



# MISSION TO AMISH PEOPLE

Life Transition Ministry  
Living Room Bible Institute  
Prayer/Bible Study Groups  
SonLight Club—Amish Voice  
Donation Center—Audio & Tract  
Church Presentations and Workshops

PO Box 128 • Savannah, Ohio 44874 • (419) 962-1515 • WWW.MapMinistry.org • JKeim@MapMinistry.org

Hello Friend:

Sept 2008

I am excited to tell you that after 21 long years, and thousands of prayers, the entire Keim family got together at one place for a family reunion. **As some of our readers already know, I have three brothers (and their spouses) who have also left the Amish; the photo shows all of us with our wives and children, right before we joined the rest of our Amish family.** And, as you can tell,



we are all wearing Amish clothes—that is because we were informed early on that if we do come to the reunion, we have to park our cars a half mile away and come dressed in Amish clothes. It would obviously take up the whole newsletter to write about our wonderful day, and so I will just touch on a few highlights that we will always cherish in our hearts.

**Highlight #1:** Because of the shunning, we have had very little connection with my family over the years and because of that, I sort of had a mental picture of what our family structure looked like in 1987—back then, our family included dad, mom, and 14 children. Today however, our

family has more than tripled in size. **That number now includes dad, mom, spouses, and 56 grandchildren.** We learned that several of our nieces and nephews had died in their young age; one of my brothers has three deaf children, and another one of my brothers has a child in a wheelchair.

**Highlight #2:** Because of the shunning **we were not allowed to fill our plates from the same bowl, so they made two lines—one for them and one for us.** While eating, I got to sit right across the table from my dad and during our conversation he broke down and cried several times; to this day he still blames himself for four of us brothers leaving the culture.

**Highlight #3:** Some of you know that I am a perfectionist. During a conversation with my dad, I asked if he ever struggled with perfection and he kind of chuckled and said, Joe, I have had to deal with being a perfectionist my whole life and sometimes it makes life difficult for those who are closest to me. I said to dad, guess what, I passed our little perfectionist problem on to my son too.

**Highlight #4:** My sister Saloma told us what a perfect day is: *A perfect day, is a sunny day, with a gentle breeze flowing, and a broken lawn mower.*

**Highlight #5:** Brother Ervin and I are exactly one year apart in age; he and I used to share a bed when we were growing up. I asked him if he remembered going barefoot in the manure and mud all day and then coming to bed without washing his feet—Of course he denied it; I would then have to sleep in his dried up mud and manure crumbs, every night.

**Note:** *For many years we have prayed every day that God would save each one of our family members. So far He has saved 3 sisters who are still Amish and four of us brothers who have left the Amish.*

### Three More Souls Profess Christ as Savior

It has not always been easy, affordable, or fun to share our home with others but I tell you, when one of them gets saved, it makes it all worth while. **Since our last update, Maryann and Rachel both placed their faith in Jesus Christ and Him alone for salvation.** Maryann had always told us that she was saved, but we kept praying for her on a daily basis. On July 12th, she came under such conviction from the Holy Spirit that we just about couldn't get to Rom 10:13 fast enough—where God says, *For whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved.* She bowed her head and prayed for Jesus to forgive her sins and become Lord and Savior of her life. Right after she got done praying she looked at us, **and with tears coming down her face, she said, "how come no one**



**ever told me how to be born again, when I was growing up".**

Several days before her salvation, Maryann quit her job, sold her car, and bought a bus ticket to go back to her parents in New York. And because she had promised her parents that she would come back, she decided to continue to go on as planned, **but before she left she took Esther's Bible, opened it to the book of Romans and copied all the highlighted and underlined scriptures over to her Bible.** Two weeks later we learned that Maryann was so busy witnessing to her family that she was told to stop spreading her different belief, immediately. Maryann continues to be actively involved in our SonLight Bible correspondence studies.

Rachel on the other hand had been reading her Bible every day, but didn't know how to be born again. A week prior to her salvation, I had asked her if she would like to know how to be born again, and she said that she wasn't ready yet. On July 8th, she

started asking questions about the Bible and salvation and immediately I knew that the Holy Spirit was at work. **After an hour long discussion, she bowed her head and received Christ as her personal Savior and Lord.** Rachel has been working at the MAP Ministry for several months now, and has been faithfully committed to Christ and the local church; she wants to get baptized.

Mose (not pictured), called me from Missouri one Sunday night, while I was driving home from presenting the ministry at two churches, in Warren OH. **He was a young man that had just left the Amish a couple days before and someone had given him my cell phone number and told him to call me, because I would be able to tell him how to overcome his fears.** About 30 minutes into our conversation I realized that God was at work; He had put this whole plan in place long before this Sunday night had come around. **I pulled off to the side of the road and got my Bible out and 45 minutes later Mose prayed and ask Jesus to save him.** An hour of more conversation went by and he said, Joe, **“all that weight of fear has left me and I feel totally different”.**

### 2008 Former Amish Reunion

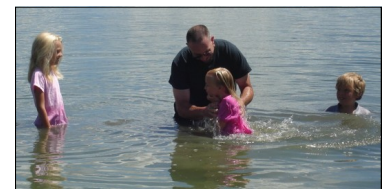
One of the great highlights of my year is when we all get together for the Former Amish Reunion. It seems like each year they keep getting better and better. This year we met people who had come from all over OH, IN, and MI. Some of the faces were familiar and others were brand new. One of the young men that attended from MI had just left the Amish several days before the reunion and as I listened to his story, he said, Joe, **when the church made a rule that they would discipline any member who did not close his jacket all the way, I decided I had enough.** As Daniel was talking I couldn't help but think of the scripture in Colossians where it reads, **“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross” Colossians 2:14**

Something else happened at the reunion, that was a great surprise for me. Seven years ago, I was traveling on some back roads, about an hour or more from home, when I spotted a young man who was plowing alongside the road. As I drove by, I decided to go back and witness to him about the Lord. As I remember it, Samuel was not that interested in what I had to say about the gospel. But before I left, I asked him if I could take his picture, and he said yes. To make a long story short, while at the reunion, a handsome young man approached me with a big smile on his face and the first words out of his mouth were, **“you probably don't remember me, but I was that young boy who was plowing alongside the road in Mt Eaton, OH, about 7 years ago.”** He wanted to know if I still had that photo of him sitting on the plow—I was glad to tell him that I did. But then he went on to tell me how he had just gotten out of prison, several months earlier. He had originally been sentenced to 4 years but the judge let him out early because of good behavior.

**I am constantly reminded that people who have never lived in freedom before, have a very difficult time surviving when they finally do break out of the pen?** In our line of ministry, we see this happening almost daily and many times I have wished for a better way of keeping these young people from going down the wrong paths. In our experience we have learned that one of the best ways to help is through **“one on one mentoring”.** **Please pray, we are constantly seeking out good mentors.**

### Vacation Bible School

This summer I was invited to teach Vacation Bible School at two different churches in our area. I spoke a total of 23 times and in return for my teaching time, the children raised over \$1,100 for the SonLight Club ministry. **The best part about these two weeks was that 17 children gave their hearts to Christ.** Several weeks after the one VBS, I was invited by three of the kids to come and watch them get baptized in the pond.



### The Berean Class in Rittman OH Adopts 500 Amish Households To Receive The Amish Voice



**Kim writes, on behalf of the class:** *We are a group of mostly 20-30 age single and married men and women. Our purpose for being involved with Mission to Amish People (Amish Voice) is that we live so close to Amish communities and many of us interact with Amish people on a regular basis. We want to share our lives with them. We also see how lost the people are. We want to encourage them to dig into the Bible and decide for themselves if God's Word matches their lifestyle – especially the one laid out for them in their ordinances. Some things we plan to include in our mailings are: personal testimonies from class members, challenging questions we ask ourselves (and hopefully they will ask themselves) about our faith and doctrine and how we might attempt to answer them, updates on activities we are involved in with our church and community, ways they can contact us for questions/concerns, etc. We will be careful not to appear as though we are “ministering” to them because we realize that they probably do not feel the need for it.*

In closing I would like to share a very special blessing with you: Our finances this summer were difficult, but last month God provided a special gift of \$6,100—Thank you Lord for everyone that prays and gives so faithfully to MAP. ~ Joe Keim for the team