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**Your Missionaries to the Amish**



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Dear Friend:

The Lord has been at work in Amish communities across the United States, and we are confident that another awakening is about to burst forth. At times it feels a bit overwhelming—even scary. Individuals and families are constantly calling, emailing, and texting our ministry. It seems the number of Amish leaving and needing help is at a record high.

Recently, an elderly couple visited our office with a unique need. At almost sixty years of age, this couple left the Amish and was struggling to get their Social Security numbers and driver’s licenses. The wife moved to the US when she was single and

—Joe Keim

still holds Canadian citizenship, which adds to the complexity of their situation. This type of cycle, however, is common, and is something we see on a regular basis here at the ministry.

Below are also some recent questions and statements we have been receiving from adults wanting to leave the Amish church. These will help you better understand what kind of battles are being fought in Amish homes as members consider the idea of breaking away:

1) Second Timothy 3:2 says that in the last days, children will be disobedient to their parents. Since we are looking at leaving

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**Family and Ministry Expansion**



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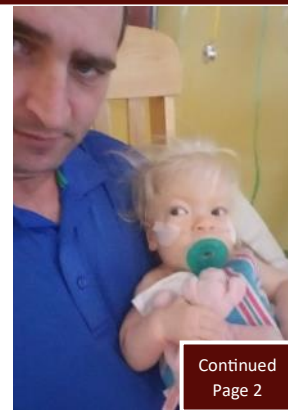
—Samuel Girod

I want to start this month’s update by thanking you for your support and prayers. We sincerely appreciate your willingness to serve with us.

I also want to give you an update on our daughter, Joanna. We recently spent a week at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital because she had a bad case of RSV. It is extra scary for us when she gets sick because of the disease she has (Mucopolysaccharidosis type II). Joanna is eighteen months old and only thirteen pounds. She is not able to sit up on her own and needs a lot of care and attention.

On a more positive note, I have good news to tell you: we are expecting our fifth child, due May 18. According to the ultrasound, it’s a boy.

Since 2012, God has sent us seven former Amish individuals to house and care for. Each time, it has been a real honor to



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**Breaking the Silence**



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—Jonas Yoder

It seems like spring may have finally arrived in western Kentucky! We spent the last weekend in March planting 400 tomato plants in our high tunnel greenhouse. We have done this for the last four years, as it makes extra busy work for the children and also brings in a side income. There’s also always plenty of tomatoes for the table!

On March 11 we had the opportunity to host Joseph and Stacy Graber, filmmakers and creators of the new Amish film, *Breaking The Silence*. If you have not seen it yet, you need to get a copy. In addition to his film series, Joseph Graber did a chalk-drawing

presentation before an audience of about 100 former Amish and Old Order Mennonites from this area. He gave a powerful and compelling message encouraging the former Amish not to become spiritual islands to themselves, but rather, to join forces with the greater Christian community for the advancement of the kingdom. His message was based on 2 Timothy 2:19: *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

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## Joe, continued

some of our parent's teachings and the Amish church, we are concerned that this Scripture was written with us in mind. Can you help us understand what God meant? — Preacher in WI

2) My bishop says the Amish churches are the only ones who truly follow God's command when He said that His people must be of one mind, one mouth, one spirit, one accord, and one voice (Rom 15:6; Phil 1:27, 2:2). Because of these commandments, the church leadership feels they must enforce rules on their members, believing it will bring them into subjection. In this case, the member was forbidden to attend a non-Amish Bible study where individualism and Christian liberty were being taught. — Dad in MI

3) My husband and I made it known to the Amish church that we would not be attending their church services any longer,

but would try to find one that preached the pure and undefiled gospel. Within a week, we were completely cut out of a family wedding; my own sister has turned her back on me. — Grandma in IN

We are regularly receiving calls from churches wanting to know how they can better help Amish people who are showing up at their doors. This month alone, we have received phone calls from several churches wanting to know when our next Amish Awareness conference will be so they can attend and be trained on how to best meet the needs of their Amish and former Amish communities.

**Note:** *we do a conference call every Monday morning. You are invited to join us from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Eastern. Dial (302) 202-1110 and enter code 409703. Those who call in are Amish, former Amish, and non-Amish.*

In addition, this year Esther and I have been traveling and speaking in churches throughout OH, PA, WV, NY, and WY. A church in Indiana recently called and said they have five new Amish families attending services on a regular basis. This particular church was feeling a bit overwhelmed and wondered how they could best minister to these families.

These are examples of the kinds of phone calls and requests that seem to constantly be coming into the ministry. We certainly covet your prayers and support during this busy season. We are excited to see how the Lord continues to use our work here at MAP to further His kingdom and reach the Amish and former Amish across America. We do not take for granted—not even for a minute—that we could do this ministry without you. Thank you for the part you play in MAP and God's eternal plan! —Joe and Esther Keim

## Samuel, continued



serve in such a way. In January, I mentioned that we purchased an old church house next to our home property, with the intent of remodeling the inside to

house even more former Amish. So far, we have installed the plumbing, two entry doors, and two windows, as well as framed inside walls. We still need to complete the following:

- Interior siding and drywall: \$2,100
- Carpeting for bedroom: \$385
- Vinyl flooring for bathroom: \$220
- Hardwood floor: \$1,176
- Two interior doors: \$170
- Kitchen cabinets: \$1,700
- Paint: \$275

- Baseboard and window trim: \$425
- Insulation: \$1,500
- HVAC \$4,000
- Septic system: \$4,500
- Water hookup: \$1,800

If the Lord leads you to get involved financially, you can send your gift to: MAP, Attn: Girod Housing Ministry, PO Box 128, Savannah, OH 44874.

If you have questions, call me at (419) 631-5162. —Samuel and Polly Girod

## Jonas, continued



This presentation was also filmed at the most recent Amish Awareness Conference and can be viewed at <http://myamishstory.com>. This same site has a store page where you can order your own copy of *Breaking The Silence*.

In closing, I would like to ask for prayers regarding two needs:

First, in recent months, I have acquired several leads to families that are open to leaving the Amish. The Lord has laid it on my heart to visit and encourage these families. As you

pray for these families, please also pray that the Lord would provide my family with a more dependable vehicle to be able to make visits. Our main vehicle has over 350,000 miles and is beginning to show its age!

Second, we need approximately \$3,000 in finances to do maintenance and upgrades

to our mission apartment. The apartment needs several interior doors installed, as well as some trim work done. The front of the unit needs a new deck with a roof over it.

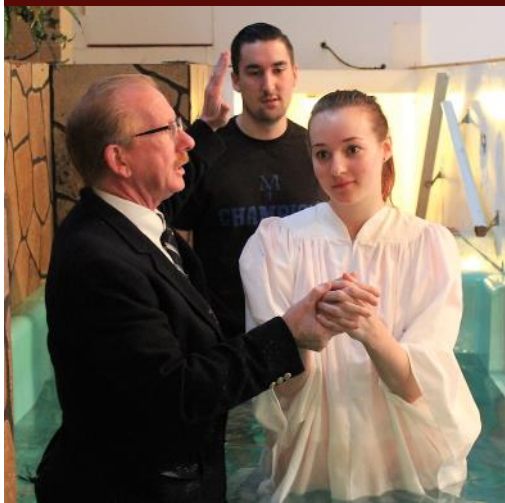
Since the apartment was built in 2009, we have housed a married couple as well as three young former Amish boys. One of these young men went on to become a missionary in Iraq.

Our current goal is to have the housing back in order and ready to provide housing again by midsummer.

Thank you for your continued prayer and support. We could not do what we do without you. —Jonas and Mary Yoder

## Katie's Testimony and Baptism

—Joe Keim



What an honor and blessing it has been to meet with and disciple Katie Gingerich! We are going through the ABC's of Christian Growth—a study we have gone through with several hundred other young people. Each lesson focuses on the doctrines of our faith and requires students to use the Bible to fill in missing key words.

After completing a study on baptism, Katie decided to join others on Easter Sunday and follow the Lord in baptism. Here is her testimony:

## The Testimony of Katie Gingerich

Growing up as a young Amish girl, like any other child, I never questioned anything my parents or our church taught us. I was taught about Jesus from the moment I can remember, and I was taught that to be a child of God I had to obey all “His” rules—“His” rules that my parents and the church taught me to obey. Only when I became a young teenager did I start questioning their rules. I would question my parents a lot about them, but I would never really get a satisfying answer. I started going to my Bible for answers, but with their rules, nothing in the Bible really made sense to me. I started questioning why it would be wrong to leave the Amish, but they convinced me that I could not leave and still be a Christian; but I also couldn't see how I could be right and stay.

I struggled a lot with trying to obey everything I was told to obey. Finally, at the age of seventeen, my dad told me I should just leave if I could not willingly become a member of their church and obey everything they tell me. I left that

day, still very confused about what was right, but certain that I would never be able to become a member of their church and agree with everything they taught.

Fortunately, a very nice Christian couple took me in. I started going to church with them and really started getting interested in what was being taught. We would do Bible studies together, and with their help I soon understood the gospel of Jesus Christ and was born again. This was only the beginning of a new life.

I moved in with Don and Rosie Morrison soon after, and they were a great blessing to me and were always there with advice when I needed it. I still struggle a lot with just leaving behind my family and everything I was taught about religion growing up. With the help of Jesus, family, and friends, I am able to work through the struggle and allow my relationship with Christ to grow every day. I was recently baptized as a follower of Christ, and I left my former life behind. Philippians 4:13: *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

—Katie Gingerich

## Dedication and Grand Opening

—Joe Keim



On Sunday, April 15th, God's people gathered to dedicate *New Beginnings* and *Beyond Measure* to the Lord and for His service. Praises, Scripture passages, testimonies, and tears of joy filled the air. Our time together ended with “To God Be the Glory.” It was powerful and moving!

On April 20 and 21 we had our grand opening for *Beyond Measure Market*, and because several local newspapers carried the testimonies of God's people and MAP ministry, many from the local community

visited the store and marveled at God's work and the ministry you are involved in. It truly was a glorious sight to behold!

We are continually grateful for all those who gave financially, volunteered their time, and prayed for *New Beginnings Homestead*. It took us a full three years, but together we reached our goal of \$350,000. As of May 1, the apartment complex has been completed enough for individuals to start living on the first floor. Already, the Lord has brought both single ladies and mothers with children our way.

All along, people warned us that we should add an additional 10 percent to the cost of building, and this advice was true. Despite the many volunteer hours and discounted building materials, we still need about \$35,000 more to finish *New*

*Beginnings*. This additional funding will help cover the cost of finishing the entire basement level, and includes carpeting, trim, doors, sinks, and lighting, as well as the costs associated with excavating, landscaping, and finishing up the outside of the house.

If the Lord should lead you to get involved in helping us reach the rest of our needed funding, whether it be through monthly giving or a one-time gift, we would thoroughly appreciate it. We also appreciate your prayers as we begin to fill our apartments and minister to those who have left the Amish and need a hand.

You can either send a check to MAP, Attn: New Beginnings, PO Box 128, Savannah, OH 44874, or go to our home page (MapMinistry.org) and follow the online links. —Joe and Esther Keim

### Receiving duplicate mailings?

*Please note your correct name and address and return all labels to the address above*

### Moving?

*Please send us the new address.*

### Not interested in the MAP Update?

*Please let us know and we will remove you from the active list.*

## Hallo allemaal!

—Miranda Verheij



I will tell you how I got so interested in them. When I was a teenager, I attended the bi-weekly teenager club at my church. Normally, our leaders would speak about a biblical or faith-related topic, after which we would have a little break and then go on to do some fun stuff. But to prepare us for the next age group (in which we would have to speak), our leaders asked if some of us would like to try speaking about a topic. My friend and I accepted that challenge and began discussing what to speak about. We didn't really have a clue what to speak about, until my friend asked, "Why don't we speak about the Amish?"

To tell you the truth, I had no clue what she was talking about, but I said, "Yes, let's do that, because I don't have any better ideas." We went to our local library and got some books about the Amish (both fiction and non-fiction). From that moment on, the Amish fascinated me, and I read about every book our library had about them.

At first, I only saw the sugar-coated picture that most non-Amish people share, but by reading more and later also watching documentaries on YouTube, I discovered that this picture was not correct. Instead, there is a lot of darkness in the majority of the Amish communities. From that moment on, I started to pray for them.

Last year we had a class in college that was about German-language islands, meaning places around the world where people speak German or a variety of it. Guess what? One of the dialects we discussed was Pennsylvania Dutch. That made me think, "Well, if this is part of my studies, why don't I write my final paper about them?" And here I am, both collecting information for my paper and enjoying getting to know the (former) Amish.

I am very privileged to be hosted by Wayne and Chris Vallowe. They have become a second set of parents to me and take me everywhere! Since they have a lot of connections among both Amish and former Amish through their work with MAP, I am able to get an excellent view of people's hearts. This would never have been possible if I would just have come here on my own.

I want to thank everyone who is part of making this possible—especially Wayne and Chris Vallowe and Joe and Esther Keim. You are a huge blessing to me!

Hallo allemaal! Yes, you read that right. My name is Miranda Verheij. I am twenty seven years old and am from the Netherlands—a country west of Germany that is only about one-third the size of Ohio. So, what am I doing in the United States? Well, I am studying the German language and culture in Amsterdam and am in my last year of studies. Since the Amish have a German/Swiss background, I chose to write my final paper about them. For this reason, I am visiting from March 2 through May 18.

My topic is "Changes within the Amish." I am focusing both on changes in the culture over time and on changes in people's personal lives. I am using many books and am interviewing Amish and former Amish people, which has been very interesting.

I got connected with Joe Keim a couple of years ago because of my fascination and burden for the Amish.

