



Maine Maritime Ministry

Sharing the love and gospel of Jesus along the coast of Maine and beyond

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us” Ephesians 3:20

Dear Family & Friends,

November 12, 2017

I am writing this first draft of the newsletter by lamplight. A major storm has just moved through Maine with hurricane force winds, taking out the power to half of all the residents in Maine. It took almost a full week to get our power back on, giving us a little experience of Amish life. In fact, I asked Mose, our Amish neighbor, “You are trying to make the whole state of Maine Amish, aren’t you?” He laughed.



As I write to you, God is giving us another blessing. The last couple of months it has been increasingly difficult for me to walk or even stand up.

The orthopedic surgeon looked at my x-rays and smirked, “No wonder! You

have advanced arthritis in your hips and you’re grinding bone on bone.” So my hips need to be replaced and I am relegated to a cane and walker with wheels. (Brakes were optional according to insurance, but we felt they may be necessary.) A few trees came down on our property during the storm and a group of men from our church is here now chain sawing them up. What a blessing to be part of the family of God!



God keeps opening doors for me to spend time with the Amish, getting to know them and testing the waters to understand how much they know about God. They claim to read the Bible but I am discovering that there is much they do not know. Speaking with several of them, I often relate what we are talking about to a verse or Bible story and more often than not, they are not familiar with it. It reminds when I grew up Catholic and went to church every Sunday and Catholic grammar and high school but knew next to nothing about the Bible.

Another time I stopped by their home during a rainstorm. Mose, the father was not in because he was at a two-day church service that the Amish observe twice a year. The boys Jacob, Henry, and Joni said, “Come in, all we are



doing is helping hold the chairs down.” During that time, their oldest brother Noah came in dressed in his finest Amish clothes (He looked sharp and I told him so). I asked him several questions about the two-day service but his response was, “I really didn’t understand much of what was said.”

I know the Amish first language is lower German or better known as “Pennsylvania Dutch.” However, they are schooled only to the eighth grade and it appears that they have a hard time really listening to or reading the Bible in German. I think this is why God moved a Sunday school class in Pennsylvania to raise money and send up a case of beautiful leather bound Amishu/ English bibles done by Christian Amish working for Wycliffe Bible Translators. In fact, God’s Spirit led that Sunday school class to witness with these Bible to their own Amish neighbors in Lancaster County. Who would have ever thought to inspire ministry to the Amish from Pennsylvania to Northern New England through Maine Maritime Ministry! He does “immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine!”

With all our love and gratitude! Your servant and His,

Chris and Vickie Gerardi

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