



The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

August 2006

Bethany Fellowship Kokomo, IN

SAT. SEPT. 2, 2006

We left the building at 7:35 AM with a light rain falling. The temperature was cool and the sky completely overcast, probably from the widespread wings of Tropical Storm Ernesto. We were only a small group, the Spain travelers having just arrived home late Friday night and weren't able to go along. On the bright side, Mike Petersheim was on board. Since he recently graduated from Ohio State University, he's hopefully going to be able to sing with the chorus again.

By late afternoon, sunshine began peeking through the clouds. At 4:20 PM when we arrived at Kokomo, IN we were under partly cloudy skies and had very pleasant temperatures.

We enjoyed a delicious supper of soups (half a dozen different varieties), sandwiches, fruit slush, and gobs at the schoolhouse, a short distance from the Bethany Church.

We didn't get over to the church until about an hour before program time. That gave us *half an hour to get all the equipment and luggage unloaded, clothes changed, and ready for devotions by 6:30.* Everyone got busy, and most people were actually ready a little early.

The audience this evening was receptive. We had only 24 people singing. Songs we sang were "*I Thirst*", and "*What A Savior.*" It had been a LONG time since we tried "*Amazing Love*" but Mike told the audience that we would try it since it was a request. It went OK; not great, but OK.

Mike didn't make many comments for most of the evening, but as we drew to a close, he emphasized that we need to be ready for Jesus' return. If we miss it, it won't be anyone's fault but our own. Several people thanked us at the recording stand for the worshipful program.

The church's youth group afterward invited any interested Mt. Anthems members to join them in playing volley ball. Some of us enjoyed that and some took the opportunity to get to bed early.

-Kenton Yoder

Upper Deer Creek Church Galveston, IN

SUN. SEPT. 3, 2006

We left from the gym this morning at 8:30 AM. It was only a half hours' drive to Deer Creek through the cool morning. Fog hung over the corn and soybean fields surrounding the church.

It was another good service. The chorus had the privilege of watching 3 people be baptized before the concert.

Mike directed and we sang for about 45 minutes. This morning we did something never done before. About halfway through, Mike called Menno on his cell phone. Before he called, he asked the congregation if anyone had a special message for Menno.

One man said, "Tell him we miss him." Another said, "We hope he gets better soon."

After Mike established the connection and he and Menno talked a bit, Mike led us in the songs he had chosen to sing for Menno. (Later Menno said this in his notes to the chorus. "On Sunday morning at 11 I got a phone call saying this is Mike Yoder. 'We are right in the middle of our concert here at Deer Creek and want to sing several songs for you.' At first I was startled almost in disbelief with those words. I could hardly believe my ears. I thought how appropriate and thoughtful of my beloved people 450 miles away. Mike said, 'We want to sing, "*Grace Enough.*" and "*One Day at a Time,*" for you.' After the first song we got cut off and I didn't hear the second one. Mike called back and I then requested "*Where No One Stands Alone.*" I question whether you will fully understand what that meant to me. You are such wonderful, unpredictable people.")

Other songs we did were, "*Rise Ye Children of Salvation,*" "*I Bowed on my Knees,*" and "*I'll have a New Life.*" The crowd seemed to really enjoy it. They applauded after each song and gave us a standing ovation as we walked out. Lots of people commented how they enjoyed the service and thanked us for coming.

The chorus is always open to live entertainment. It's hard to know who was responsible for this show :-) when Brock and Brooke did 20 push-ups each.

The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

August 2006

We packed up sound and after a great lunch, traveled to Prairie Camp, arriving around 3 PM.

-Jonathan , Junior and Melody and
Melissa

Prairie Camp Goshen, IN

EVENING

In charge of 6:30 devotions tonight was Kevin Yoder. He talked about responding positively to adversity, using Joseph as an example.

The service began at 7 PM with Aimee and Anita Beachy doing *"My God and I,"* a request. Other requests from this crowd of 500-600 people were, *"Tears are a Language," "God is Waiting,"* and *"Never Ending Joy."* *"Meet for the Master's Use,"* came from Jason Beachy.

Intermission was at 8 PM. Then Martin Schrock gave his testimony and introduced, *"Midnight Cry,"* which the men's quartet sang.

Loretta sang two solos, *"There is a Haven,"* and *"You Can Have a Song."*

Mike talked to the audience about his past difficulties involving romance and encouraged them to trust in and wait on God. He then introduced his wife, Lynnette.

Marty blessed the people with *"God on the Mountain."*

The program ended with a man having a prayer for the audience and the chorus. Mike asked the audience to stand and join us in singing, *"Our God, He Is Alive!"*

-Mike Petersheim

Travel Day Home

MONDAY

All the former Canada Bible School teachers had the privilege of spending the night in the James Yoder home. So for breakfast, the rest of us got to join them. We met at 8 AM for a fantastic meal of breakfast casserole, cinnamon rolls, and coffee. We left for home at 9:30.

We had two rest stops, one in the forenoon and one in the afternoon. We stopped in Ohio at a travel plaza for lunch.

The bus was fairly quiet most of the time. Junior was bored so he wrote some poetic lines; occasional bursts of laughter or outrage could be heard during the afternoon as "Rook" and "Twenty Thousand" games were battled out. Brooke and Loretta played a game of checkers. But most people caught up on their sleep.

After many miles, we arrived again safely back at the building at 6:45 PM.

-Geneva Yoder

N. Terrace Wesleyan Methodist Church

Zanesville, OH

SUN. SEPT. 17, 2006

Dawn came gray with heavy fog. The trees made ghostly noises as moisture dripped from them like so many tiny footsteps on the leaves.

I (Lena) had traveled to Holmes Co. on Friday for the wedding of my niece in the evening. This trip to Ohio also allowed me to visit my sister Sara in the hospital who was recovering from open heart surgery.

At a BP station along I. 70 I waited for the bus to pick me up. Would they be on time? Marty had said to plan for 9 AM. Would they make it in spite of the fog? Sure enough. Promptly at 9 our big, beautiful bus emerged from the white mist, rolling up the ramp.

The chorus had left at 6 AM this morning so I saw a bunch of sleepy heads when I boarded.

Mike began the service with *"O Lord, our Lord."* He then read a letter of greeting Menno had written to all the churches we visit. Mike introduced the Children's recording we had just received new in CD form.

Mike said he would like to give a free CD to any child who could answer this question: "What was the name of the man---" (Hands shot up all over the auditorium. We laughed.) --who went into the belly of the whale?" The hands waved frantically. Mike picked a kid in a striped shirt.

"Jonah!"

"Second question: "What did he have to do to get out?"

A boy in a blue shirt said, "He prayed." Both boys were entitled to a free CDs.

The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

August 2006

Requested this morning were “*Behold the Lamb*,” and “*Praise Anthem*.” Marty did “*God on the Mountain*.” Loretta shared a little about the twins and then sang “*You can have a Song*.” We did “*Man on the Middle Cross*.”

Bethel United Mennonite Church Plain City, OH

EVENING

Tree shadows moved gently over fresh cut grass surrounding this sprawling, red brick church. Overhead was blue, blue sky. Why spend any time inside on this gorgeous summer day? I wanted to lay on my blanket on the grass. I could not get enough of the peaceful countryside.

The guys hurried to set up sound, then lounged around as usual, stretching out on benches to take naps or doing whatever their hearts desired.

A lite lunch was served at 4:30. We observed lunches being prepared for us for our trip home.

Since Junior wasn't along, Kenton had been asked to be in charge of evening devotions. But he had it easy this time since the Spain travelers were asked to share their experiences.

For us Spain travelers, our testimony was we were carried the whole trip by the prayers of the people who stayed behind. There were so many answers to prayers. Distributing 3, 611 packets of materials didn't happen easily. Or without spiritual warfare. We had it too. We joyed in the entire experience of sharing the gospel on the front lines; of spreading light and hope to the Muslim people who walk in so much darkness.

Heartbeat blessed the congregation tonight by doing “*Peace Speaker*,” a request. The men's quartet sang, “*Would You Truly Long for Heaven?*”

In the audience tonight were many familiar faces. Elmer Janzi, former teacher at Rosedale Bible Institute, was one. Also Walter Beachy, former principal.

Mike asked the audience how we would measure success? People coming in and out of our church

doors . . . would we say we are successful if 5 out of 10 people came and stayed at our church? We would surely be satisfied if 99 out of 100 were in the fold. Would we care enough for that one sheep that we'd leave the 99 to go after just one?? Mike had Marty come and sing, “*I'm the Lamb*.” It was powerful.

*“I'm the lamb that the Shepherd left
the flock for,*

I was out in the cold all alone,

So in need when Jesus found me,

He put his arms around me,

Now I'll never be alone anymore.”

One of my girlfriends told me after the service she really likes Marty's solos; every one of his songs.

Another said we really ministered to her. It was an absolutely wonderful program.

On the Side

One Thursday night, instead of rehearsing the entire evening, at about half time, we went to visit Menno and Grace at their home since he isn't able to get around as well right now because of his ailing foot.

We enjoyed the visit. Menno told us when the doctor decided to remove his small toe, he asked Menno if he wanted to have it. Menno said, No. Just get rid of it. Someone filled us in on the fact that when a limb is removed from your body in the state of PA, it needs to go to the undertaker and he needs to embalm it and bury it.

**AFTER SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT
MENNO'S TOE, JUNIOR CAME UP WITH
A BRIGHT IDEA; MAYBE WE SHOULD
GET A “TOE” TRUCK!**

Grace served us pretzels and ice cream for snack. It was a neat way to spend the evening and a joy to visit with Mennos again. Please keep him in your prayers that the diabetic sore on his foot will heal fast. God bless you.

-Compiled and edited by Lena Eicher