



THE FRAUD AWARE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5
AUTUMN 2025

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” — 1 Corinthians 4:2

FROM THE BOARD

Justice or Forgiveness?

Young, confident, and trusting Joseph trudged through the countryside, obediently following his father's instruction to “see whether it be well with thy brethren”. Joseph was likely anticipating a warm welcome from his brothers, but received the contrary. As his brothers saw Joseph approaching in the distance, they conspired among themselves to work Joseph out of the way. A short while later, Joseph found himself sold as a slave and taken away, betrayed and forsaken.

Many of us know what it is like to be betrayed, cheated, or scammed. We trusted someone and thought they were helping us, but we discovered, in a very painful way, that they were lying to us and taking advantage of our trust, leaving us to deal with bitterness and resentment. If we have ever been a victim of a scam or fraud, we can especially relate to these feelings. Our human nature yearns for justice and desires to see these perpetrators punished.

Now, let's go back to Joseph. Scripture doesn't tell us exactly what his feelings were towards his brothers; he likely struggled with these same feelings. However, the scripture does tell us what Joseph did. Years later, when Joseph's brothers came looking for grain, Joseph was given the ultimate opportunity to deliver justice, but he chose not to. Instead, Joseph did something radically different: Joseph forgave!

We, too, have a choice to make; we can choose to live in the bondage of bitterness and resentment, refusing to forgive, or we can choose to forgive those who have done us wrong. It is not always easy, but we have an example to look to, Jesus Christ, who forgave the very men who nailed him to the cross. May Christ help us to follow his example and say, “Father, forgive them...”

-Sylvan Martin, Advisory Board Member



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She Spoke Pennsylvania Dutch The Scammer Had an Answer

A family shared how their widowed grandmother has become the victim of a cruel and sophisticated phone scam, losing \$5,000 after criminals impersonated her grandson. The incident serves as a stark reminder that these predatory scams are evolving and targeting members of our community with calculated precision.

The scam began with a frantic phone call from a man claiming to be her grandson, Benuel, who is a truck driver. The caller spun a tale of being on vacation in California when his taxi was pulled over by police. He claimed drugs were found in the vehicle, and he was arrested along with the driver.

Thinking quickly, the grandmother tested the caller by speaking to him in Pennsylvania Dutch. This is often a reliable way to verify an identity. However, the scammer had a prepared and effective response.

“No Grandma,” the voice on the phone said, “you need to talk English so my attorney can understand.”

This clever lie bypassed her security check, making the situation seem more official and desperate. The scammer, still posing as Benuel, pleaded with her not to tell his parents out of embarrassment and begged her for \$5,000 in bail money, promising to pay her back the following week.

The instructions were specific and designed to avoid detection: place \$5,000 in cash between the pages of two magazines, seal it in an envelope, and send it via FedEx overnight to an “attorney” at an address in California. Driven



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Over twenty-three additional members from different states, representing over ten different Amish and Mennonite church groups, currently serve on an advisory board.

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by love and concern for her grandson, the grandmother followed the instructions exactly.

A week later, she called the real Benueal to see if he was home and okay. To her surprise, Benueal had no idea what she was talking about. He had never been to California, never been arrested, and never asked for money. The devastating reality set in: she had sent the cash to a Scammer.

Follow These Three Steps to Avoid the Scammer

STOP: Scammers use fear to make you act without thinking. The second you feel a sense of panic or are told to keep a secret, that is your cue to STOP all action. Take a deep breath and do not do what the caller says.

DISCONNECT: End the conversation. Hang up the phone immediately. This crucial step breaks the scammer's emotional hold on you and gives you the clear space you need to think.

RECONSIDER: Now that you are off the phone, reconsider everything you were told. Talk to someone you trust: parents, child, church leader, banker, accountant, or an attorney and have them help you think it through.

→ **Verify the story:** Call your loved one on their usual phone number (never a number the caller provides) to confirm they are safe.

→ **Verify the payment method:** Think about the payment request. A demand for cash in an envelope, gift cards, or Bitcoin is the #1 sign of a scam. Legitimate organizations do not operate that way.

Please share this story with your friends and family, especially elderly members of the community who are most often targeted.

This true story was submitted to Fraud Aware to help educate our communities.

Saving the Cabbage - Literally **How a Vigilant Driver Averted a Major Theft**

At Green Field Farms, we are committed to maintaining secure systems and providing ongoing staff training to prevent fraud. As a farmer cooperative based in Wayne County, OH, trust and security are essential to our business. We are sharing the details of a recent, sophisticated fraud attempt to help others be aware and remain vigilant.

The Setup

In June, we were contacted by a person identifying as "Aaron Williams" from Sugar Foods, Inc., a company we knew by reputation, inquiring about organic green cabbage. Following our protocol, we required a credit application. The customer promptly complied, providing three references that all returned positive credit reports. Based on this information, we approved two loads on credit. The customer arranged their own shipping through a third-party freight broker, Ezzell Logistics.

The Red Flags

The first 40,000 lb load shipped to the Bronx, NY, where red flags quickly appeared.

- The driver was told to delay delivery from Saturday to Tuesday—a highly unusual request in the produce industry.
- Upon returning, the driver found a disorganized scene and was instructed to unload on the street, not at a proper dock.

Trusting his instincts, the driver called dispatch, and we instructed him to hold the load. Just as the first pallets were being unloaded, the driver informed the dock workers of a problem and told them to reload the truck. He then mentioned he had called the police.

To listen to educational Fraud Aware stories call the...



...Fraud AWARE Listen Library
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**Listen to
The Widow Who
Got Scammed,
option #13**

Disclaimer: The information included in this newsletter is only a guide. We are not investment advisors or legal advisors. You must seek advice from qualified advisors before making decisions.



The effect was instantaneous. The workers abandoned their equipment and fled. As the driver put it, “*They disappeared like rodents!*”

The team at Ezzell Logistics immediately warned another produce truck at the scene, but it was too late—their product had already been stolen. We are grateful for the professionalism of Tim Smith at Ezzell and his driver’s quick thinking.

Lessons Learned from the Attempt

In retrospect, the scammers left several clues:

1. Scrutinize Credit References: The scammers used real company names but with fake contact information (emails and phone numbers). The domains in the email addresses did not match the legitimate company websites. **Action Item:** Always independently verify reference contact information from official company websites, not the application.

2. Inspect Email Details: The email signature format used by the scammer was identical to that of one of his “references”—a subtle clue that they were the same person.

3. Question Unlikely Signatories: The credit application was supposedly signed by the CFO of Sugar Foods. It is improbable that a high-level executive at a major corporation would personally handle a routine credit application.

4. Trust Your Team’s Intuition: The unusual delivery demands and the driver’s gut feeling were the crucial elements that

prevented the theft. Encourage your drivers and staff to report anything that feels wrong.

We successfully redirected the load to a customer in Philadelphia, avoiding a major financial loss. This incident is a clear reminder that vigilance, from the sales desk to the delivery driver, is our best defense against fraud.

CEO – Leon Wengerd
Greenfield Farms

A big THANK-YOU to our supporters!

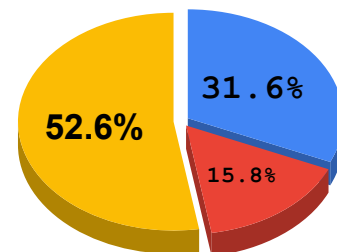
Financial Report - PAST SEVEN MONTHS

Opening Balance:	(5-01-2025)	\$3,311.84
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Total contributions	103,824.85	
Balance & Deposit Total		\$107,136.69
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Disbursements		
Ads, newsletters, mailings, website, etc.	22,827.46	
Expos, events, & travel.....	5,109.75	
“I Almost Fell For It” design, print, ship	34,152.24	
Other expense.....	10,715.69	
Total Expenses		\$72,805.14
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Ending Balance:	(10-31-2025)	\$34,331.55
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Borrowed Funds	(05-01-2025)	\$15,000.00
	(10-30-2025)	\$0.00

Donations will make it possible for Fraud Aware to continue printing and offering free books and literature. To those who are interested in helping with printing, mailing, and other costs, contributions can be sent to:

- ▶ FRAUD AWARE
PO Box 34 Ephrata, PA 17522
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ESTIMATED Expenses January - June, 2026 \$95,000



- Newsletter, Mailing, Listen Library, Ads
- Expos, Events, & Travel
- Books & Literature

FRAUD

Identification Education Prevention

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A conservative
Anabaptist
resource helping
our communities
be fraud aware.

—

We are a
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Monthly educational article on Frauds & Scams in

PCBE
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A conservative Anabaptist resource for fraud identification, education, and prevention.



- Westfork Auction - Sept 2025
- The Cheapest Trailer I Never Bought - Oct 2025
- The Day Greed Smacked My Patties - Nov 2025
- Dodging Fraud at Weaver D - Dec 2025

PCBE
PLAIN COMMUNITIES BUSINESS EXCHANGE

Get your free items at our events

MIDWEST TOOL EXPO & AUCTION

- Shipshewana, IN, Jan 29 - 31, 2026

MT HOPE SHOWCASE & AIRWORKS

- Mt Hope, OH, Feb 19-21, 2026



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