

# MINISTRY UPDATE

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## Restroom and Water

Since moving into our office building two years ago, we have not had a restroom or running water. And as you might expect, traveling back and forth between our office and the church building sort of took its toll on the staff and senior volunteers this winter. It is for that reason that we have laid out plans to convert some office space into a rest room. The total cost for this project will take \$5,470 to complete.

If there is any way you could help with this expense, many would deeply appreciate it. Remember MAP is a non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

## Financial Update

We are very, very, thankful for the three new churches who picked the ministry up for support in January. This extra help will go a long way in helping MAP, as it continues to reach deeper and deeper into the Amish culture with the good news that Jesus saves.

We are also very grateful to those of you who continue to pray and give so faithfully, even in hard economical times, such as we are all experiencing.

## Dear Friend,

March 2009

Greetings and many blessings to you. As always, we are excited to update you on all that is happening in the MAP ministry. You are always welcome to write to us too; we love to hear about you and what God is doing in your area and ministry.



Several months ago, our son Jonathan advertised his computer business in the yellow pages and since then has received a lot of business; sometimes more than he can handle.

In order to look more professional, he replaced his homemade sign at the end of our drive way with a more attractive one and ordered custom-made shirts with his logo and name stitched on them. His excitement grew when he went over 100 clients in February.



For several years, Rachel has had her eyes set on going to college when she gets done with school in 2010. And since her passion has always been to work with children, she plans to become a teacher.

So far this year, Esther and I have taken her to visit two colleges in our area. And as you might imagine, this endeavor has been an eye opener for all three of us. It's going to be hard to let her go when the time comes.

## Heaven's Population Increases By One

Last year, I was driving home from doing a ministry presentation at a church, when the phone rang and a young man from MO, introduced himself as Mose. He said, "Joe I just left the Amish and I am not sure that I did the right thing. Do you have some time to answer a few questions?"

At that point, I pulled my car off the side of the highway and Mose and I covered many, many areas of concern, which ranged from... "Is it possible that I can go to heaven if I use a tractor to farm, rather than horses?" — to— "can I still go to heaven, even if I wear non-Amish clothes?" Etc., etc.

Soon after that time of discussion, Mose moved to our area and eventually started coming to our Men's Bible study on Saturday mornings.

Now, we had at one time thought that Mose had gotten saved, but as time went by, it became more and more obvious that Mose was still searching. Praise God, that search ended on Monday evening, February 16.

The phone rang and it was Mose. Right away, I was able to tell that God had brought Mose to the place of salvation. A while later, I was able to listen as Mose cried out to the Lord to save him from sin and the lake of fire; the cry

was so real and from the heart that it moved me to tears.

The next day, Mose sent an email saying, "Hello Joe...I can tell you, I truly believe my life changed since last night. Today I felt new. JESUS is my new hero."

The following Sunday morning, he walked up to the front of the church to profess his salvation in Christ.

Please pray for Mose as he continues his journey.



### Growing Up Amish

Lucinda Streiker-Schmidt grew up on an Amish farm in Indiana, and has nothing but fond, loving memories of her childhood. Yet, throughout her early life, Lucinda never stopped questioning the differences between her life and the "outside society." When she got a little older, Lucinda experienced the horrors of incest, neglect, and emotional torment after being forced to marry into another Amish family. Lucinda decided to leave her Amish community. She is now a nurse, has two adult children, and lives in Elkhart.

Lucinda wants others to know the good and bad sides of the Amish community in which she lived. She feels that women and children have no voice in the Amish culture, and she desires to offer them one. Lucinda has written a book, *A Separate God: Journal of an Amish Girl*. She tells of her experiences and how her life has changed. But "the pain of breaking away never completely dissipated. To this day I am haunted by the loss" she says.

### Some Facts About MAP

1. MAP started in Jan of 2000
2. MAP is a tax exempt ministry that has it's own 501c3 status
3. MAP is a ministry, governed by an 11 member advisory board that meets a minimum of four times a year
4. Financial support comes from 57 churches, 3 businesses, and about 120 individuals.
5. MAP helped establish *Plain New Life Ministries*, an Amish ministry in Lancaster PA. Web Site: www.PlainNewLife.org
6. MAP has helped establish 14 former Amish support groups, located throughout OH and IN
7. In 2008, MAP mailed out more than 100,000 mailings to Amish households in the U.S.

### Eli Joins The MAP Team



I am very privileged to introduce you to one of God's finest

and sharpest young servants, you could ever meet. Eli, who was formerly Amish, started working for MAP in February, as the *Assistant to the executive Director*.

It is important to note that Eli is what you might call, *home grown*. You see, we were there when he got saved and baptized; we were able to observe, as he faithfully served the Lord from the very beginning.

Over a year ago, Eli told us that God was calling him to

full time ministry. And it seemed that as God was calling him, we as a ministry team began to pray and wonder how we were going to keep up with the continued growth of our ministry.

After much praying and seeking the Lord's face, the board stepped out by faith and hired Eli.

For the first year or so, his job responsibilities will mostly involve him in the day to day activities that go on at the office. But in time, his primary job will involve the following areas of ministry...

- Assist the Amish youth that come to MAP, by helping them get their birth certificates, SS numbers, employ-

- ment, education, etc
- Help out with ministry presentations and updates
- Expand and operate the audio ministry outreach
- Direct and facilitate activities for the former Amish, such as organizing and directing bowling leagues, volley ball, softball, etc
- Help establish more support groups in our local area by organize and lead the mentoring ministry.

I would like to point out that Wayne Vallowe, one of our board members has been mentoring Eli for two years. We thank Wayne for his commitment and obedience to the Lord. Most assuredly, your reward will be great in heaven.

### Board Prayer Meetings



Prayer Meeting

I felt led for a while already to tell you how

thankful I am for our advisory board. They all work together so well. Each one is actively involved in varies types of ministries at their home church, but what probably stands out to me as much as anything, they are all people who very strongly believe in prayer.

In this article I would like to relate to you that Don Morrison, who is the President of MAP and



President of MAP

his wife Rosie have for several years provided their home on a regular basis, as a place for us to come to and pray over the ministries that go on at MAP; it is also a time when we give God praise for all those who are involved in

giving financially. Everyone who has attended the prayer meetings will tell you, they are some of the most powerful times that a person could participate in.

Not only have the Morrison's provided a place to pray, Rosie always cooks a great breakfast for us all.



Rosie's Breakfast

### Baptisms

Baptisms: Continued —>

In February, three former Amish girls followed the Lord's command and got baptized by our pastor.

Baptism for a former Amish person very seldom comes easy, and here is why: Before a young person can get baptized in the Amish church, they have to get on their knees and make a vow to God and the church that they

will never forsake the Amish church and the ordinance letter (church rules), as set forth by the forefathers and the leadership of the church.

Since the more conservative churches baptize at age 17, more and more



Rachel

### Baptisms Continued

are leaving before they are legally of age.



Maryann

This obviously creates it's own set of problems.

In any case, here is one of the testimonies that were shared on baptism day. The other two may follow in another news-

letter.

Barbara writes: *I left the Amish, my hometown in KY, and my family in 2006.*

*I had a really rough start. I couldn't find a job and I wasn't happy. Than one day, one of my friends gave me Joe and Esther's phone number; it took me about two weeks to gather enough courage to call them, but I finally did.*

*They offered to give me a home until I get on my feet; they also helped me find a job.*

*One night, in November of 2006, I was sitting in my apartment all by myself, starting to get lonely, when Esther came downstairs with her Bible (this was the first time I ever looked inside an English Bible).*

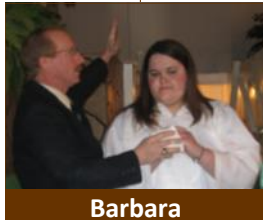
*Esther introduced me to the Lord; she read Romans 5; 6-9 and Romans 10: 8-13—that was when I finally understood God a little better.*

*After finding out that there is a Bible that I can actually understand, I started reading it and I was truly happy. I felt like I had finally found what I was looking for.*

*When I was in the Amish, my family and friends were always pushing me to get baptized, but because part of their baptism is to promise to always stay Amish, I felt like I wasn't ready, so after I left, it became a habit for me to always say that I wasn't ready to get baptized. But after talking to Joe the other night, I realized that by refusing to get baptized, I was refusing to give all of my heart to Jesus.*

*I now realize that God is not satisfied with just a piece of my heart, he wants all of it.*

*I've decided, it's time for me to let go of the past and start a new chapter in my life.*



Barbara

*I face new challenges every day, so prayers are always appreciated. May God Bless everyone. ~ Barbara*

Barbara's GED did not come easy for her, but when she finally got it, she immediately signed up for classes at the Ashland University. And just recently we were told that she is getting all "A's". We consider Barbara as one of our own and love her dearly.

### Email Question/Answer

Hi Joe, this Sunday in church I am giving a 10 minute talk to children up thru 6th grade about there role (what they can do to impact) to the Amish children in the area. Do you have any thoughts or suggestions for me. I would like to get across to kids that they can change the lives of others, even as children.

#### Joe's Answer

I am glad to hear that you are including the Amish in your lesson on Sunday. After thinking about your question, I came up with the following thoughts.

1. Pray for the Amish children
2. Stop at an Amish place and share a gift with the children. They could do it in the name of a "class project". If this is done, the class should consider the fact that they could very well be meeting with a large family. Gifts could include homemade items, such as book markers, pencils, coloring book, etc. If your class did this, they could get the names of the Amish children and begin to pray for them specifically.
3. If you have a way of getting the names and addresses of the Amish children in your area, the class could write them a letter and share about themselves and the class.

### MAP: Five Year Goal

by Bill Dunn—Director of Development



A new year is here and with that comes time to

reflect on last year and its accomplishments. However, it is also a time to look forward and that is what we are doing at MAP. God has richly blessed us at MAP and we have spent many hours putting together a 5 Year Plan with a vision to winning many new souls.

This 5 Year Plan calls for increases in the number of SonLight Club lessons (64,515

in 2008) and Amish Voice (42,000 in 2008) we send out in each succeeding year. We have seen the work load increase significantly for the staff and volunteers which necessitated a plan for increased working space.

Our 5 Year Plan calls for a rest room to be installed as well as an addition to our office building. The extra space will allow us the following: more work space for volunteers, training room/activity center for ex-Amish youth, storage space, an office and a small kitchen.

Already, volunteer labor and 5

free semi-truck loads of fill dirt have been offered to begin the building project.

The demands on Joe do not stop at the end of the work day but continue on after hours and throughout each weekend. For that reason, our 5 Year Plan calls for the hiring of an assistant to Joe, one who has a burden for the Amish and former Amish.

Another area of great concern is the need for a Director of Prayer and Discipleship who would be responsible for establishing prayer groups near Amish communities and facili-

tating discipleship programs for those leaving the Amish.

This 5 year Plan helps us recognize short comings and opportunities. It also helps us direct our efforts to do the best job in serving the Lord.

We appreciate your partnership and pray that all will continue to support our efforts in reaching new souls.

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## Amish man's new miracle idea helps home heat bills hit rock bottom

Miracle heaters being given away free with orders for real Amish fireplace mantles to launch the new invention that slashes heat bills, but Amish craftsmen under strain of Christmas rush impose household limit of 2 heaters money: uses less energy than a coffee maker, so leave it on day and night and never be cold again

Amish man's new miracle idea helps home heat bills hit rock bottom. The heaters are being given away free with orders for real Amish fireplace mantles to launch the new invention that slashes heat bills, but Amish craftsmen under strain of Christmas rush impose household limit of 2 heaters money: uses less energy than a coffee maker, so leave it on day and night and never be cold again.



**HEAT SURGE™**  
Fireless Flame  
Convection Heater

**How to get 2 free heaters**

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away as San Francisco, asking if we could help them make decisions on buying the advertized heaters.

The New York Times notes that the Roll-n-Glow "miracle heaters" are going out the door by the cartload, after the Amish carpenters, well known for their use of high tech electrical appliances, have finished building them. So what is the miracle? The Miracle is in the marketing.

According to an article written by Phil Mulkins of the Tulsa World newspaper on 2/28/08, the Better Business Bureau of Canton has identified the owner of the Heat Surge Company as Rodney Napier of Winesburg, Ohio.

Part of the problem with the ad is the claim that the heater is free, but the consumer must purchase the wooden mantle that surrounds the heater. This is a substantial cost to the buyer (\$298).

The BBB issued this tips report for these heaters on 3/24/08: "According to BBB Canton, OH's report, this company markets and distributes a fireplace heating unit. The heating device is imported from China and built into wooden mantels using local craftsmen.

Based on BBB files, this company has an unsatisfactory record with the Bureau due to a pattern of complaints. Although the company resolves the complaints, it has failed to correct the underlying reason for the complaints. Complaints are concern-

## Amish Miracle heater is anything but...

ing difficulty reaching customer service representatives, delays in receiving refunds after returning merchandise, advertising claims, return shipping charge amounts, and problems with product quality.

The company has been recently contacted by the BBB concerning advertising claims of use of the word free, substantiation of savings claims and safety, as well as product origin. The company has responded to our office about these issues. This continues to be pending, while we review the company's reply.

Mr. Rodney Napier is also identified in BBB files as the President of Universal Syndications, Patent Health, and Universal Media Syndications."

What about the heater's ad claims that it produces an "amazing 5119 BTUs"? Well, guess what? That is what an ordinary 1500 watt electric space heater produces and it can be bought from the local hardware store for about \$60.

The ads claim that the mantles are crafted by the Amish, but the BBB report indicates only that the mantles are made by "local craftsmen". There is no proof that these mantles are actually crafted by the Amish, but the photos used would certainly not be of authentic Amish workers since they would not agree to be photographed for print or television ads.

It appears that the manufacturer is attempting to associate the product with the Amish attributes of hard work, quality craftsmanship, and integrity, but this heater is certainly no "Amish" miracle!

