



## OUR THREE FOLD PURPOSE

### ONE

*To Evangelize and Disciple the Amish and Former Amish.*

### TWO

*To assist older teenagers and young adults who have already left the Amish culture by providing basic Life Skills, such as:*

- *Communicating with English as a second language*
- *Driving lessons for obtaining a vehicle operator's license*
- *Learning new cultural norms, expectations and social practices*
- *Applying for a Social Security card, completing employment applications*
- *Studying for high school GED testing, considering higher educational levels*
- *Preparing for job interviews, finding a residence, acquiring home furnishings*
- *Opening bank accounts and understanding practical financial management practices*

### THREE

*Expand Mission to Amish People all over North America.*

## Dear Friend:

January 2009

If you are able to read this ministry update, it would only make sense that you survived the holiday season. And now it's back to reality and life as we knew it before Christmas and New Year.

As you begin a brand new year, have you had any thoughts of...

1. How do I want to finish up at the end of 2009?
2. What should my top goal be for 2009?
3. Is this the year that our Lord will come back for me? My loved ones? All of us?

Last week, one of my friends said, Joe, "these spiritual wars that are happening all around us are wearing me out and I'm ready for the Lord to just come back and get me."

Without a doubt he spoke for most of us. But the truth is, we *must* continue to battle for the living souls of our precious family members, our friends and neighbors and millions of others who are still unsaved and headed for a place that Jesus described as... *Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.*

The apostle Paul writes... *I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren...*

This is the picture of a man who had an unbelievable willingness to be sacrificed for his people. He could wish to be separated from Christ, swap his salvation for their doom, if that then would lead to their salvation.

Lord, help us to have this same passion for evangelism and discipleship in 2009.

## MAP Newsletter: A Different Look

As you can see, we have changed the look of our ministry update. I am not sure that we will keep it this way, nor do I know exactly where I am going with it, but my thoughts for the time being are that I would like to try something different.

It has long been my desire to use this newsletter for more than just a ministry update. I would like to be able to use it as a tool for teaching those who have a desire to reach their Amish and former Amish neighbors and friends with the gospel.

As most all of you know, we have been traveling all over

the country, teaching a seminar called "*Amish: They are our friends, but are they our brothers?*"



The seminar is supposed to last 2 hours, but those who have attended the past couple seminars know that they have lasted longer.

That is because there is a great interest in knowing who the Amish people really are and what they truly believe about their lifestyle,

salvation, the world, etc.

There is also a tremendous interest in knowing how to reach out, make a connection, and share God's plan of salvation with them.

I would like to include some of the following topics in this and future issues...

1. Ministry Update
2. Testimonies
3. Q&A Section
4. Amish Beliefs
5. Amish Background, Culture, and News
6. How to Evangelize & Disciple the Amish and Former Amish

**Testimony: Life Transition**



*Joe and Family, I want to thank you for letting me stay at your house these last 6 months and*

*for helping me with whatever else you did. I couldn't have done it without you. I have much to thank the good Lord for. I think I have more than I deserve.*

*May God Richly bless you! Love forever. —Rachel*

**Testimony: MAP Presentation**

*Hello Joe, Thank you so much for coming to our Missions conference. You and your family were a real blessing. I enjoyed hearing you speak on Sunday. I really learned a lot.*

*Before you came to speak, I mistakenly assumed that the Amish had a good sense of the bible and how important it is to be saved. Because of my assumption, I didn't worry about them and did not include them in my prayers. I didn't think I needed to. Thank you for opening my eyes to their plight. I will be praying for you and the mission.*

**Testimony: Amish Voice**

*Hello Friends, Just a little note to let you know how much we enjoy the Amish Voice. At first we too didn't really know what to think, but now we really enjoy it. It helps us understand the Bible more.*

*Please, ignore the unfriendly responses you receive. Jesus too, was on the receiving end of a lot of rejections. Keep sending this to us and keep up the good work. —Ohio*

**Financial Update**

Looking back over 2008, all of us stand in absolute amazement as we recount the faithful and generous giving of God's people. Your financial support to MAP just kept coming in, week after week, all year long.

We are pleased to acknowledge that several churches, businesses, and individuals put an extra year end Christmas gift in the ministry's bank account—which will

help all of us get a great start in the new year.

Thank you for your partnership, generosity, and faithfulness! And thank you for putting your trust and confidence in us and MAP.

I think it is also important for us to be reminded that our home church has not only been a big financial supporter of MAP, but they continue to allow us 2,000 Sq Ft office space, rent free.

The chart explains where the financial support came from during 2008.

<b>Home Church</b>	<b>\$17,500</b>
<b>(64) Churches</b>	<b>\$62,115</b>
<b>(154) Individuals</b>	<b>\$64,199</b>
<b>(7) Businesses</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>
<b>(1) Grant Foundation</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>Total for 2008</b>	<b>\$174,814</b>

**Year-End/Christmas Celebration**

The turn out for our year-end/Christmas celebration was just phenomenal.

The MAP staff paid for a "all the barbeque ribs you can eat" dinner and invited our board members and volunteers to come out, so we could

celebrate all that the Lord did through MAP in 2008.

We shared testimonies, talked about future goals,

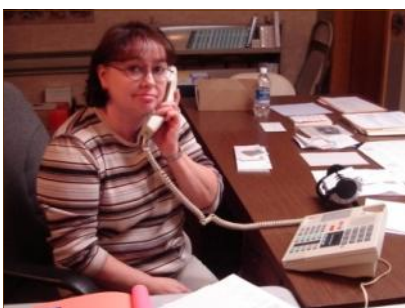
shed a few tears and laughed a lot. In the end we watched a video about the Amish. It was glorious!

I believe at this point, MAP



another. Most of our volunteers are retired who just love to come out and work for the Lord; others include home schooled families who desire to take on projects.

Some of our volunteers put as many as 25-32 hours a week into the ministry and never ask to be reimbursed for gas or time. Truly we are blessed beyond words!



**Five year anniversary:** In 2003, MAP hired Tina as the office secretary. She takes all the calls, orders office supplies and Bible lessons, keeps all the volunteers organized and busy, makes sure the mailings get done, works with the finances, and keeps Joe and Bill looking good. We couldn't do without her!

Happy Anniversary Tina, and thanks for all you do!

### Thanksgiving For The Singles

Holidays are always difficult for the ones who do not have a family to belong to. And for that reason, Esther has made it her ministry to reach out with a home cooked meal. This year was no exception; we got together and feasted on a home cooked meal and then we all played games.



It has never been our goal to...

- Change the Amish lifestyle
- Tear families apart

However, it is our goal to **teach** the Amish people that...

- Salvation is a gift that cannot be earned by works.

**Romans 11:6**

*And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.*

### 16,000 Miles of Travel in 2008

In 2008 we met with Amish and former Amish people from all walks and positions in life. We met those who were born-again children of God and yet excommunicated, shunned, and treated like unbelievers by their own dads, moms, brothers, and sisters.

We also met thousands of new people and established some close friendships while presenting the MAP ministry to a total of 61 different churches and special group gatherings.

Once while traveling through

the state of Michigan, we ran out of gas and it just so happened that we were out in the middle of no-where; it was raining like crazy.

The photo (below) shows our Rachel clowning around in the rain while her best friend Rosa (who was along for the trip) is taking a picture; I am on my way to get gas at the nearest town.



My last trip of the year, took me to Avoca NY, where I spoke at a house church.

The home where I spoke at



had no electricity—it was too far off the main route and would have cost Lydia and her family (former Amish) lots of dollars to get it.

We have 17 new churches scheduled for 2009. Please call us if you are interested.

### Testimony: SonLight Club

*Dear SonLight Club Workers, A huge thanks to what the SonLight Club has done for me. Your lessons you've sent me have taken a load off my back. Your articles have helped me receive Christ as my Savior. You have helped me understand God and Jesus more.*

*I have a great deal of fun doing my lessons. These Bible lessons helped me through hard times when Satan wants to make me do bad things. Every time I get a new lesson, I have a big smile on my face and I'm eager to look at it. Thanks for everything you've done for me. May God help you.*

— Indiana

### 64,515 Bible Lessons and 284 Salvations

During 2008, we mailed out 64,515 SonLight Club (correspondence) Bible lessons. And during the year, 284 students wrote to us, telling us that they were saved through a certain lesson that they did.

Since 98% of our students are Amish, we hardly ever

get to see or talk to them.

However, recently while sharing the ministry in NY, I brought up the SonLight Club and a little girl raised her hand and said, "my sister and I are in the SonLight Club". As you can only imagine, there was that moment of excitement and

almost disbelieve.

It just so happened that she and her whole family had left the Amish a year before.

I took a picture of their whole family (right) and brought it back to the office. Several days later we all gathered around the office phone and talked to them.



A little taste of what Heaven must be like!



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## 2008 Statistics

### The SonLight Club

- 64,515 Bible lessons were mailed out
- 38 States

- 284 Salvations
- 1,616 New Testaments (awards)
- 3,500 Active Students

### The Amish Voice

- 17 churches and individual Sponsors
- 42,000 copies were mailed out

## Amish In The News: Cell Phones Among the Amish

There is an old saying, "Amish don't need a telephone; they have their own system and it works just as well or better than the telephone. It's called telewoman and teleman.

But that too is changing. More and more Amish people are becoming cell phone owners, particularly in areas where the church rules are less conservative.

While the majority of Amish communities in the US still choose not to use most modern devices, cell phones are becoming increasingly popular in some areas.

One wireless store in southern Indiana claims that the Amish are some of their biggest customers.

The truth is, Amish people are no different than anyone else, their

lifestyles continue to become faster paced and business owners are having to become more and more competitive.



Most Amish use their cell phones for the same reason others do, and that is to stay in contact with business owners, family members and friends within their own communities.

One of the more popular uses for cell phones is to check the weather forecast. It allows them to prepare for changing weather conditions, such as rain and storms.

Text messaging and (believe it or not) internet usage is also among some of the practical uses.

So how do the Amish keep their cell phones recharged, you ask. Well, some of them carry car chargers and whenever it works out, they will plug them into the lighter socket of their taxi driver's vehicle. Others use electrical outlets which are located in the barns of their English neighbors.

**For more Amish in the News**

[WWW.MapMinistry.org/News.php](http://WWW.MapMinistry.org/News.php)