

# MINISTRY UPDATE

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## Question and Answer

**Hello I have a question? Why do you want the Amish to leave their community and family, when that is all they know? D—**

I am sorry D—, but we must not have been very clear with our communication, concerning those who are leaving the Amish. It has never been our intentions to recruit Amish people or to talk them into leaving their culture. Matter of fact, to my knowledge, we have never done that one time. What we are doing, as a ministry, is (1) reach out to those who have already left, and (2) spread the gospel among the Amish groups who are preaching a works salvation, rather than salvation by grace through faith alone.

Non-Amish people are not always aware of the fact that many young people, and even families, are leaving the Amish culture.

Oftentimes, when young people make the transition, they continue on with their wild parties. And here again, it is our passionate desire to come along side of them and help them make wise decisions, such as getting their GED's, attending Bible studies, etc. —Joe

We would all love to see Amish continue in the old way of life and culture and be born into the kingdom of God. Yet it seems impossible, because as soon as grace is experienced, culture is of secondary importance. Their culture is so tightly connected to the religion.

I too value the culture. But not enough to make it sacred. Culture is something valued highly by our world, and we can't change that. Eternal souls have far more value with us. May God's protection cover us all as we simply share good news! Culture? Heaven has a better culture, anyway. —Eli

## Dear Friend:

May 2010

**Hi. My name is MELVIN TROYER AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW, I GOT SAVED!**

Those were the confident and exciting words that sounded over the telephone wires and into my ears last month. They were coming from a 16 year old Amish boy who lived four states away.

After some small talk, Melvin (not his real name) proceeded with...

*For over a year, my dad has allowed me to milk cows for my English neighbor. Every morning, while milking, I listened to Charles Stanley give the gospel on the radio, and one day, I couldn't resist any longer; I gave my heart to the Lord and asked Him to save me. Since then, my life has changed a lot.*

*I have been witnessing and having Bible studies with my younger brothers, while praying that one day I will be able to have a Bible study with my whole family.*

At the end of our conversation, he said, "Joe, I changed my name to Bob and started using my English neighbor's address. This allows me to order Bible study

*books and audio CDs; these items are helping me prepare for the ministry that God is calling me into."*

A couple ending notes:

1. In my most recent phone conversation with Melvin, he informed me that his entire Amish community, including his own family, has become very upset at him and is calling him a man with new beliefs.
2. His parents are not allowing him and his brothers to be left alone anymore, for fear that Melvin might lead them astray also.
3. When I asked him where he keeps his Bible study books and other educational materials, he said, "I am hiding them between hay bales."
4. Melvin has requested that we pray for him. By next spring, he is expected to start the 6-month training process of becoming a member of the Amish church. At the end of that process, he will be required to get baptized and make a vow before God and the church that he will stay with the Amish church. At age 16, he also worries that his parents might ask him to leave home if he doesn't stop talking about his beliefs.

## Gaining Ground, One Soul at a Time!



We are often overwhelmed and at a loss for words when it comes to thanking our beloved donors, volunteers and prayer warriors for their faithfulness and generosity.

Your giving continues to allow us to send forth the Word of everlasting Life to a people whom we all love.

This week, 10,819 pieces of mail went out to Amish households. It included the SonLight Club Bible study lessons and the Amish Voice. The total cost for these mailings amounted to \$4,037.

Thus far in 2010, 76 salvation testimonies have been sent back to us.

**Attention! The MAP Ministry has received a generous offer to provide a matching gift challenge for all giving during the months of June and July. For this two month period, your gifts will be matched, up to a total amount of \$10,000 matching gift. Won't you please consider helping us meet this challenge and assist in providing the MAP Ministry needs during this time of increased growth and opportunity. We sincerely appreciate all you have done in supporting our Ministry and reaching souls for Jesus Christ.**

— MAP Board

## Computer Classes



Tom, Vice President of the board, along with his wife Pat, have just finished taking seven students through a 6-month computer class.

Tom writes: *During one of our classes we learned about E-Bay*

*selling and bidding. In the class I showed everyone how to bid on an item and explained that the bidding/selling price would stay low as long as no one else bid on the item. I placed a \$1.00 maximum bid, but the price remained at \$.01 because no one else had bid. We watched throughout the night as the price stayed at \$.01. Ten, Nine, Eight (seconds)..... I was the only bidder and the price was*

*staying at \$.01. I thought this would be a great lesson to show the class with my purchase price not exceeding \$.01. I wouldn't have to increase my bid up to the \$1.00 maximum bid I placed earlier. Five, Four (seconds)..... A quick screen refresh indicated that another bid just came in. WOW, I told the class, someone waited until the last minute to outbid me and raised my bid to \$.87. I told everyone that this happens sometimes, but; it has never happened this way to me.*

*Just then a member of the class raised his hand with a somewhat embarrassed look. I thought he was afraid to ask a question. I called on him and gave some encouragement....he said he was sorry, he had been looking at the item we were watching and just bid on it. His bid raised my price!!!! We all got a great laugh and learned how the E-Bay bidding process worked. As for the item .....I have never let the class forget that they should never bid against each other.*

## Help!

Dear Joe: I am very interested in your ministry, especially the assistance you give to people who have left the Amish church due to sexual abuse.

How do you help people who are trying to survive in the new world?

Do you have anything to help people who marry an outsider?

I left the church because of ongoing sexual abuse and then married a non-Amish man and there are so many adjustments. I am seeing a counselor, but they don't understand my Amish past. It is hard.

Any information that you could send me would be good. Thank you. —S

Dear —S: MAP is not yet equipped with resources, neither do we have enough man-power and finances to provide much help when it comes to long distance. Your best bet is to continue meeting with your counselor. And secondly, surround yourself with godly people and former Amish in your area, who can relate and support you. —Joe

## Struggling to Survive



About two months ago, Verna came to our ministry for help. At the time, she was still Amish and not getting along with her dad, who struggles with alcohol and drugs.

During the past few years, she had either threatened or tried to

take her life four times.

Since coming to MAP, we have helped Verna set some 6-month, 1-year, and 5 year goals. On top of that, she is working very hard at getting her GED. Please enjoy Verna's own testimony.

Verna writes: *I've battled with depression and anger for 5 years. There were days when I thought, No, it can't get any worse and then it did. I couldn't go on so I finally went to the hospital for the first time. Ten months later I was back again. I had tried to take my own life. My Dad and I were really close then. My Dad had then been sober for a year and a half.*

*In February of 2007, my Dad went back out for two weeks drinking and doing drugs. We had no clue where he was. I still remember those sleepless nights wondering where Daddy was. We finally got the news they had found him. He was in detox then. Then he was in rehab from March until September.*

*In December, I was back in the hospital. Before that I had attempted suicide twice. In January my Dad left the Amish. I was heartbroken. I thought this can't be. But it was.*

*In December, I was back in the hospital. I had tried to take my own life. September of 2009 I was back in the hospital. Then I had been cutting for almost 4 years. I thought I was doing really good then.*

*But then I started getting these suicide impulses. 8 weeks ago I tried to take my own life again. I knew it was time to do something.*

*3 weeks ago, I ended in the hospital again. My Dad and I had been having arguments about everything for a while already. That night my Dad told me to get out.*

*I didn't know what to do then. I heard about Joe Keim. I thought maybe he would be able to help. I've only been here a little over a week but my life has changed so much already. I was at the prayer meeting on Tuesday night. I knew I wasn't saved. Rachel asked me some questions that I had been thinking all week.*

*Last night, I called Rachel Keim and told her to come over. We talked about salvation for a while. I realized that I believed it and I needed this. I prayed to God that I know I am a sinner and that I'm sorry for my sins. And I can only say "Wow!"*

*Then this morning in Sunday School we read Psalm 40. I don't know what happened, but I understood that chapter and believed every word. I was like "Wow!" It was so clear to me. I only know it was God working in my heart and in my life. And I know this is just the start.*



*I know if God would have left me, I would never have gotten the joy and happiness I have now.*

*And now I can only praise God for what He has given me and how blessed I am. I give all the glory to God my Savior! Praise The Lord!*

## Eli—Leaving MAP



April 30th marked Eli's last day at MAP. He was on staff for just over a year, and during that time he helped the ministry start several new ministries, including an audio ministry that reaches about 200 people every month.

His plans are to go back to working on vehicles and trucks at a local shop. We will miss him a lot. In just a few weeks, I will have the wonderful privilege of doing his wedding; he is getting married to Rachel, a young girl that has lived in our home for over a year.

The ministry has plans on replacing Eli's position with volunteers, while creating a new position for a Director of Education. The following two paragraphs provide some explanation of our needs.

**JOB SUMMARY:** To work in conjunction with the director of MAP to develop and administer all aspects of the Christian education program within the MAP ministry including but not limited to formal Bible classes, SonLight Club, practical life skills classes, and assist in all other areas as needed.

**SCOPE:** Develop, implement, administrate, and present formal teaching to guide and assist formerly Amish people as they pursue and obtain: GED, college or technical training, English life skills including but not limited to: money management, resource and time management, budgeting, end of life planning, wills, and other documents as needed.

To date, we have interviewed numerous people for this position, but, as of yet, have not found a match. Please pray with us.

## Doer's of the Word and Not Hearers Only!

It has been great to see some of our young former Amish men and women team up with various churches in our community and go on various mission trips around the country and world.

1. In March, a group of 15 went to Nicaragua for two weeks; they went there to help build a Bible Institute and do street evangelism.
2. In April, a group of 20 went to NYC to hand out gospel tracts and sing gospel songs.
3. In May, a group of 15 went to Angola Prison where they ministered to prisoners and their children; three of my own brothers went along on this trip.

A large number of God's people worked hard and pulled together to make these mission trips possible. For some, this was their very first mission's trip; here are some reports:

Nicaragua Report

We were amazed how poor and yet happy the people seemed in this Country. While there, we worked on a Bible Institute until we ran out of money. We also saw 22 people give their hearts to Jesus.

NYC Report

Eli writes: We left early Friday morning and didn't get back until early Monday morning so it was a long weekend. We set up our equipment Saturday



morning at the Whitehall Terminal where all the people pass through that ride on the Staten Island Ferry and that's where we spent all day passing out tracts and witnessing to people.

One person I talked to was a Christian and he ended up being the one that encouraged me instead of the other way around. Some of our other activities were going to the Bowery Mission and meeting the students and joining them in their Saturday night service. I went on the trip to witness to lost people but as it turned out, it was more of a blessing to me than anything else. Glory Hallelujah!!!



Mose Writes: This was the first Missions trip for me. But it was well worth it. While we were in the ferry station handing out tracts, I met this one guy that was really interested in

hearing about Jesus. He shared a little with me what all he has been thru, he kept coming back and wanted to talk more. Later I gave him a hand full of tracts and he started handing them out to the people. Hallelujah!!

Angola Prison Report

More than once, we were all moved to tears as we watched and helped supervise about 800 Malachi fathers unite with their children at the Angola prison.



A prison, that just a few years ago, was known for having the highest crime rate in the US. But then along came a Christian warden that has changed all that around through a program called "Malachi Dads". Today, they have very little crime and many of the prisoners are now being called to plant churches inside prisons, in other parts of the US.

## A personal note from Joe Keim

Since January, I have traveled thousands of miles, sharing with various churches about the need of reaching out to the Amish and former Amish people with the gospel.

Most of the time, our ministry and message is well received, however, there are other times when that is not the case. This year we've had several instances when well meaning people tried to either block or disrupt our church meetings.

We would appreciate your prayers for us, as well as those who don't really understand that our motive is pure and our message is simple—Jesus saves!

Recent Testimony

*I can't express my appreciation enough for the challenge we had from you this Sunday. I do hope we can take what we learned and use it to be effective evangelists to our Amish neighbors.*

—Mike from PA

## Mosie and the Nixon Family

He walked out the door of his farm house and for two miles debated his decision to leave. Eighteen-year-old Mosie, born into an Amish family in upstate New York, one of 12 children, turned from his family and culture because he “knew there had to be more.” With only his clothes and \$50, he walked along the country road until another former Amish picked him up in a car and brought him to Ohio where, last summer, our lives intersected.

Our initial meeting was the summer day he and other “X-Men” were invited to our home; they were working for a donation toward a March 2010 mission trip. My daughters attended church with them, told us about their background, and sacrifice to start over. We wanted to help so my husband and I asked the strong, eager lads who spoke with Dutch accent to trim our trees. Quiet, reserved, hardworking Mosie blended in so that I hardly noticed him.

We learned that Mosie’s parents shunned him for leaving the Amish and because they believed he was going to hell for leaving the Amish, they told him he wasn’t welcome – even if there were a funeral or wedding. Nineteen and alone, Mosie was naïve to our “English” culture of electronics, social security, taxes, rent, cars, insurance and “wolves in sheep’s clothing.”

By November, God moved us with a passion to take Mosie under our wing; an adoption of the heart. We couldn’t grasp all God intended but said yes to His urge.

“Mosie, I hear that your parents don’t welcome you because you left. Would you like us to be your English parents?” I asked one morning. We felt we could come alongside Mosie with prayer, encouragement, invitations for dinner and the occasional greeting card.

With a nod and boyish grin he quietly answered, “I’d like that.”

Joe Keim, founder of Mission to Amish People, supported, encouraged and answered

our questions. He told us about an adoption certificate he offers to show our mutual commitment. Mosie wanted November 24 - his birthday - as the day we signed our adoption certificates.

Thanksgiving, my birthday, and Christmas with Mosie and our relatives were joy-filled. We grew closer to him, learning about his childhood, Amish rules and structure, church services in High German, his parents and siblings, not remembering being hugged, his decision to leave, first-year out, and becoming a Christian. He began to open up as we saturated him with our love, laughter, attention, and hugs.

By December, the Heavenly Father nurtured a parental love in our hearts for Mosie as if he was our natural born child. I counted the days ‘til he’d come see us; couldn’t wait to



hug him, talk to him, hear his voice, about his day . . . and his Dutch accent. Our two adult daughters dropped in more often to see their brother and my mom and mother-in-law both called to check on their new grandson. On Christmas Eve our hearts were broken when we learned he was laid off work. Immediately we began praying for God to open a new door of employment.

Two days after Christmas Mosie’s car slid on ice; it was totaled and he suffered a concus-

sion. My husband and I brought him home from the ER. We wanted him to recuperate in our home rather than the cold trailer where he lived, with three other former-Amish boys, and slept on a pull-out sofa. As he recovered, he looked for another job and car. Within a week, God provided Mosie with a used car and a new job – his “dream job” on a horse boarding farm. We soon reasoned that since he was enrolled for January GED classes near our home and his job was close by, it was logical that he live with us.

The first of January, Mosie moved his meager belonging to our home. We’re seeing his boyish grins and boundless energy. But I’m not used to cowboy boots, country music, and a growing son’s appetite!

With the help of God and his many servants, including Joe Keim, we’re assisting Mosie with urgently-needed dental care, an education to further his confidence and success in life, and to mature in his new-found salvation. He’s awed by the fact that salvation is by God’s grace and not man’s works.

My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will nudge other Christian parents to open their hearts and home to former Amish. They are incredibly courageous to leave their familiar family and heritage and start a new life in a culture they were taught to shun. They need love, kindness and guidance.

Sunday, January 10, 2010, Mosie stood on the church platform in his plain, blue Amish clothes. He read his written testimony, “I started reading the Bible and discovered things I never knew when I was Amish. I learned that just living by strict rules is not the way to heaven,” and then received Christian baptism. Afterward he put on his English clothes and celebrated the God of second chances and new beginnings. —By Brenda