

### Relating to former Amish

*One afternoon I was visiting a newly married young couple. They had no children and lived at a farm far north in Ontario. While choring in the barn with some visiting Amish a car drove up the driveway. Since we were almost finished with the work, we all went up to the house. It was a young man who was coming for a visit. It was clear that he was non-Amish both by the way he was dressed, and also by the fact that he was driving a car. His haircut looked somewhat like the typical Amish cut. After greeting him, one of the young Amish men took him to the barn to finish the chores. The housewife and I went into the kitchen to prepare supper. As we came inside, the woman expressed that she was a bit unsure how to deal with the situation. I asked what she meant, and she told me that the young man who came to visit was a former baptised member of another Amish church in Ontario. Since it was suppertime she was uncertain whether she was allowed by their Ordnung to invite him for supper. Her problem was solved soon as the non-Amish man left before supper. I asked the couple what was expected from them if a former baptised member of the church wished to stay for supper. They indicated that certain guidelines would be practised, such as serving members and former members from different bowls, and preferably eating at different tables. Accordingly, it was even stricter the other way around. If a member of the church is invited to a former member, he/she is not allowed to receive anything at all. Nor are they allowed to get a ride from a former member. Under no circumstance shall any member accept any item or favour from the former members.*