

The Amish Voice



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January 2009

PART IX—What Is The Church

The Church Ordinances: Baptism and Communion (Part 1 of 2)

There are two ordinances which Jesus Christ has instituted and established for His Church. An ordinance is a "prescribed practice." It is something that has been prescribed and ordered by Jesus Christ and practiced by the Church. An ordinance is something that the Church practices because Jesus Christ has told her to do so. The New Testament makes it very clear that the early Church practiced and observed two ordinances:

1. BAPTISM
2. COMMUNION

These two ordinances are both mentioned in Acts 2:41-42.

For this edition of the Amish Voice, we will only be able to touch on the ordinance of BAPTISM; In part 10 of "What Is The Church" we will continue with our study by discussing the ordinance of COMMUNION. **We will also look into the ministry of foot washing.**

BAPTISM

SET IN PLACE BY JESUS CHRIST

The reason the Church baptizes people in water is because this is exactly what Jesus Christ has told us to do. After Jesus rose from the dead and right before He returned to heaven, Jesus gave this command to His followers:



"Go ye therefore, and **teach** (make disciples of) all nations, **BAPTIZING** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus said it and the Church must obey it!

WHAT IS THE PROPER METHOD OR MODE OF BAPTISM?

Today different churches baptize people in different ways. Baptism by **sprinkling** is done by placing a few drops of water on the head of a child or an adult. Baptism by **pouring** is done, as the name implies, by pouring a larger amount of water on the head of the individual. Baptism by **immersion** is done by placing the person completely under the water (complete submersion) and then raising him out of it.

1. Which method is correct?
2. Which method is taught in the Bible?

We must first understand what the word "**baptize**" really means. This word does not mean "to sprinkle" and it does not mean "to pour." The word "**baptize**" is a Greek word which means "to dip, to immerse, to plunge into something that completely covers." When used of a liquid it means that an object or a person is put into or under a

liquid so as to be completely covered by the liquid (**totally buried**).

If someone asked you to go bury the chicken in the ground and you went out back and laid the chicken down on the ground and sprinkled a handful of dirt over top of it, you could not honestly go back and say, I buried the chicken. The only way to bury the chicken is to completely cover it with dirt so that the chicken is no longer visible to the eye. You could now say, "I buried this chicken in the ground." Think of a sleeping bag. What would a person need to do in order to be baptized in the sleeping bag?

In Acts 8:36-39 we read about the time when the Ethiopian eunuch was baptized. In verse 38 it says that...



"...they went down **INTO** the **WATER**, both Philip and the eunuch; and he (Philip) **BAPTIZED** him (the eunuch)..."

After this baptism they came "**up out of the WATER**" (verse 39). According to these verses, what method or mode of baptism do you think was used? Was it baptism by **sprinkling**, by **pouring** or by **immersion**?

Next, let us compare the baptism of Jesus in Matthew 3:16.



(Mat 3:16) And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway **out of the water:**

Next, notice **WHERE** John was baptizing, but even more importantly, **WHY.**

(John 3:23) And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, **BECAUSE THERE WAS MUCH WATER THERE:** and they came, and were baptized.

Why did John baptize in Aenon? "Because there was MUCH WATER there."

1. Does sprinkling require much water?
2. Does pouring?
3. Does immersion?

DOES WATER BAPTISM SAVE A PERSON?

There are many people who teach that water baptism is absolutely necessary for sal-

vation. They teach that a believer in Christ is not **SAVED** and his sins are not forgiven until he is baptized in water. They would say this: "In order to be **SAVED** a person must believe in Christ **and be baptized.**"

But, is that what the Bible really teaches?

1. John 3:16—"that whosoever *believeth* in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
2. John 6:47—"He that *believeth* on Me hath everlasting life."
3. Acts 10:43—"that through His Name whosoever *believeth* in Him shall receive remission (forgiveness) of sins."
4. Acts 16:31--"*Believe* on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."
5. 1 Corinthians 1:21--"it pleased God . . . to save them that *believe.*"

According to all of these verses, what is the **one thing** that a person must do in order to be **saved** and to have **eternal life**? _____

Faith alone is necessary for salvation. Consider a person who has believed on Christ

but who has not yet been baptized (or consider a believer who dies before being baptized). Would this person be saved, according to Acts 16:31 (below)?

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. (Acts 16:31)

Water baptism is very important. It is an important act of obedience and it pictures very important truths (as we shall soon see). But water baptism does not save.

Looking at our next verse, what is the **one thing** the devil does not want people to do?

...then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. (Luke 8:12)

Water baptism is only for those who have a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. If a person's sins have not been forgiven or cleansed, then he should not be baptized in water. Salvation must happen before water baptism.

Heart to Heart with Joe



The apostle Paul writes in Philippians 3:7-10: **But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.** Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, **that I may win Christ, And be found in HIM,** not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: **That I may know HIM...**

George Mueller was a man known for building orphanages by faith in the mid-1800s. **He raised literally millions of dollars for his orphanages, yet died with little in his own bank account.** When asked about his conversion experience he commented,

"I was converted in November of 1825, but I only came into the full surrender of the heart four years later, in July 1829. The love of money was gone, the love of place was gone, the love of position was gone, and the love of worldly pleasures and engagements was gone. **God alone became my portion. I found my all in Him; I wanted nothing else.** And by the grace of God this has remained, and has made me a happy man, an exceedingly happy man, and **it led me to care**

only about the things of God.

I ask affectionately, my beloved brothers and sisters, **have you fully surrendered your heart to God,** or is there this thing or that thing with which you have taken up in place of God?

Many will never get to the place where George Mueller was in his spiritual life, because we are unwilling to release control of these areas of which he speaks. If we do release control, it usually is due to a process that God brings us through. Paul got knocked off a horse and was spoken to personally before he was willing to listen and follow completely. Peter had to live with Jesus three years and he still denied Him. It was only later, after he denied Jesus and realized how weak he was in his own faith, that he became fully committed to the Savior.

What will it take for you to fully surrender? You will know that you have given full surrender when power, money, and position no longer have meaning in your life. Paul said he came to a place where his life was the life of Christ only. It is a sacrificial life, but it is also a life of freedom, purpose, and meaning. **Let God take full control and see His life lived fully through you.**

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

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For a more detailed study on this subject, please write to us and ask for the Bible lesson called: **Does Water Baptism Save?**

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. I Should Be Baptized to Obey my Lord's Command.

We have already seen that baptism is something that Jesus Christ has told us to do. It is a **command** to the church.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, BAPTIZING them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (Matt 28:19)

In Acts chapter 10 the Apostle Peter preached the gospel message to a group of Gentiles. These Gentiles believed the message which Peter preached.



And he (Peter) commanded them to be BAPTIZED in the name of the Lord. (Acts 10:48)

Peter did not say, "You can be baptized if you wish." No, Peter **commanded** these believers to be baptized. Baptism is something that every believer should do in obedience to the Lord!

Another example of baptism being a command is found in Acts 2:38. Peter spoke to the multitude of Jews and he gave this command:

... Repent, and BE BAPTIZED every one of you... (Acts 2:38)

Commands must be obeyed. In the next scripture, what command does God give to an unsaved person?

And this is His COMMANDMENT, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ...(1 John 3:23)

When a person believes in Christ he or she is saved and God then has another important command: **Be baptized!** The Bible says...

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day

there were added unto them about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:41)

Did these new believer's get baptized?

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

2. I Should Be Baptized to Present a Picture.

Water baptism is a wonderful picture of what happened to me when I was saved. The moment I was saved I was "baptized (immersed) into Jesus Christ"

Know ye not, that so many of us as were BAPTIZED into Jesus Christ were BAPTIZED into his death? Therefore we are BURIED with him by BAPTISM into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Rom 6:3-4)

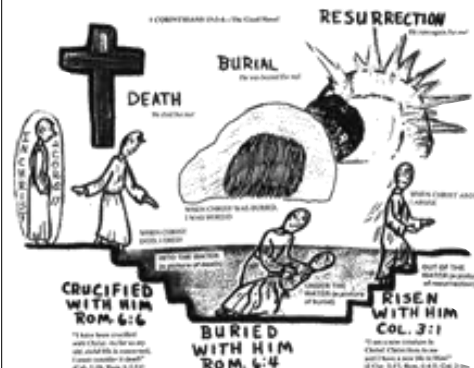
For as many of you as have been BAPTIZED into Christ have put on Christ. (Gal 3:27)

Every person is either **saved** ("in Christ") or **unsaved** ("outside of Christ").

The Bible says..."Therefore, if any man be **IN CHRIST** he is a new creature." (2 Cor. 5:17)

When a person believes in Christ, God does a wonderful thing. God baptizes him into (places him into) Jesus Christ. This means that every believer is totally **identified** with Jesus Christ. The believer is totally **identified** with Jesus Christ in His death, His burial and His resurrection (Romans 6:3-5). Water baptism is meant to be a **picture** of this wonderful identification (this wonderful **union**) that a believer has with his Savior because he is "IN CHRIST."

The picture presented by water baptism is shown below:



WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

3. I Should Be Baptized to Put a Label on the "Can."

Have you ever seen a can in a store with no label on it? This would be a problem because you could not tell what is in the can. The label makes known the contents. The label tells you what is found inside. The label says, "I am a can of green peas. I want you to know that green peas live in me!"



Paul, because he was a believer, could say:

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. (Gal 2:20)

If you are a BORN AGAIN believer, you can also say, **CHRIST LIVES IN ME!**

Water baptism is a wonderful opportunity for you to "put a label on the can" and let others know Who lives and reigns in your heart. The Lord Jesus Christ governs and rules over everything. He desires that the believer enjoy His **life** and His position as God, as Lord and as Savior. Are you enjoying His living **presence** and His governing **power**? If so, then you should desire to have others know Who lives in you. When you are baptized you can share your testimony and tell others what Christ has done for you. When you are baptized you can also present a wonderful picture of what happened to you the moment you were born again. In this way you are **putting a label on the can** (putting a label on your life) and letting others know Who lives within. Believers should never be ashamed of the One who has saved them.

FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. (Rom 1:16)

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

4. I Should Be Baptized to Show That I Am Willing to Follow Jesus.

Baptism is a serious matter. Baptism is something that we need to think carefully

about. In many churches today water baptism is just a religious ritual that does not mean very much. This should not be so with us. Baptism has a very important message which we should never forget.

Water baptism should be a reminder to myself and to others that I AM BOUGHT WITH A PRICE...

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed [BOUGHT] with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (1 Peter 1:18-19)



What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Cor 6:19-20)

I belong totally to the Lord. I also understand that God's purpose is to live His life through me so that I might be His witness in this world, wherever I am.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and YE SHALL BE WITNESSES UNTO ME both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Water baptism is for those who are "followers" of Jesus Christ.

For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels. (Luke 9:26)

Jesus said...

"If any man will come after Me, let him DENY himself (say "NO" to self), and take up his cross daily and FOLLOW Me." (Luke 9:23)

Following Christ involves two things:

(1) a **DESIRE** ("if any man will or desires to come after Me...");

(2) a **DECISION**--it involves a "daily" decision to say "NO" to self and to say "YES" to the Savior (to deny SELF).

When the early Christians were baptized they were identifying themselves as followers (disciples) of Jesus Christ. Often it meant that they would be hated by the world and mistreated and mocked and persecuted. Sometimes their own family members would disown them. But they were willing to follow Jesus no matter what the cost.

- If you were blind and then were given sight, would you want to have your sight taken away just because some other blind people could not and would not understand?
- Your blind friends and family may not like the fact that you can now see, but would this be a reason for you to become blind again?

Even so, God has given the believer **spiritual sight** and He has given him **eternal life**. The unsaved may not understand and may not like it, but this is no reason for us to go back to darkness and death.

Today there are people who pay a real price for following Jesus. There are parts of the world (particularly in Muslim nations) where it is very difficult to be a Christian. The person who is baptized in water should have this testimony: "I have decided to follow Jesus and there is no turning back (to blindness and death)! I desire and I have made a decision to follow Jesus and to live for my Lord and serve my Lord all the days of my life.

With God's help I'm going to live as a Christian should. I have decided to follow Jesus no matter how difficult this is to do. I may lose 'so called' friends, or be mistreated, or be laughed at, or be misunderstood, or suffer because of Christ, but I am willing to accept these things if they come my way, remembering that I am in enemy territory.



Such things are really a small price to pay when I think of how much my Savior suffered for me, when He died on the cross."

As we read the next scripture passage, let's ask ourselves, were the early Christians willing to suffer for their Savior? Did they do this joyfully or sadly?

...and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, REJOICING THAT THEY WERE COUNTED WORTHY TO SUFFER SHAME FOR HIS NAME. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ. (Acts 5:40-42)



Are you willing to follow Jesus even though it may be a difficult road, knowing that the Lord Jesus Christ goes down that road with you?

...for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Hebrews 13:5)

Following the Savior may seem costly and difficult, but **it is worth it all!**

And finally, what I would like to do next



time is discuss communion and foot washing. If you have any thoughts on what we have studied so far, concerning baptism, or for that matter, what we have been studying on the church, please drop us a line. We would love to hear from you.

📖 — 📖 — **the end** — 📖 — 📖

A greatest portion of this study was taken from the 98 page study called "**The Church, God's Called Out Assembly**"; Provided by The Middletown Bible Church in Middletown CT. This study "**The Church, God's Called Out Assembly**" can be ordered from:

**The Amish Voice
PO Box 128
Savannah, OH 44874**

The cost per study is \$6.00. This covers the cost of paper, printing, and postage to ship it to you. To those who would like to order one or more studies but cannot afford it, please let us know and I will pay for it myself. I want everyone that wants a copy, to have one.

2008 Statistics: Amish Population and Settlements

Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, Elizabethtown College



Amish Population by State (2008)

Ranked by size

State/Province	# of Settlements	# of Church Districts	Est. Population
Ohio	52	412	55,620
Pennsylvania	53	382	51,570
Indiana	21	286	38,610
Wisconsin	50	115	15,525
Michigan	34	78	10,530
New York	29	75	10,125
Missouri	35	74	9,990
Kentucky	32	63	8,505
Illinois	18	49	6,615
Iowa	17	46	6,210
Ontario	14	33	4,455
Minnesota	13	23	3,105
Tennessee	4	13	1,755
Kansas	7	12	1,620
Maryland	3	10	1,350
Delaware	1	9	1,215
Virginia	5	5	675
Oklahoma	2	5	675
Montana	4	4	540
West Virginia	3	3	405
Nebraska	3	3	405
Colorado	3	3	405
Maine	2	2	270
Arkansas	1	1	135
Florida	1	1	135
Mississippi	1	1	135
North Carolina	1	1	135
Texas	1	1	135
Total:	410	1,710	230,850

The Twelve Largest Amish Settlements (2008)

Settlement	State	# of Church Districts *
Holmes County Area	Ohio	213
Lancaster County Area	Pennsylvania	169
Elkhart/LaGrange Area	Indiana	133
Geauga County Area	Ohio	85
Adams County Area	Indiana	45
Nappanee Area	Indiana	34
Arthur Area	Illinois	28
Daviess County Area	Indiana	23
Mifflin County Area	Pennsylvania	20
Allen County Area	Indiana	18
Indiana County Area	Pennsylvania	18
New Wilmington Area	Pennsylvania	18

* Approximate number, as of July 2008

To cite this page: "The Twelve Largest Amish Settlements (2008)." Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, Elizabethtown College. http://www2.etown.edu/amishstudies/Largest_Settlements.asp.

Note: Settlement and district statistics were updated in August 2008. Population figures (which include adults and children) are estimates calculated by using a conservative average of 135 people per church district. The number of people per district varies by region, community, affiliation, and age of the district; therefore, the actual number of people in a specific district may be higher or lower than the average used in these tables. The data includes all Amish groups (Old Order and New Order) that use horse-and-buggy transportation, but excludes car-driving groups such as the Beachy Amish and Amish Mennonites.

Sources: Raber's *Almanac*, settlement reports provided by correspondents in various Amish publications, the annual migration report published in *The Diary*, regional settlement directories, and informants in various settlements.

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Attention Reader!

This is a 2nd reminder that we are planning on stopping the Amish Voice to all address labels that read "Current Address" in the first line on the label.

What we need from you is your first name and last name to put in place of "Current Address".

Here is a sample of what we are talking about.

Current Address
1234 County Road 5678
City, ST 99999-9999

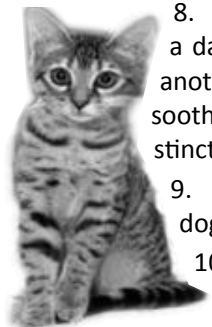
Thanks to all who have already responded by sending us their first and last name. You have been updated in our address database and will continue to receive the Amish Voice without delay.

Please call or write to us with your updated information.

The Amish Voice
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Office: (419) 962-1515

Did You Know?

1. A cat uses whiskers to determine if a space is too small to squeeze through. The whiskers act as antennae, helping the animal to judge the precise width of any passage.
2. Just like fingerprints, every cat's nose pad is different.
3. In 1879, in Belgium 37 cats were used to deliver mail to villages, however they found that the cats were not disciplined enough to do this.
4. A cat spends 70% of its time sleeping.
5. A cat sees about six times better than a human at night because of the tapetum lucidum, a layer of extra reflecting cells which absorb light.
6. A cat's jaws cannot move sideways.
7. A cat can run about 12 miles per hour when it grows up.
8. A cat will clean itself with paw and tongue after a dangerous experience or when it has fought with another cat. This is an attempt by the animal to soothe its nerves by doing something natural and instinctive.
9. Cats can make over 100 vocal sounds, while dogs can only make 10.
10. In a lifetime, the average cat spends approximately 10,950 hours purring.



Amazing Facts In The Bible

What is the mark of the beast (666)?

The main passage in the Bible that mentions the "mark of the beast" is Revelation 13.

Revelation 13:16-18

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six (666).



Other references can be found in the following passages

Revelation 14:9-11

...If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Revelation 15:2

And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

Revelation 16:2

And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

Revelation 19:20

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 20:4

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their

Amazing Facts (continued)

hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

This mark acts as a "seal" for the followers of antichrist and the false prophet (the spokesperson for the antichrist). The false prophet (the second beast) is the one who causes people to take this mark.

The mark is literally placed in the hand or forehead, and is not simply a card someone carries.

The recent breakthroughs in medical implant chip technologies have increased interest in the "mark of the beast" spoken of in Revelation chapter 13. It is likely that the technology we are seeing today represents the beginning stages of what may eventually be used as the "mark of the beast."

The mark of the beast will be something given only to those who worship the antichrist. The mark of the beast will be an end times "mark" required by the antichrist to buy or sell and will be given only to those who worship the antichrist.



Christians have differed widely as to what exactly the mark of the beast is. Besides the "ID card" view, others have speculated that it is a microchip, a barcode that is tattooed into the skin, or simply a mark that identifies someone

as being faithful to the antichrist's kingdom. This last view requires the least speculation, since it does not add any more information to what the Bible gives us. In other words, any of these things are possible, but at the same time they are all speculations, so we will just have to see how it turns out.

Please keep in mind: We shouldn't spend a lot of time speculating on the details that go further than the Bible goes.



The meaning of 666 is a mystery as well. Some people speculated that there was a connection to June 6, 2006—06/06/06. However, in Revelation chapter 13, the number 666 identifies a person, not a date.

Revelation 13:18

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six (meaning 666).

Somehow, the number 666 will identify the antichrist. For centuries Bible interpreters have been trying to identify certain individuals with 666. Nothing is conclusive. That is why Revelation 13:18 says the number requires wisdom. When the antichrist is revealed (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4), it will (without a doubt) be clear who he is and how the number 666 identifies him.

A New Beginning—By Eli Stutzman

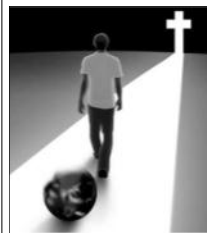
People of every kindred and nationality need to have hope set before them at all times, or else they can become despondent. A new president takes office and many people hope that will set our nation on a course to better times. We move to a new location and hope to open a new page on the way our neighbors relate to us. New years day comes and many make resolutions only to see them fail by their own weakness. Yet a few do succeed, so there is always hope we too may succeed. A new cure for a dreaded disease is discovered and we rejoice over the prospect of better health and longer life. Hope is one of the most important elements in life.

It soon becomes evident there are two types of hope. If I went hunting and got lost, I would hope someone would find me. Such hope is open-ended; I have no real reason to believe that it will happen. Maybe desperation describes it better. That I will call the lesser hope. But I manage to start a fire, wave a red flag and call out for help. Finally I spot someone off in the distance and do everything I can to be noticed. Finally they respond by approaching me. Now I have what I shall call greater hope, the kind of hope I wish to cover here. There is a reason

to believe I will be found. This type of hope is a vital part of life. The bible has a lot to say about hope.

(Hebrews 11:1) Now faith is the substance (confidence) of things hoped for, the evidence (assurance) of things not seen.

As believers, we possess a hope of heaven. We have reason to believe we are redeemed because we see that God loved us by offering His son Jesus Christ as a substitute for our punishment. Are we accepted?



(John 3:16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that who-soever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Notice the word "whosoever". If you hand me a check that is credible and made out to whosoever, I will cash it! If I believe you can do it, then I will act on it. So my hope is based on your ability to act on your word. No matter what I say, you know that I believe you when I take it to the bank. Likewise, I believe God can back what he offers. That gives me great hope.

As we begin 2009, the world around us may be in turmoil. People without hope are in need of something to cling to. Having no light at the end of the tunnel, gives us no real hope. Science and government cannot give assurance that we can meet the challenges. But we have to place our trust where it is sure. To do that, we need to be totally convinced of the truth of God's written word, the Bible. Then we can offer hope to others. Giving hope to others is part of what I am called to do. Will you also make someone's life more hopeful in 2009? I wish you a **hopeful** new year! If you have greater hope in you, please try to share it in 2009.

(Hebrews 6:18-19) That by two immutable (unchangeable) things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation (confidence), who have fled for refuge (protection) to lay hold upon the hope set before us: ¹⁹ Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

Eli Stutzman
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Inspiring isn't a big enough word for this pony



Meet Molly. She 's a gray speckled pony who was abandoned by her owners when Katrina hit southern Louisiana. She spent weeks on her own before finally being rescued and taken to a farm where abandoned animals were stockpiled. While there, she was attacked by a pit bull terrier, and almost died. Her gnawed right front leg became infected and her vet went to LSU for help. But LSU was overwhelmed, and this pony was a welfare case.

But after surgeon Rustin Moore met Molly, he changed his mind. He saw how the pony was careful to lie down on different sides so she didn't seem to get sores, and how she allowed people to handle her. She protected her injured leg. She constantly shifted her weight, and didn't overload her good leg. She was a smart pony with a serious survival ethic.

Moore agreed to remove her leg below the knee and a temporary artificial limb was built. Molly walked out of the clinic and her story really begins there.

This was the right horse and the right owner,' Moore insists. Molly happened to be a one-in-a-million patient. She's tough as nails, but sweet, and she was willing to cope with pain. She made it obvious that she understood (that) she was in trouble. The other important factor, according to Moore , is having a truly committed and compliant owner who is dedicated to providing the daily care required over the lifetime of the horse.

The little pony gained weight, her mane was combed and a human designer built her a leg.

The replacement leg has given Molly a whole new life. Allison Barca, Molly's regular vet, reports.. And she asks for it! She will put her little limb out, and come to you and let you know that she wants you to put it on. Sometimes she wants you to take it off too.

Most important of all, Molly has a job now. Kay, the rescue farm owner, started taking Molly to shelters, hospitals, nursing homes, and rehabilitation centers. Wherever Molly went, she showed people her pluck. She inspired people, and she had a good time doing it.

It 's obvious to me that Molly had a bigger role to play in life, Moore said, She survived the hurricane, she survived a horrible injury, and now she is giving hope to others.



Two Heads or Two Animals?

Answers to Quizzes on Page 10

8. Potatoes	5. When it turns into a driveway	1. Corn
9. Table	6. Clock	2. Gloves
	7. Book	3. Chair
		4. Bed

A Farmer's Advice



1. Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight, and bull-strong.
2. Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
3. Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.

4. Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.
5. It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.
6. Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen, anyway.
7. Don't judge folks by their relatives.
8. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
9. Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.
10. Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't botherin' you none.
11. If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
12. The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.
13. Always drink upstream from the herd.
14. Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.
15. Live simply... Love generously.. Care deeply.. Speak kindly.. Leave the rest to God.

When Your Hut's On Fire

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him.

Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming.

Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of

driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

One day, after looking for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, 'God!



How could you do this to me?'

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! 'How did you know I was here?' asked the weary man of his rescuers. 'We saw your smoke signal,' they replied.

The Moral of This Story

It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't loose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.

Regret and Dread

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Phil 3:13-14)



Regret of the past and **dread** of the future are both thieves of joy. Let's examine each of them in detail to learn what causes them and how to avoid them as we continue our quest to enjoy the abundant life that God has provided for us through His son Jesus.

Many people stay trapped in the past. **There is only one thing that can be done about the past, and that is forget it.** When we make mistakes, as we all do, the only thing we can do is ask God's forgiveness and go on. Like Paul, we are all pressing toward the *prize of the high calling*, but none of us has arrived.

I believe Paul enjoyed his life and ministry and this one aspiration of his was part of the reason why. Like us, he was pressing toward the *prize of the high calling*, admitting that he had not arrived, but having insight on how to enjoy his life while he was making the trip. That is a lesson we all must learn, as I can attest from personal experience. We all do something, or did something in the past that we **regret**, but we need to let go of the past. We are not the same people anymore; at the moment we confess our sins they no longer exist.

I know it can be tough to deal with the fact that you can't change some of the things you did in the past, but just move on.

There are two things I want you all to understand, the past is the past, you won't forget but you can't change it either. God takes care of our past if we let Him; He wants to help us in everything we do. He wants us to know when He is doing something for us and we need to pay close attention to what is going on around us.

I believe for me personally, every time I think of my past life, I become a stronger person. If we do something that we **regret** later, what can be done about it once it has occurred? Nothing! The only thing to do is forget it and go on. Of course we ask God to forgive us, but even after we ask for His forgiveness, we still have to choose to except it and forgive ourselves. Forget what has happened and go on with our lives.

Until we learn to forget our mistakes and refuse to live in **regret** of the past, we will never really enjoy life. I still get days that it feels like everything goes wrong, and deep down you don't know why, or what it is. I truly believe that is Satan trying to pull us down. He wants to ruin our day that God has all planned out for us. Let me share with you what I like to do at times like that. That's when I like to stop with whatever I am doing and spent time with God. Maybe pick up the bible, read several encouraging scriptures, take a short walk, There are so many different things to do at times like that. Don't let Satan ruin your day.

Today I discovered something amazing, we were driving down the road; my husband's driving, the two little boy's are sleeping, everything's quiet, and I was starrng up in the clouds and beyond. I love clouds and sometimes you see amazing shapes in them. As I looked, I saw this huge cloud right over the sun, and it had a hole in it, next to the sun. The first thing that came to my mind: there is only one way to Heaven and the door is always open.

Anyway after a while, as the clouds kept



moving they formed into the shape of a heart,

and in that heart were the most beautiful rainbow colors ever. Just imagine all the things God has for us once we get to Heaven!! When I saw that heart, I told Joni, God has a big heart for His children— He loves all of us.

God wants us to live in peace, so don't let Satan ruin your day.

Give all your problems over to God and he will take care of them. I promise, it will give you peace of mind.

We need to understand that mistakes are a regular part of our life.



In Hebrews 11:6 we can read that *"without faith it is impossible to Him"*. I believe that God has taken care of my past and my future, therefore, I don't have to live in **regret** or **dread**.

God will tell you what you are about to do wrong, so you can change your mind before you make a mistake.

Satan waits until it's too late, when you can no longer do anything about it, and then tries to bring **regret** and **dread** upon you. You will find many areas in your own life in which Satan tries to cause you **regret**, which is one of the thieves of joy. Don't let him use **regret** to steal your enjoyment any longer.

The Bible says that if we have Faith like a mustard seed we can move mountains. Isn't that awesome?! Just give your worries over to God and ask him to help you.

Trust me, I did and I am living a wonderful life. I enjoy everyday because I know God is by my side. Therefore I have nothing to worry about.

So many people are talking about the economy and recession (or depression) whatever they call it. I have even been asked if we are paying attention to the news? I tell people I don't need the news because **I have God, and I put my Faith and trust in Him; I know He will provide for everything we need.**

I could go on and on but I have other things to do too, I love to write and talk. If anyone needs someone to talk to, please feel free to give me a call @ 567-674-6219. I'm always busy doing something but I will find time for you too.

**Katie Hershberger
26047 Harvey Lavigne Rd
Ponchatoula, LA 70454**

Teens are old enough to keep their own room clean by putting their clothes in the hamper, and anything else that you do for them. You're doing your kids (and their future spouses) a favor by teaching them how to take care of themselves and a household. Don't back down just because they complain or do a shoddy job. All family members should be required to pitch in.

Respect their choices. Let's face it: Our kids are never going to be the little clones we'd hoped to raise -- people who would act and think exactly as we do! Teenagers are constantly trying to figure out who they are and what they believe. Be very careful how much you criticize their choices. Look back to the time when you were a teenager yourself and you'll see that your own children's experimentation is perfectly normal! Yes, they're still kids, but

they want to be treated as adults. Forcing total authority over them is bound to backfire. For the things that are temporary, let them have the choice.

Teach them about future consequences. Kids need to know you won't be taking care of them forever. Explain to them how their actions today greatly impact the future. Show them how much a house costs. Go over a monthly budget with your children so they see how much money it takes to feed a family, provide housing, and so on. Kids tend to take these things for granted. They need to think about how their parents are able to provide these things, and how they'll be able to do the same when they're adults.

The Quiz Section

(Answers on Page 8)

- 1 - What has ears but can't hear?
- 2 - What has fingers but can't type?
- 3 - What has arms but can't hug?

- 4 - What has a head and a foot but no body?
- 5 - When is a horse not a horse?
- 6 - What has a face but no head?

- 7 - What has leaves but isn't a tree?
- 8 - What has eyes but can't see?
- 9 - What has legs but can't walk?

Somebody, Anybody, Everybody, Nobody

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to do and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody would have done it, but Nobody would do

it. Somebody got angry because it was Everybody's job, Everybody thought Anybody would do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Our Readers Respond

Iowa

Greetings, I have an unusual request but one which I hope you can and /or will do. I would like to receive two copies of the July 2008 issue of the Amish Voice. I am enclosing \$5.00 to help with the cash. There were several articles in this issue that I really found interesting, especially the OBITUARY of Christ. Somehow reading that, it makes His life even more real and causes one to meditate on the realities of His divine work. So many people, if they think of Him at all just put Him in a story book.

Illinois

Hello, We are members of the Amish Church. Please take our name off your mailing list. Thank you. Our ultimate goal...as God's children is to serve Him all our days and according to His divine word and will shine for him!

Kentucky

Dear Joe, Greetings. To let you know we do not want your Amish Voice paper in our community. We have our ordained minister, (We believe appointed from God) to expand and explain us the scriptures and do not need self-appointed men and women to preach to us the gospel on paper.

Ohio

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.

Michigan

Dear Joe, Christian greetings on a nice warm fall eve. I have been receiving the Amish Voice for some time now. I do not know how you got my name and address. Please take us off of your mailing list. I do not want your publication, it gets thrown in the trash. I do wish to remain true to the vows I made with the Lord and His Church in my youth. I believe in the Dordrecht Confession of Faith and I see the guide lines of the church as a help to me in living a Godly life, and not as a lot of hard man made rules. Again, please take my name off your mailing list.

Ohio

Dear Sirs, Please find \$100.00 donation for Amish Voice Publication. I would like for the following two new households to start receiving the Amish Voice.

Michigan

The Amish Voice, Your magazine has enlightened me about legalism and grace. My prayer is joining yours that people are set free and can enjoy God, and have the relationship "that was really designed for them from before the foundation when the earth was made." Thanks, Thanks, Thanks, God set the people free!!!!

Is The Second Law of Thermodynamics Out To Ruin Your Life?

I'm writing this short and unusual article to those of you who are in a brutal struggle in which you feel like quitting. Are you tired of fighting? Or perhaps you know someone who is tired of fighting and you can pass this bit of wisdom on to them. Please do. I believe it will help them.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics is a law of physics, meaning that it is absolutely true in all cases. The law has various points, but the point I would like to address is, in simplified wording, that *left alone, things will always tend to move from a state of order to a state of disorder*. It never works the opposite way. *This is a law of life!* Actually, this law is a friend. For example, the law of gravity is also a friend, but don't jump off an office building expecting gravity to be your friend. So, likewise, *The Second Law* can become a curse to anyone who fails to respect it.

OKAY, SO WHAT'S YOUR POINT?

My wife, Ruthie, was weary of the battle recently. I had just downsized my book collection and came across a book I decided to keep by M. Scot Peck, *The Road Less Traveled*. The book begins with the profound words—*Life is Difficult*. He goes on to say that once we recognize that life is difficult, and that it is difficult for everyone, then we can transcend the difficulty of life and find real solutions. This gave strength to Ruthie that day to press on by faith to continue the fight.

Chrissy was in a long battle. It was as if everything in her life was moving toward chaos and disorder. Fighting her problems seemed only to take her "around the mountain" one more time. As she sat in my counseling office and told me her woes, she said she couldn't fight anymore. "I'm ready to give up!" she said. At that I told her about *The Second Law of Thermodynamics*. I said this, "Chrissy, I don't know why your fight is so intense, nor do I have all the answers for why this is all happening. But this one thing I know, and you must come to know, that if you lose faith and stop fighting **THINGS WILL GET WORSE! It is the way the universe was created and you will be no exception.**"



It's a hard lesson in living for those who are seriously overwhelmed, striving for survival or groveling for answers—**QUITTING IS NOT AN OPTION** unless a worse situation appeals to you. In the midst of challenging circumstances we must all stand up, put one foot ahead of the other and move forward one step at a time, *BUT* we can do it in faith watching God pave the way or open a door for us. You can be an over-comer.

Jesus said in John 16:33, *In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

You may think that there is no hope for your marriage. That is not true. Just because you have not found the answers, doesn't mean there are none. Don't quit!

Galatians 6:9 says, *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, IF WE FAINT NOT.*

Read Psalm 55, 73 and 77. The psalmist cries out to God when he *feels as if* there are no answers. David spent years fleeing death in the wilderness. Joseph spent years in prison. His only hope of getting out was a miracle—and his miracle came! Moses began his assignment for God at age 80. I wonder how many years in the wilderness he lived discouraged. God is a God of hope, second chances, and He cares about you!

The same way that *the law of aerodynamics* (as in airplanes) supersedes the *law of gravity* (as in, an apple falls on head), other laws will supersede *The Second Law of Thermodynamics*. Notice in the above definition it says that *left alone* things will move from order to disorder. You can't negate *The Second Law*, *but you can walk above it!* Even if you have been searching for answers for a long time, you may have to try a different route; you may have to get counsel; you may have to try something new, *but you must not quit* or you will be the prisoner of *The Second Law of Thermodynamics*.

~ By Bruce Lengeman, Door of Hope

You are invited to attend *Take Back Your Life*, a week-long conference presented by *Door of Hope* located in Columbus, North Carolina. At this conference you will learn that behind every symptom is a root issue. Many people try to solve their emotional problems without dealing with the roots. You will learn about the Father's love, freedom from fear, people-pleasing, rejection, bitterness, feeling God doesn't love you, self hatred, and much more. For more information call the office at 828-859-0126. Mature teens are welcome.

All Battles Go Into God's Box



Hello, this is God. Today I will be handling ALL of your problems for you. I do NOT need your help. So, have a nice day. I love you. And, remember...

If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do NOT attempt to resolve

it yourself! Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. I will get to it in MY TIME. All situations will be resolved, but in My time, not yours. Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it by worrying about it. Instead, focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now.

(2 Chronicles 20:15)

Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for **the battle is not yours, but God's.**

Focusing on The Family



There are many ways to raise a child, and every child is different. Therefore, there is no magic formula for raising good teenagers. Excellent parents can still have problem children, and good children come out of bad homes. But by staying closely involved in your children's lives, even when they don't appear to need you as much anymore, you'll be teaching them the lessons they need to learn to be the successful and happy adults you'd like them to be. Here are some pointers for keeping teenagers on the right track:

Love them. Tell your teenager that you love them every day. They may be too embarrassed to return those words at this stage in their lives, but it's temporary. Some day, they're going to remember that you always told them you loved them, no matter what. When they do something wrong, emphasize that you still love them, even if you don't love their behavior. Teens tend to overdramatize when they're yelled at and say, "You don't care about me." Make sure they understand that you can still love someone even if you're not happy with their actions.

Don't be afraid to set limits. You don't need to be your teens'

best friend. If you feel uncomfortable about them going somewhere, put your foot down. Sometimes, they really want an excuse to tell their friends "no," and what better reason than, "My dad and mom won't let me go!"? Don't be afraid to be the "meanie." It means you care.

Get them involved in something outside themselves. Teenagers benefit greatly from attending youth groups in your community. These groups often place a strong emphasis on thinking about others while having fun. Community service opportunities often become some of the greatest experiences of teens' lives and a good lesson in seeing that others have it much worse than they do.

Emphasize the importance of family. Kids need an anchor, a sense of belonging to "something." Stress the fact that your family is a team. And encourage your kids to spend time with their extended family, such as grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins. When you are eating dinner together, talk about your day.

Make them help out. Your kids may tease you by saying that you wanted kids just so you'd have household help, but don't let that discourage you from insisting that they participate in the work that goes on around the house and farm. —Continued on Page 10—

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