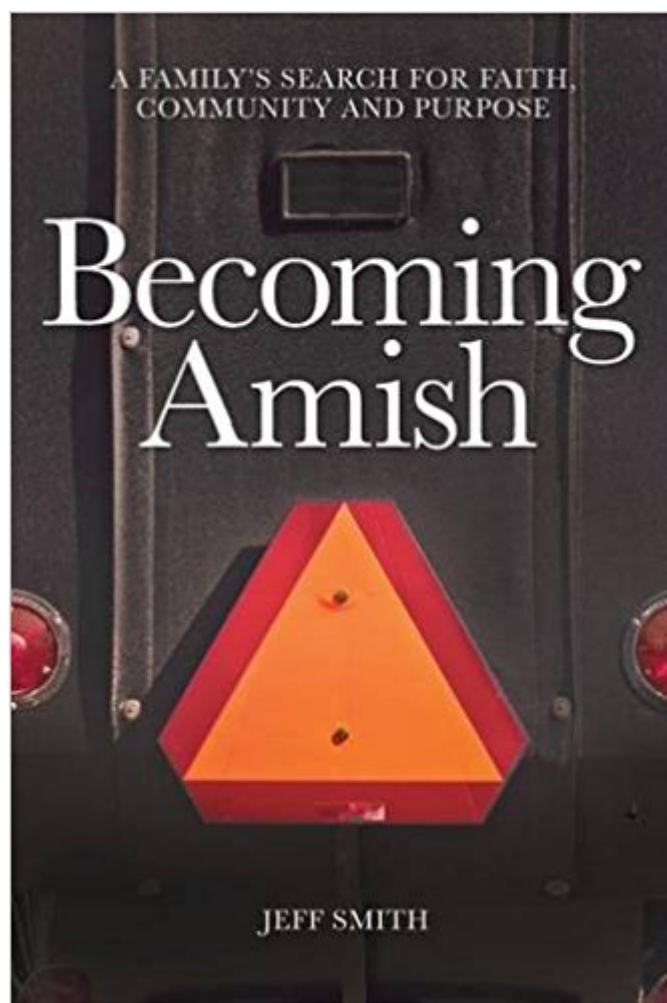


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# Becoming Amish: A Family's Search For Faith, Community And Purpose



## Synopsis

The true story of Bill and Tricia Moser, who were living in one of America's wealthiest communities, Grosse Pointe, Michigan, when they stepped away and began a journey that led to an Amish horse-and-buggy life, immersed in Amish grace. No more BMWs. No more architectural career for him or medical career for her. Instead, the Mosers drew close with their children, built pallets for money, wore homemade clothes, and bonded with people of their Amish faith and community. Bill grew the Amish beard. Tricia wore the Amish bonnet. The family dressed as Amish dress. Here, in *Becoming Amish*, the Mosers offer a modern couple's honest perspective on that separate and seemingly cloistered world, a perspective that is uniquely insider and outsider at the same time. This perspective is rare among Amish books and Amish ebooks. The Mosers' journey is rich and fascinating all on its own as we learn about Amish origins, the inner workings of the Amish faith, ways and culture--what Amish church services are like, how Amish businesses succeed at such a high rate, how the the Amish are so remarkably connected on a human scale (without Facebook!), how they balance technology in their lives, and more. But though the couple's decision can seem extreme, it can also serve as a mirror that helps us reflect upon our own choices, our own beliefs and values. If we were to be as intentional about our lives, how would we realign our choices big and small to achieve a fulfilling life? *Becoming Amish* rounds out the Mosers' tale with interviews, vignettes, and information that adds context, perspective and insight into the Amish faith and culture. The reader learns of a startlingly violent book--published in 1660--that is central to this pacifist people's belief and is in nearly every Amish home. The reader visits a "plain" community in the hills of Kentucky--a community that lives even more simply than most Amish--to discuss "the whys" of a low-technology life and faith. The reader is taken to an Amish wedding, learns how Amish romance is conducted. The reader contemplates an interview with the Lutheran minister who helped lead the Supreme Court case back in 1972 that allowed the Amish to pull their children from public school after 8th grade--what compelled him to do that? The Mosers' journey is a tale that deserves to live on, a rich and provocative version of the American dream.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"What a compelling read!" Robin Young, host of NPR's *Here & Now*

I first wrote about my lifelong friends the Mosers following the economic crash of 2008. The magazine story I wrote folded into a growing national conversation about people looking for more intentional lives based in simplicity and balance as a way to find greater fulfillment. I wondered what perspective the Mosers, who had left one of America's wealthiest communities to become horse-and-buggy Amish--to surround themselves in Amish grace--could bring to that conversation. The book *Becoming Amish* grew from my belief that though few modern families would ever become Amish, there were many aspects of the Amish life that could inform today's families as they contemplated the direction an intentional life based on family, community, purpose and richer spirituality might lead. I also saw that the Mosers, as people who grew up in modern, everyday America, brought unique perspective to the topic because they were both insiders and outsiders in the Amish world, and their observations would resonate with contemporary peers.

I've been reading predominantly Donald Kraybill's non-fiction studies on Amish culture, as well as his usual co-workers in his books. I've read Ira Wagler's *Growing Up Amish*, about an Amish man who left the church, but this really captured my attention about a family who did the opposite (at least for 15 years). If you like any of those books, this is a necessity on your shelf or in your Kindle as well. The reasons why they did (predominantly for the feeling of close-community that the Amish offer, and the understanding that Jesus calls us to community) are reasons that I think I am attracted to studying the Amish. The author of this book is "non-religious," but does a great job of tapping into the family he's writing about, and the reasons they've made the decisions they've made. This book may question some of the peculiarities of Amish culture, but never did I see criticism or slams. In fact, in discussing the conversion(s) of the family he's writing about (from firstly

non-Christian to Christian, and then from an unnamed protestant denomination to Amish/Mennonite), one would think that the author himself is a Christian writing from conversion experience. The book is sectioned off into thematic and chronological chapters. It is engaging as well, and nowhere near dry or flat. I've been recommending it already to friends!

A story about one families journey in the Christian Amish walk as told by their Atheist friend. I enjoyed it for its unreserved and open commentary which seemed well balanced and honest. If you have ever wondered about 'going Amish', this book is a must read. If you want to better understand the real 'being Amish', this is a must read. If you never understood why Amish Related novels often have families moving long distances, now you'll understand.

A thoughtful and fascinating book about one families journey to becoming part of the Amish community. This book answered a lot of questions I had about the Amish as a group, and I came away really liking and respecting them. While this is not a path I would choose, I found many aspects very desirable. I thought the author did a good job in presenting the Amish and it's many different groups, as well as some of the historical background. Very, very, interesting.

This is an excellent book. I didn't realize that the various Amish church have different rules. This was especially true when I read about how each handled getting electricity into their houses if they were able to use it as all. Thank you for the amount of research that went into the book.

This book was great- I hated to see it end

As I am somewhat connected to the Amish because I am mennonite, I got an honest perspective on their philosophy of life. I couldn't live their simple life, but I do enjoy visiting and relaxing on our Amish friends farm. I am also in the Mennonite Your Way hospitality book. An excellent book on a very respected group of people

Some parts too lengthy

This is a very insightful book! A great summer read!

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