

Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies

Volume 11
Issue 2 *Health and Healthcare among the Plain
Anabaptist People*

Article 16

2023

Review of: *Better Safe Than Sorry: Real-Life Stories, Tips, and More—A Guide to Everyday Safety*—Mike Atnip

Nathan Shrock
Midwest Mennonite Fellowship / East Holmes Fire & EMS

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Recommended Citation

Shrock, Nathan. 2023. "Review of: *Better Safe Than Sorry: Real-Life Stories, Tips, and More—A Guide to Everyday Safety*—Mike Atnip." *Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies* 11(2):239-40.

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couragement and source of valuable information for others who have gone or are going through similar situations. Most of these writers have not authored any other books or articles and their writing style is not very polished, professional, or eloquent. But the acute reality of the experiences lends a passion to their stories nonetheless.

This book provides thought-provoking and moving reading material for anyone, but the real wealth of information is for people with a genetic family history of HD, people who have encountered HD themselves, or who might encounter it in the future. For me as a reviewer, much of the language, emotions, and experiences that went with HD were familiar because Nathan Stauffer (p. 221) was my younger brother.

Much could be debated about the causes of genetic weaknesses and possible solutions for these disorders, which have developed over gen-

erations. Another point of discussion could be if God only allows these disorders or if He created them for purposes of His own. I will refrain from drawing any conclusions on these questions here, encouraging each person to dig for answers for themselves, searching God's Word and history.

In closing, I would like to point out that in this book, the authors are not pushing an agenda of their own but merely relating the story of their journey as it looked to them. For them, it was, and still is, very real.

Read this book to follow their path of sorrows and joys, disappointments, and progress in the colorful tapestry of Hirschsprung's Disease.

For order information, contact: Lisa Sensenig, 9705 County Rd. D, Platteville, WI 53818; 608-348-3829.

Review of: **Atnip, Mike. 2023. *Better Safe Than Sorry: Real-Life Stories, Tips, and More—A Guide to Everyday Safety*. Berlin, OH: TGS International. Pp. 192. \$17.99.**

By: Nathan Shrock, AEMT, EMSI
Midwest Mennonite Fellowship / East
Holmes Fire & EMS

This book was written from an Anabaptist perspective geared towards a younger Christian Anabaptist and seems directed at an Amish audience. The book has six different sections relating to various parts of home and farm life. The goal of this book is to encourage the Anabaptist community to use more thought in what risks they take. The sections are as follows: Home and Community, Fire Safety, Farm and Logging Safety, Shop and Construction Safety, Gun/Hunting Safety, and Road Safety. I will be addressing each section individually and giving a summary of my thoughts at the end. Atnip does not specify his reason for writing but addresses

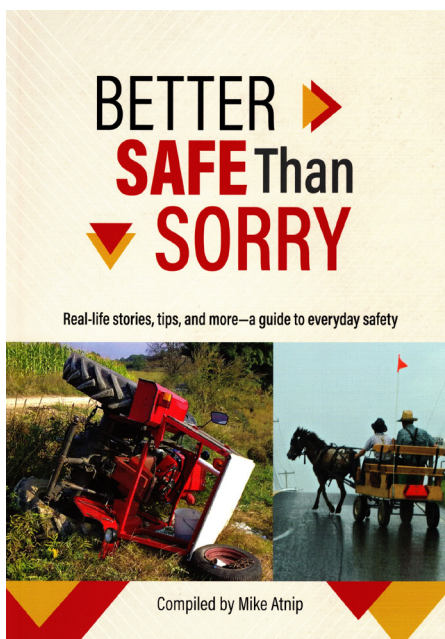
some safety items that may not be taught in an Amish home otherwise.

In the introduction, he claims that the Bible is a safety book for spiritual safety but also physical safety. He discusses common sense, pointing out some strange places where we see safety warnings. A sticker on the bar end of a chainsaw that

warns not to hold the wrong end seems ridiculous. He then discusses wisdom and foolishness, encouraging the reader to choose wisdom. Throughout the book, he uses true stories about people who suffered from the mistakes that he is writing about as a warning and sometimes poignant reason to heed his advice.

The Home and Community section covers basic things like the hot water heater and how it has the potential to be an explosion hazard. Atnip details how water when heated, turns to steam and expands to fill a room very quickly. He also discusses the dangers of hot water, the dangers of a self-locking

cedar chest, and where to keep medications. He then brings up the question of whether accidents



are God's will. This part may be controversial to some. There is also a discussion regarding various food preservation methods and risks involved in it. He then dives into water safety, water diving, rip currents, and rescues.

The Fire Safety section discusses some basics of cooking safely. He goes on to describe the different types of fire extinguishers, then how and when to use them. Grease fires, grills, wood stoves, house fires, and chimney fires are addressed. While discussing electrical cord safety, he includes helpful information on different types and sizes, lengths, conditions, and how to decide if an electrical cord is large enough to handle the item you are attempting to power.

The farm and logging safety section includes safety around large equipment. Male farm animals are described as dangerous. While I agree that male farm animals may theoretically and statistically be more dangerous, interestingly little is mentioned about female animals. Atnip then discusses silo safety such as when the most dangerous times for silo gasses and how to prevent accidents or fatalities. He then discusses grain bin safety and the mechanism of how someone can get stuck. Next up is manure pit safety detailing a tragic story of how four people perished attempting to rescue one person. He discusses the skid loader, referring to it as a man-eating monster, describing the risks and the inability of the driver to see around himself. In an important part of this chapter, he describes the criteria that young people should meet to drive the tractor alone. He avoids using a specific age but gives some developmental signs and markers to consider when making such a decision.

Hydraulic oil leaks, tractor rollovers, plowing, power take-off (PTO) shafts, and the risks involved are also discussed. Chainsaws are discussed at length in this section, describing kickbacks, what they are, and how to minimize their risks, along with a list of other tips for safety regarding their use.

In the Shop and Construction Safety section, he discusses the risks of the nail gun, cutting wood with a table saw, and using a welder. Ladder and hearing safety are addressed here as well.

The Gun/Hunting Safety has familiar gun safety lessons. He also discusses tree stands, boys and guns, as well as animal cleaning once killed.

In the Road Safety section, he starts by comparing the brain to carrying a backpack with glasses in it. Atnip does great at describing the brain's protective mechanisms in layman's terms. He discusses bicycles, e-bikes, and pedestrian safety. The best part of the entire book is in this section where he offers several different arguments for and against wearing a bicycle helmet. The slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblem and animal-drawn vehicles are discussed and he stresses the importance of having an SMV emblem. Curiously he spends more time on the SMV triangle than lighting, turn signals, and road laws combined. He also largely passed over animal training, such as ensuring that the horse is road safe, and provides little advice on how to train them if they need it.

The last topic in the entire book discusses ATVs and UTVs for which the author has a severe dislike, and it shows up in his words. While I understand his dislike for them, there was a lot of verbiage and descriptors used that were distracting to the thrust of the book. I don't like the danger these vehicles present, either. However, this chapter does not fit the style of the rest of the book.

In general, the author gave a lot of good and great safety guidelines, along with some relevant statistics and facts where appropriate. Most stories give relevance to his book. At only 185 pages long, the book cannot cover all relevant topics to all Anabaptist churches. Because of this, in the end, the book feels like it is pitched to a rather narrow—and not clearly specified—set of Anabaptist churches.