



Paul and Miriam Coblentz  
Missionaries to the



# Amish

Winter 2024-2025

**But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13**

## In Amish Homes

On a trip in Indiana, one of the local Old-Order Amish bishops asked me if I needed a room for that night. I accepted and prayed for an opportunity to preach the gospel to him. Shortly after dark a big storm came through there with lots of lightning, thunder crashes, and heavy rain! Before leaving the next morning, I had the opportunity to visit with the bishop. Our conversation soon turned spiritual. I asked him what a person must do to get to heaven. He began to explain how it takes works as well as faith. (How familiar that all sounded, I thought.) I quoted John 3:16 to him and asked where he found works in there. "There are plenty of other places," he demanded. I told him that good works do certainly follow, but not in order to be saved. "God loves us very much, and salvation is a free gift," I said. "Oh no, you cannot separate the two," was his reply. I told him that God sent His Son to die and shed His blood so our sins could be forgiven. "I wonder what God thinks when a person says that that was not enough and we must add something," I said. Please pray for the Lord to work in this man's heart.

While on a trip with several bishops to Kentucky, I had the privilege of speaking with my second cousin who is a bishop in a local community. He asked me about our Amish life and why we didn't stay. I shared much of my testimony, how I got saved and how the ministers reacted to that. He shook his head and said he had not heard that about us. He asked me if I would take him to my cousin's moving sale. I already had a trip scheduled for that day. He wanted to speak to our strict uncle after hearing my testimony. The next time I saw him I asked if he was able to speak to our uncle at the sale, and he said, "Just briefly. Our uncle acknowledges that you questioned his knowledge of what salvation is." He then wanted to give me a book entitled *Life In The Son; A Study of the Doctrine of Perseverance*. He told me it was written by a Baptist who used to believe in the security of the believer but does not anymore. "Oh, the water in the barn must be shut off! Can you drive me down the lane to the barn?" he asked. So, I did, and talked to him about being born in God's spiritual family. "As a child of God, we suffer consequences, such as being out of fellowship with the Lord, like David, who lost the joy of his salvation rather than salvation itself." He said that he was not familiar with that teaching. His belief is that a person makes his own decision to trust Christ, and he can change his decision at any time and therefore be unsaved again. Then I told him of what I call "the greatest truth ever established" in 1John 5:7-13, the three witnesses from Heaven. As we parted, he thanked me for sharing scripture with him. Please pray for both these bishops; God knows their names.

**Family News:** Miriam is doing fairly well as far as her health. I hadn't been feeling well most of the year; then in August I had blood work done and was diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes. In June my brother Andy passed away. He was just younger than I. We thank you for your prayers!

We trust you are doing well and enjoying family time during Christmas and the New Year. Have a Merry Christmas and a blessed 2025. Thank you for your prayers for us and the support you have sent. **Please make support checks payable to and send to Good News Baptist Church, P. O. Box 49, Smithville, OH 44677.**

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