



## ANNA'S HEALING

*By Vannetta Chapman*

1. At the beginning of the story, Anna is full of self-doubt. She doesn't understand why she isn't interested in dating. She isn't sure her aunt and uncle want her staying with them. She has no idea what direction her life is going to take. Have you ever had a deep level of self-doubt? What did you do to remedy it?
2. Anna and Chloe's friendship may seem a bit strange to some, but I have witnessed and even experienced many such friendships between Amish and *Englisch*. What makes friendships stick? And how can we nurture this very important gift God gives to us?
3. The Amish of Cody's Creek (my name for the town of Chouteau, Oklahoma) are quite different. They allow tractors to be used both in the fields and to ride to town. They are a little less put off by contact with the *Englisch*. What do you think of this? Does it make them any less Amish? Are they still following God's path for their families and their communities?
4. After Jacob rescues Miguel, he meets with the church leadership. They remind him about the commandment to turn the other cheek. Jacob replies, "I'm familiar with Christ's words, and if I had been slapped I am certain that I would have been able to turn the other." He's not smarting off. He honestly believes the situation with Miguel required a different response. What does the Bible teach us about dealing with others, especially those who would intend us harm?
5. When Anna first learns of her paralysis, she has trouble accepting the diagnosis. The Bible has many verses that assure us that God will help us through the most difficult of times. What are three verses you depend on when life becomes a struggle?
6. *Mammi* loves Anna. She also is an amazing example of Christian faith. Who in your life has been this sort of example for you? How have they helped you in your faith walk?
7. Do you believe miracles are possible? What does the Bible say about miracles? And why do miracles happen to some people but not others?
8. When Anna is kidnapped, we want to dislike Spencer, but the more I wrote about him, the more I felt sympathy for him. He is a desperate man who is doing desperate things he will regret, but he's also someone who loves his wife dearly. Did you feel Anna's response to Spencer was believable? Why or why not?
9. Dreams figure strongly in Anna's story. What do you think about dreams? Should we ever pay attention to them? And what does the Bible say about dreams?
10. In the end, Anna decides to move away. It seems, for her and her family, that starting over is best. I could have written a different ending—one where she stays and ministers to the people in Cody's Creek. How do you make the decision of whether to stay (in a job, a town, or a relationship) or whether to begin again?