anger, every time someone hurts your feelings.

A good leader has the ability to harness his anger and even shift it toward healthy and more productive areas. Mistreating someone because they hurt you is not just. It is bullying.

It is entirely possible that the person who hurt you did it unintentionally and without meanness. You would be wise to forgive them quickly and swallow that anger before you create a split in a relationship that cannot be mended.

**Being addicted to anger.** Some people love to be angry. They enjoy the feeling of power they get when they have told someone off. They actually look for opportunities to get after someone or give someone a hard time.

These people are addicted to the emotion of anger and have no place in any type of leadership. It is important to be a person of peace. If you find yourself constantly getting angry at others for little reasons, you might be addicted to anger. Just like any other addict, you can actually build up patience for this drug. Once this happens, you will find it necessary to constantly become angrier in order to get the same excitement. This could end in a terrible way if you do not get deliverance from this addiction.

**Using anger to get your way.** Most people learn to get what they want through anger, at a very early age. Babies learn quickly to cry out in anger when they are not getting what they want. They will use anger tantrums to control their parents who simply want to quiet them down.

These same people grow up believing that they can use anger to get their way all the time. On the job, they will use anger to cause others to cave into their demands. These people may not stomp their feet in the workplace, but you know when they are mad and they will use this to control others.

**Who anger hurts.** Anger usually hurts those closest to you. Family, friends, and close age groups are usually hurt by people given to anger. People outside your circle of influence will find humor in your outbursts, but those close to you will be damaged as they are usually the target of your outbursts of anger. Anger is a stronghold that you can be delivered from. It's power to hurt and damage must be controlled if you are going to be an encourager to those already beaten down by this world.

## When Hurt By Someone Close To You

Recently, I was deeply hurt by someone close to me: My immediate reaction was anger. Then grief. Then disappointment. And then wounded pride. I had expected so much more in the relationship! And because I hate pain, I wanted to:

- (1) Run from it (2) Criticize the person inflicting the pain (3) Pout – Have a pity party!**

In other words, do anything to get rid of the pain.

Such reactions are not condoned in Scriptures. Rather, we are to respond with:

**Compassion** (Matthew 9:13, 36; Mark 1:41; Luke 6:36; Ephesians 4:32; 1 Peter 3:8)

**Kindness** (Proverbs 14:21; Matthew 5:42; Luke 6:34, 35; 1 Corinthians 13:4; 2 Peter 1:7)

**Humility** (Isaiah 57:15; 66:2; Matthew 5:3)

**Patience** (2 Tim 3:10; 4:2; Eph 4:2; Col 1:11)

**Gentleness** (James 3:13; Titus 3:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:7; 1 Timothy 6:11; Ephesians 4:2; 2 Corinthians 10:1)

**And we are to:**

1. **Bear (literally, endure) the pain inflicted upon us.**
2. **Forgive the person – even when they keep sticking it to us:**

*And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. (Luke 17:4)*

**Here's how the Apostle Paul put it:**

*Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one*

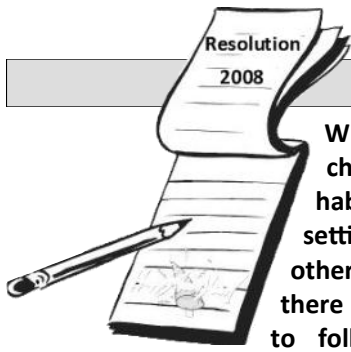
*another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. (Colossians 3:12-13)*

For example, Jesus, in his dying breath uttered ... "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:24).

And Stephen, as they were crushing in his skull with rocks whispered, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." (Acts 7:60b)

We all know brittle, sour prune-types that stink with anger and bitterness. And that's where we are headed unless we embrace the spirit of Jesus and Stephen. So let's make a decision today: That by His grace we will allow no one to ruin our life. And we will accomplish this unmatched act by choosing to be the very picture of *compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance and forgiveness.*

—Facts of the Matter



**Whether it is changing a habit or setting some other goal, there are steps to follow which can help us achieve success.** It is a common practice to set New Year's resolutions (change habits or set goals) which we hope will be accomplished by the end of the year. Too often we fail to take even the first step towards reaching our goals. Hopefully the following five principles will help you towards success.

**The first step is to plan by thinking ahead about what you want to do and when.** It helps to write down this plan and consider how to get around possible obstacles. In Luke 10: 1-11 Jesus appointed seventy of his followers to go out into the villages and preach the Gospel. He explained why they were going and how they would travel. He instructed them not to take a purse, a bag or shoes and not to greet anyone on the way. They were traveling light and were to avoid being sidetracked from their mission. He said they were to stay in one place rather than go from house to house. He expected them to eat and drink what was offered them. Finally, he warned them about the potential of people rejecting the message, and he told them what to do. The disciples returned after their mission, excited about what God had done. We see that Jesus used thorough planning, and God expects us to use prayerful, careful planning if we expect to succeed.

**Secondly, you must believe that you can succeed.** If you do not believe that you will succeed, you probably won't. God rewards faith. In James 1:5 we are exhorted to ask in faith without any doubting. If your goals are worthwhile and you have asked the Lord to bless your work, then you must take the risk to make the first step. You walk step

by step. At first you may do only small things to reach your goal, but you will gain momentum as you move forward. God rewards action that shows we trust Him.

**Next it is good to have family or friends as encouragers.** When I decided to attend Bible school which was pretty far from our home, my husband made sure I got there. He helped me study and checked my papers for me. He was a great cheerleader. I was able to assist my friend who wants to become a writer by proofreading her papers and encouraging her to publish her work. Above all, as you pray about your goals, the Holy Spirit will guide you and give you strength. In his final prayer for his disciples, Jesus said that he would send the Holy Spirit to live in believers and lead them. You can count on the wisdom and encouragement of the Holy Spirit if you have accepted Christ as your Savior.

**The fourth principle in your ultimate success is to reward yourself as you progress.** If you accomplished a step towards your goal, tell yourself you are doing a good job because you are! I like to reward myself with extra time to read my favorite books or allow myself more time on my daily walk. Rewards will cause you to expect good outcomes, and you will be motivated to keep on working towards your goal. In this way you energize yourself.

**Finally, as you strive to reach your goal, you are bound to experience failures or setbacks along the way.** These things do not need to defeat you if you consider them as just part of the learning process. The Bible is full of men and women who faced discouragement, but they did not quit. In Acts 15:39 Paul argued with Barnabas about taking John Mark with them on their second missionary journey. Apparently Mark had deserted them earlier in Pamphylia. Barnabas, an encourager, took Mark and we

know that Mark learned from experience. He did not quit. What a loss for us if Mark would have abandoned his goal to serve the Lord because of his previous failure! So, use failures to make you better and even more determined to succeed.

**You can reach your goals through prayerful planning and believing that God will enable you.** The encouragement of others and the guidance of the Holy Spirit will support you as you move forward. Acknowledge your efforts with small rewards along the way that will energize you to reach your ultimate goal. In the end you are not defeated by failures but rather you learn from them. May you have greater success than ever as you practice these principles.

*By: Bonnie Graves  
Ashland, OH*

### Become Amish?



Recently, I read a story about an Amish newspaper that received hundreds of letters asking how to become Amish. The article explained that most people wanted a change of pace or were feeling stressed by their hectic lifestyle. The answer, they thought, was to become Amish.

The newspaper conjectured that most likely, they wouldn't last a day in the Amish lifestyle. One cold winter day in a buggy would send them hurrying to get home, happy to turn on their car's heater.



One Amish writer responded to the article in a very thought provoking way:



**Become Amish? "If you admire our faith, strengthen yours. If you admire our sense of commitment, deepen yours. If you admire our community spirit, build your own. If you admire the simple life, cut back. If you admire deep character and enduring values, live them yourself."**

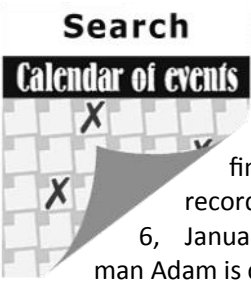
Here lies the answer to "interesting", found on page 11: In all of the words listed, if you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word. Did you figure it out?





No matter what your opinion is of the flood, we may all benefit from the lessons that can be learned from Noah's convictions.

According to the biblical account, **if we figure each day as a literal twenty four hour day**, which seems to have been the case when we read Genesis chapter one in the following manner...



1. Let's start off as 1, January, 0000
2. Now, as we move forward, we find some interesting recordings, taking place on 6, January, 0000—the first man Adam is created
3. According to Gen 5:5, Adam died at the age of 930.
4. According to the bible Adam lived a long live, yet he was not the oldest man to have lived, that title goes to Methuselah who was born in 622 and died in November 1656, at the ripe old age of 969.
5. Methuselah was the grandfather of Noah, the oldest man who ever lived. The meaning of Methuselah's name meant...**when he dies, it begins**. What's interesting here is that the flood rains began in November of 1656, an indication that Methuselah really did live up to his name.
6. Noah would have been born on August 31, 1056. It would not be until 1536 that God would warn him of the flood that was coming. Noah had 3 sons none of which were born when he received his instructions from God. However they were all fully grown

## Reflections with Andrew J Geesey

and married when they entered the ark. We know that the oldest son was 98 at that time, indicating he was a grown man and able to make choices for himself.



This shows the faith of Noah, he believed what God had said was going to happen, because he went to work and the Bible says, **he began to build the ark.**

Noah personally **believed** that God was going to spare him and his family—this all took place while he knew the Judgment of God was near.

This teaches us that Noah did not stop living while building the ark. He fathered his children and taught them to have respect unto God. He taught them right from wrong and to place their trust in the Word and person of God.

Noah must have been a man of strong conviction, in order to accomplish the task that he was given. He raised his family and then lead them into the only place of safety, while all other men watched, listened, and rejected his warnings.



This also shows that knowing is not good enough, one must go further than just having a knowledge of truth. **They must believe from the heart.** That's what Noah did. We find this same principal in the New Testament also...

—Romans 10:9-11

*“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and **shalt believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **For with the heart** man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed”*

Just in these three verses alone we see the promise of God, that if you or I confess with our mouth and **belief in the heart**, we shall be saved.

The sinner is ashamed of Jesus, but when the sinner comes to Christ Jesus in faith, **believing from the heart**, he is made a new creature and is no longer ashamed. From that point on he walks, **not in pride of self, but in full assurance of the promises of God**. He begins to understand such verses as John 5:24, 1st John 3:2, and 1st John 5:13, as personal promises from God.

In the same way that Noah believed the spoken Word of God about the coming flood and how he could be sure of escaping from the disaster, so you and I must believe in Jesus as the only answer—**believing with full assurance from the heart**.

Jesus said it plain in John 14:6...

*“Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”***

Jesus never said, that he was one of the ways, or a way, but stated strongly that he was the only singular way to the Father. I believe that enough to bank on it, do you?

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### Lay midwife' fined \$11,000



Diane Goslin from Lancaster is an unlicensed midwife. In Sept, she was fined \$11,000 and ordered to stop delivering babies.

In 2006, Diane was accused of practicing medicine and midwifery without a license. But as you can imagine, the action drew pro-

tests from a lot of the Amish, who said Diane practices a natural way of birthing that's healthier and less expensive than deliveries involving doctors.

The charges against Diane stemmed from the 2005 death of an Amish infant who died 21 hours after birth. The infant's family had raised concern over the care provided by Diane. The Lancaster County Coroner ruled the baby died of causes that weren't Diane's fault.

### Did you Know?

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.

Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.

It is impossible to lick your elbow.

The average number of people airborne over the U.S. in any given hour: 61,000

Q. Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what?

A. Their birthplace

Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

A. Honey

At least 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbow!

1. If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days, you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee.
2. The ant can lift 50 times its own weight, can pull 30 times its own weight
3. The flea can jump 350 times its body length. It's like a human jumping the length of a football field.
4. A cockroach will live nine days without it's head, before it starves to death.
5. Butterflies taste with their feet.
6. No piece of paper can be folded in half more than 7 times.
7. Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are fifty years of age or older.
8. Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
9. A snail can sleep for three years.
10. Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
11. A quarter has 119 grooves on its edge, a dime has one less groove.
12. A hard working adult sweats up to 4 gallons per day.
13. A man named Charles Osborne had the hiccups for 6 years.
14. A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.
15. A jumbo jet uses 4,000 gallons of fuel to take off.
16. A sneeze travels out your mouth at over 100 m.p.h.
17. Babies are born without knee caps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2-6 years of age.

### From A Woman's Stand Point

#### What a Gift We Have in Jesus!

What a blessed time of year we have just come through! There is Thanksgiving with all the family, friends, fun, and of course the food! Then there is Christmas! To a lot of people, Christmas may be just more of the same with the exception of the gifts, but to me Christmas becomes more special and more real every year—especially since I have had a child; we have a second child on the way. I realize that Christmas is not just a story we read about in the Bible, or like to read to our children. This is something that really happened.



A virgin named Mary was about to become married to a man named Joseph when suddenly Mary became pregnant. The people back then were no different then the people today. Everyone believed she had committed fornication. Even Joseph thought so until God spoke to him in a dream through an angel. Can you imagine what Joseph's family and friends said to him when he decided to go ahead and marry Mary?

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)*

Who is Jesus?

*Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)*

I would like for us to go back to Romans and look at why Jesus came.

*Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.*

*Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift.*

*For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that*

*sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.*

*For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)*

*Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

*Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through the righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*(Rom. 5:12-21)*



Jesus had to come, because Adam messed up God's perfect plan. Only Jesus could reverse what Adam had brought upon all mankind. He was the only perfect sacrifice for sin.

There is not anything that we can do, to add to God's perfect plan for salvation and eternal life. All we can do is accept the free gift that he offers to us through Jesus Christ.

I will close with the following scripture:

*He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life... (1 John 5:12, 13)*

My prayer is that the gift of Jesus will become more real for all of us in 2008!

May God bless you richly in this New Year!

**Barbara (Borkholder) Keim**

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## Learning To "Wait" On The Lord

*I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning. (Psalms 130:5-6)*

Desperately, helplessly, longingly, I cried: Quietly, patiently, lovingly God replied. I pled and I wept for a clue to my fate, and the Master who gently said, "Child, you must wait."

"Wait?" You say, wait!," my angry reply. "Lord, I need answers, I need to know why! Is your hand shortened? Or have you not heard? By faith, I have asked, and am claiming your Word.

"My future and all to which I can relate hangs in the balance, and You tell me to wait? I'm needing a 'yes' a go-ahead sign, or even a 'no' to which I can resign.

"And Lord, You promised that if we believe we need but to ask, and we shall receive. Lord, I've been asking, and this is my cry: I'm weary of asking! I need a reply!"

Then quietly, softly, I learned of my fate, as my Master replied once again, "You must wait." So, I slumped in my chair, defeated and taut, and grumbled to God, "So, I'm waiting... for what?"

He seemed, then, to kneel, and His eyes wept with mine, and He tenderly said, "I could give you a sign. I could shake the heavens,

and darken the sun. I could raise the dead, and cause mountains to run.

"All you ask me I could give, and pleased you would be. You would have what you want – but, you wouldn't know Me. You'd not know the depth of My love for each saint: You'd not know the power that I give to the faint.

"You'd not learn to see through the clouds of despair: You'd not learn to trust just by knowing I'm there; you'd not know the joy of resting in Me when darkness and silence were all you can see.

"You'd never experience that fullness of love, as the peace of My Spirit descends like a dove; you'd know that I live and I save... (for a start), but you'd not know the depth of the beat of My heart.

"The glow of My comfort late into the night. The faith that I give when you walk without sight. The depth that's beyond getting just what you asked of an infinite God, who make what you have last.

"You'd never know, should your pain quickly flee, what it means that 'My grace is sufficient for Thee.' Yes, your dreams for your loved one overnight would come true. But, Oh, the loss! If I lost what I'm doing in you!

"So, be silent, my child, and in time you will see that the greatest of gifts is to get to know Me. And though oft' may My answers seem terribly late. My most precious answer of all is still, 'wait.'"

~ Author Unknown

### Interesting!!!

Please see if you can figure out what these words have in common.

Potato  
Revive  
Assess  
Uneven  
Banana  
Dresser  
Grammar

Don't give up yet. Give it another try. You'll surprise yourself when you discover the answer. Go back and look at them again; think hard. OK...

If you have tried and tried and you just can't figure it out, go to page 8 to find the answer.

### How Smart is Your Right Foot ?

This will boggle your mind and you will keep trying over and over again to see if you can outsmart your foot, but, you can't. It's pre-programmed in your brain!

1. While sitting in your favorite chair, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.

2. Now, while doing this, draw the number "6" in the air with your right hand. But look out, your foot will change direction.

### Floating Finger

**What You'll Need:** Two hands, two eyes.

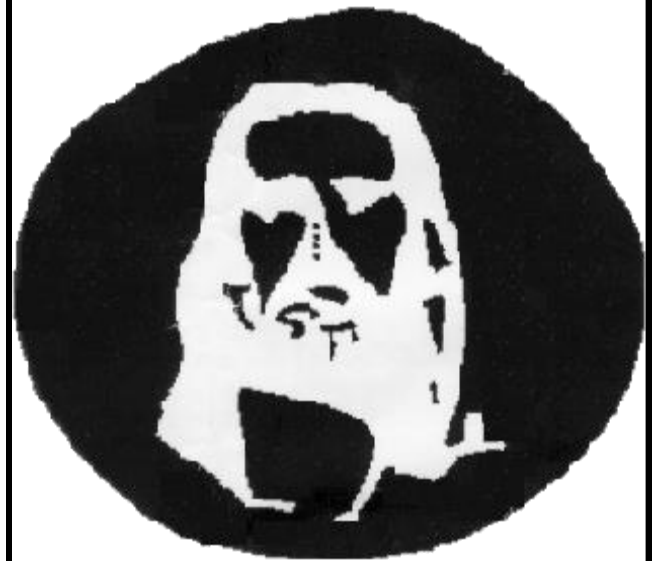


**Effect:** Hold your two hands in front of you at eye level. Point your index fingers towards each other, as illustrated in the picture above. Leave a little space (an inch or so) between your two index fingers. With your fingers at eye level, stare at and focus on a wall or an object in the distance (a few feet away).

**What You'll See:** You should see a finger with two ends floating in between your two index fingers. If you are having problems seeing it, try moving your fingers toward your eyes (keeping them at eye level). Try this illusion with your two index fingers actually touching each other as well.

Stare at the four black dots in the center of the image for 30 - 60 seconds.

Then quickly close your eyes and look at something bright (like a lamp or a window with sunlight coming through it). You should see a white circle with an image inside it.



### Memory Verse

**Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. (Col 2:8)**

## Noteworthy News

### Retaliation costly for Amish youth in Cattaraugus County, NY

Five young men were arrested after being accused of vandalizing two Amish homes. It is being reported the vandalism occurred in retaliation to a crackdown on drinking parties by the elders of the church. The damages done to the two homes/properties were estimated at more than \$1700.

### Horse Drawn Buggy Signs Vandalized in Crookston, MN

Recently Polk County officials put up horse drawn vehicle signs to let motorists know about the increase in horse drawn vehicle traffic due to the recent move of several Amish families into the area. Vandals defaced the signs with large red 'X's' and foul language within 2 months of the signs being put up. Officials offered a special \$300 reward for



information leading to the arrest of the culprits.

### Akron Children's hospital receives \$320,000 grant to assist Amish with hemophilia

The grant coming from the Centers for Disease Control was awarded to implement a health promotion program for the Amish community members living in Holmes and Wayne Counties with hemophilia. The grant will finance 100 percent of the program's cost and will be implemented in January.

### Another stop to add to your list when visiting Holmes County

Beginning on June 1 visitors will be able to visit the 5400 square foot German Culture Museum located on the ground floor of the new Walnut Creek Community Center. This museum was funded completely with private donations. There were no public funds or grants used. Hundreds of private

citizens and business owners pulled together for a common purpose and donated whatever they could ranging from 20 bushels of corn to a day's worth of milk to \$20. Everything you will see will have been donated by locals.

### Dog Breeding Industry in Holmes County threatened by House Bill 223

Dog breeding provides millions of dollars in income annually for residents of the Amish community in Holmes County. It is estimated if legislators have their way



stricter standards and higher regulations would put about 80% of people out of business.

Many young people in this area have borrowed money and built homes based on the income they receive from this industry.

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