November 2026

MINISTRY UPDATE



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The Need Is Greater Than Most People Realize

by Joe Keim

As I write this final ministry update of the year, I am grateful for everyone who gives to Mission to Amish People and faithfully prays for these families. We love you, and we thank God for you.

MAP continually receives calls, texts, and letters from Amish families and individuals searching for answers about salvation, facing family pressure, or needing housing, employment, and someone who will listen.

Behind every message is a person, often an entire family. The needs are far greater than the world at large realizes.

A Young Man with Questions

This Saturday, I am scheduled to meet with a 20-year-old Old Order Amish man who called our ministry repeatedly. He had been preparing to leave the Amish but decided he wanted to talk first.

Leaving could cost him relationships with family and friends and the only life he has ever known. He has many questions. As far as I know, he has not come to saving faith in Christ, but he is searching. We have an opportunity to listen and open the Scriptures together.

"You Are the Only Person I Feel I Can Call"

Then there is, Harley, the father of nine, mentioned in a previous update.

At one point, he said, "Joe, you are the only person who truly understands what I'm going through."

His wife, Dora, has not come to faith in Christ, and he faces opposition from the Amish ministry around him. Recently, I invited him to join one of our Zoom prayer calls. We spent the hour encouraging him and praying over him.

We cannot change hearts or resolve every family conflict. But we can stand beside people, cry out to God on their behalf, and remind them they are not alone.

When Fear Has Been Taught for a Lifetime

A man in Canada recently told me his wife's parents had sent a ten-page letter warning that his family was going to hell. Their daughter no longer wore a head covering, wore jeans instead of a skirt, and had departed from their standards of simplicity.

The letter also blamed her for not having enough children. Her parents used the biblical passage about being "saved through childbearing" to tell her that having too few children meant she would not be saved.

That places a crushing burden on a family, making clothing, cultural expectations, and childbearing conditions for acceptance with God.

We encounter such situations among people from Amish, Old Order Mennonite, and Hutterite backgrounds. Fear does not simply disappear when people question teachings from parents, ministers, and communities they have trusted all their lives.

Working through that takes patient biblical teaching, trustworthy relationships, prayer, and repeated reassurance from God's Word.

This is why mentoring and discipleship are so important – more important than I know how to put in words.

A Letter from Lancaster County

A woman I'll call Rebecca recently emailed about her work with Amish and former Amish families in Pennsylvania.

"There is so much happening in this area with the Amish community," she wrote. "Some of it wonderful and some of it horrible."

She described prayer meetings where Amish people are coming to faith in Christ. Some are leaving; others are staying and beginning new churches and schools.

Elsewhere, she reported, two former Amish men had started a ministry despite warnings they were unprepared. Families sold their homes and moved there. Several now need to leave because of deep hurt but have nowhere to go. Could we help find temporary housing and employment for three or four families?

A local pastor in the Lancaster area also wanted to develop a ministry similar to MAP, recognizing the need for discipleship and care. I offered to visit, listen, pray, and share lessons we have learned the hard way.

The Need Keeps Growing

I have also been connecting with Hutterites, another Anabaptist branch with communities in the western United States and Canada. People are coming to faith in Christ and hungering for God's Word.

They face familiar needs: housing, employment, difficult family relationships, and ongoing discipleship. As new believers grow, they need people to answer difficult questions and show them what following Jesus looks like in everyday life.

We also need discernment. A desire to leave the Amish way of life does not necessarily mean someone understands the gospel. Some are seeking change because they are frustrated, wounded, or weary of the system that holds them in bondage. We need to listen carefully and faithfully point

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"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."
Luke 10:2 KJV





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them to salvation in Jesus Christ.

Guarding the Gospel of Grace

False teaching remains a persistent concern. It seems to come from every direction.

People who are beginning to understand salvation by grace through faith encounter voices insisting that something more is required: baptism for salvation, a particular baptismal wording, speaking in tongues, Sabbath observance, certain clothing, or allegiance to a particular group.

For someone already struggling with fear, these competing messages can create tremendous confusion.

I keep returning to Galatians 1:6–9, where Paul warns against turning to a different gospel. Even if he himself, or an angel from heaven, were to preach a gospel contrary to the one they had received, that messenger would be accursed.

We must take that seriously.

In 1 Corinthians 15:1–4, Paul reminds believers of the gospel he preached: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, He was buried, and He rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures.

Our hope rests in Jesus Christ and His finished work. We must faithfully teach that gospel and help people recognize teaching that distorts it or adds requirements for salvation.

What Your Support Makes Possible

Amid the many needs, there is so much to thank God for.

More than 485 people have come to salvation through the SonLight Club this year. We rejoice over each one, knowing that each life matters to God and that each new believer needs encouragement to grow.

New Beginnings Homestead, our apartment house, is full, and that ministry is doing so well. Jen Polley does an amazing job helping the young women through life skills instruction and GED classes. Beyond Measure Market provides employment and a training program where they can gain confidence, learn to interact with the world outside their former communities, and earn and save money.

Along the way, we help with driver's licenses, counseling, and the many other needs that arise as they build a new life. Walking with them involves time, patience, practical help, and relationships they can trust.

Yet our efforts to secure property and a new office have come to a standstill. We are landlocked at our current location and cannot expand. With the apartment house full and needs continuing to grow, I find myself thinking that we need another apartment house to take in more young women. Please pray with us for God's direction and provision. We see the need, and we need His wisdom for the next steps.

We are also preparing to add approximately 2,500 names to the active mailing list for The Amish Voice, beginning in January. That means more opportunities to place biblical teaching into homes and encourage Amish people who are searching for truth.

Your giving and prayers help sustain this work. We are ever so grateful for those who give so much of themselves to be part of it.

Join Us for Step Out of the Boat

Join us for the Step Out of the Boat conference, March 10–13! People are already registering. Individuals and couples will share testimonies, and preachers will bring messages from God's Word.

The Schmidts and First Love from northern Indiana will be joining us to lead worship and present a concert on Friday evening.

We would love to have you come. Bring your family, invite friends, and bring others who would be encouraged by hearing what God is doing. We look forward to spending time together, and we will feed you well!

Please visit StepOutOfTheBoat.org to register and plan to join us.

Please Keep Praying

Every Wednesday morning at 6:00 a.m., we gather on Zoom with people from around the country, including some who are still Amish. We divide into smaller groups and pray for individuals, families, churches, and ministries.

When I say we need prayer, I mean we need to cry out to God on behalf of these people. Some are searching for truth.

Please pray for the young man, Daniel, coming with questions, Harley in Wisconsin who needs encouragement, and the family in Canada living under painful accusations. Pray for families who need safe housing and steady employment. Pray for new believers, for sound teaching, and for more Christians to surrender to a ministry to Amish.

As we close this final ministry update of the year, thank you for standing with Mission to Amish People. We love our donors and prayer warriors, and we thank God for calling you to share in this ministry.

As you see, the needs are great. So is our gratitude for the opportunity to serve, and for each of you who helps make that possible.

Joe Keim – November 2026 MAP update