



# The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

May 2006

## Faith Christian Fellowship Church Catlett, VA

**SUN. MAY 14, 2006**

At 5:15 a.m. many chorus members boarded the bus, peepy-eyed. Menno said he hadn't heard one person groan. So we let out one long, collective groan at the early hour.

We had wet pavement and overcast skies until about I. 81 when the sun tried to break through the gloom. Mists hung over lush forested mountains. But the further south we rolled, the grayer the skies became again.

Joining us at the church were our very own Rebecca Petersheim, from Mt. View Nursing Home, and Lorraine Yoder from Faith Mission Home, both in Voluntary Service.

As always, we were received warmly by the Fellowship. Bishop Simon Schrock had Menno and Mike stand with him and called Dave Nisly, assistant pastor, to come and pray for us before we sang.

The face of the church has changed over the years. I missed many friends who used to be in the audience. But I rejoice that they are serving the Lord in other places where God has called them.

We started the service with "*Spring up, O Well.*" Requested this morning were "*For Those Tears I Died,*" "*God on the Mountain,*" by Marty, "*Hallelujah Square,*" "*Early in the Morning,*" and "*Where No One Stands Alone,*" all solos by Menno. "*I'll Have a New Body*" was requested by Menno's sister Fannie. She said their mother enjoyed that song so much.

Brock and Brooke did "Love One Another." Even though they "dig ditch" with that song their voices are maturing and they did a good job.

Mike opened it for testimonies. Several people said how they were blessed in the past by songs that ministered to them. And today they were blest again. A number of folks had tears during the service.

Menno asked Lynnette if Mike has plans in a few weeks. She said, yes. They were going to get married. Menno said his birthday is 2 days later and he's been trying to get them to agree to celebrate with him but they aren't interested.

Lunch was the regular sumptuous fare.

**A GENTLEMAN FROM THE AUDIENCE OWNS A MAZDA DIESEL CAR. HE GOES AROUND TO RESTAURANTS AND PICKS UP USED VEGETABLE OIL, STRAINS IT, AND USES IT FOR FUEL. IT WORKS JUST LIKE DIESEL FUEL. ONLY THING, CRUISING DOWN THE ROAD, HIS CAR SMELLS JUST LIKE A RESTAURANT!**

It rained all afternoon. We arrived at Inwood at 4 p.m. for a supper of spaghetti and salad.

## South Baptist Berkley Church Inwood, WV

**EVENING**

We had a very reverent audience. They took it all in. Sometimes we heard "Praise the Lord!"

A man requested, "*Had it Not Been,*" by Menno. Twenty-Five years ago, he said, we sang that song at his church and he loved it.

The Sommers sisters sang, "*Jesus Built a Bridge,*" a very moving song. The chorus did an invitation with "*Just As I Am,*" then Mike had the Sommers do their song again.

## Canada Trip (Memorial Day Week-end)

**SAT. MAY 27, 2006**

We had lots of luggage, extra food, and other necessities to load in the rainy, humid 60 degree weather. At 6 a.m., Menno did roll call. Passports were vital to have along or other photo I.D. We were sorry Dwight and Lyndon Yoder and Jr. and Melody Beachy couldn't travel with us.

At W. Salisbury, Marty pulled over at the former Black Sheep Trucking because the low air alarm sounded. He couldn't locate the problem so we went on.

Our first rest stop was at 8:30 along I. 79. Some of us took advantage of the free coffee and goodies offered for traveling motorists. I was happy to donate to their cause (a good one, as I recall.)

The gray, foggy weather lent itself well to the quiet atmosphere on the bus. Most chorus members lay around getting shut-eye all forenoon.

We stopped for lunch at 11 a.m. at Angora, N.Y. To get to the travel plaza we always park and take the

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overpass across the freeway. Those who didn't bring their lunch had the opportunity to buy it here and take in on the bus. It was expensive!

Joye bought a salad and a shake and it cost over \$8. The total came to \$10.

Marty fueled the bus here so he wouldn't need to do it in Canada.

We arrived at the border at 12:15. The agent came onto the bus and asked us if we were all American citizens. He would have waved us through (after all, Canada isn't building walls to keep illegals out), except that Gerald told him we have music along to sell. So he had to go inside. He paid tax on the music and Gerald was given a form to mail in after the trip so we wouldn't have to take care of this on our return on Monday. We spent only 15 minutes at the border. The Lord surely answered our prayers for this crossing.

**A LITTLE, RED FIESTA IN FRONT OF US HAD THIS BUMPER STICKER: "DON'T LET THE CAR FOOL YOU. MY TREASURE IS IN HEAVEN."**

Cotton clouds dallied through blue Ontario sky, sunshine bathing flat, green meadows. Here and there, beside plowed fields, rows of sturdy trees broke the wind.

## Heritage Mennonite Church Millbank, Ont.

### EVENING

We arrived at 3:30 p.m. The church was an ancient, gray block structure that appeared small from the front. Not until we walked around the back under tall shade trees did we see how big it really was. The weather was perfect.

A favorite past time of chorus members is to walk through a grave yard and inspect tombstones. Here weathered stones dated back to the early 1800s. Near the road I found one belonging to Edward Lang, born in 1829, who had emigrated here from Fermanagh, Ireland.

Doug was under the trees when he received a splat of bird deposit on his arm. Yuk! It just missed his sleeve, fortunately.

For devotions, Jonathan was in charge. He played part of a tape of Frank Peretti. Very humorous.

We filed in to a full auditorium and were greeted

with many expectant expressions. The front was really crowded. Menno's stand stood only inches from the front row. And it was warm! Flies and mosquitoes buzzed about during the service.

Menno took charge of most of the meeting. Requested was his solo, "*I'd Rather have Jesus.*" We also did "*For Those Tears I Died.*" On "*He Paid a Debt*" we majorly messed up when we mixed up the verses. I really hate when we do that.

The twins were introduced and sang "*I am Redeemed,*" with chorus back up.

At break time, we relaxed on the lush grass under the shade trees. We wished we could finish the service out there.

The Beachy trio sang before we entered again.

In the morning we met at 8:30 to go on to Listowel.

## First Baptist Church Listowel, Ont.

SUN. MAY 28, 2006

We had time for prayer in the gym. The service didn't start until 11 a.m. Menno had the Beachy Trio and Monica lead by doing "*Bread of Life.*" (Mike requested they do it again at the end of the service.)

Under Menno's direction we did old songs like "*Jesus Will Outshine Them All,*" "*Bless the Lord,*" and "*Why Me?*" He finished the first half with "*Stand By Me.*"

Mike led "*I Need the Prayers,*" a request by Levi Keupfer who had lost his wife.

A lady spoke to me after the service. She said, "I was so blest by the service." She comes from an orientation of the pitch pipe. "You have no drums or any other instruments. And the good thing was, I could understand every word!"

We hurried through lunch. We had a half hour to eat our ham sandwiches, drink juice, and consume the delicious lemon-cranberry, bran, and blueberry muffins before we had to hurry on to the next church. Some of us took our apples with us.

The trip over was almost long enough to steal a nap. It was hard to wake up for the afternoon service.

## Elgin Missionary Church Stratford, Ont.

AFTERNOON

Menno started us off with a spirited "*I'll Fly Away!*" with the congregation. He thanked them for

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giving up their naps in order to be here. A man at the door reminded Menno the chorus had been here in 1976(?) and sang "*Hallelujah Square*," and "*Had It Not Been*." It was interesting that Menno had already chosen those songs for *this* service. We also did "*The Cross in the Middle*" and "*Don't Give Up*."

To begin the second half, the twins filed in with us. Smiles broke out across the audience at their "*Love One Another*." Loretta sang "*I Found the Lily in My Valley*."

We traveled through sun-washed Ontario to the evening service, listening to the conclusion to the Frank Peretti tape.

No wonder people are killing their families, teenagers are shooting classmates, and individuals are committing suicide.

*Truth is relative. We are little gods. We are tolerant. Each person's opinion is as good as the next. You can't know anything for sure. Nothing matters in the scheme of things. We are all accidents of nature.*

For those who have bought into the theory of modern relativism and have found only the husks of swine, the message of "*Father's House*" from this afternoon is for you.

*"If the path you've trod, led you far from home,  
Down the road of fear, where you don't belong,  
Here are open arms, reaching out to you,  
His love is shining bright, now your search is  
through."*

Everything we need is found in Jesus Christ.

## Country Hills Missionary Church Kitchner, Ont.

### EVENING

We did "*Yes, I Know*," and "*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*." Menno did the solo, "*Then Jesus Came*." I love this song because of its contrasts. When Jesus comes, he comes to stay and he changes everything.

Near the break, Menno did introductions to the full house. While he was doing this, Bill the preacher, came to the platform and said Menno started the Mt. Anthems in 1950 so we've been established for 56 years. When he finished, Menno corrected the speech. "No," he said, "We've been going for 46 years. We started singing as a group in 1960. Singing School started in 1957. Go to [www.mountainanthems.com](http://www.mountainanthems.com) and read all about us."

Bill said, "I know all about that. That's where I got the information--that you started in 1950! I'll show you." He went to his seat and got his computer print-out. To the congregation he read, "The Mt. Anthems started singing school in the mid 1950's . . ." that was as far as Bill got. Everyone broke out laughing and Bill took his seat.

Bill has a radio program Sunday nights at 9 so we were under pressure to finish the service before he had to leave. Mike said when he talked to Bill in the foyer earlier, he thought he saw a glint in his eye that spelled *TROUBLE*.

With all the action going on between Menno and Bill trying to correct each other, it seemed the evening got away. When Mike took over, he was able to do only about 4 of the songs he had chosen. To get us on track again, we did, "*I'm Too Near Home*."

To dismiss, Mike asked if anyone had a request we could close on. Someone requested, "*Hallelujah Square*." So Menno came up to do it. Then we did another closing song, "*Soon and Very Soon*." It had been a very interesting service.

In the coffee room afterwards, it seemed everyone let down their hair. This was a cozy room, filled with round tables, attractively decorated. What laughter! We enjoyed delicious sandwiches, fresh fruits and veggies, pie, ice cream and drinks. We listened to Preacher Bill on a radio someone had brought in. Chorus members could not deny food tampering. The important thing was to not get caught!

### MONDAY MAY 29, 2006

We met at Country Hills Church to board the bus for home. The time was 8:30 a.m. A teacher from Faith Builders led us in prayer. He said this isn't his church. His church is down the road at a place called *Punky Doodle Corner*.

We started the trip by watching a Nature video from Moody Bible Institute that Doug contributed.

At the border again at 12 noon, the customs officer came on board. Marty told him we were a singing group. The agent walked down the aisle, checked our photo I.D., and asked us each if we were US citizens. He said, "Have a good day!" and we rolled right on through. No problems.

For the sake of those who had never seen the might of Niagara Falls, we stopped for a half hour. It cost \$37.40, just for the drop-off fee.

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To Mike and Lynn, Menno said we saw Niagara Falls now so the honeymoon is cancelled. I don't think they heard him.

*On the Way Home:*

*Heidi, Judith, and Rhonda lay curled in their seats, sacked out.*

*Jonathan read "Gideon's Torch"*

*Joel snoozed.*

*La Von and Melissa perused the CBS Clarion*

*Mike and Lynn slept with earphones on.*

*Rodney and Loren had a Rook score of 870-40 against Joye and Angela! (The girls narrowed the margin by the end of the trip but the guys still won match.)*

*Monica snoozed.*

*Wanda listened to music.*

*The rest of the gang at the back of the bus was out cold or was oblivious to the world by way of the printed page.*

Joyce walked back to get the rear water jug since the one in front was empty. Kevin asked her, "Do you want to get into the restroom?"

"Yes," she replied.

"That's Anita's house," Kevin said.

Joyce opened the restroom door, and there sat Anita curled up, with her headphones on. (As anyone can see, this restroom is not used for purposes intended since tenants can move in.

We arrived at Somerset, PA at 5:30 p.m. We were home in good time. So Menno proposed we go to Berlin yet for ice cream. We agreed. After all we couldn't let the money he was hiding burn a hole in his pocket!

Thanks to all of you who prayed for our safe travels. God bless you for your investment. We thank God that his angels again kept us from harm over hundreds of miles to Canada and back..

-Lena Eicher