



The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

October 2006

Rockwood Alliance Church Rockwood, PA

SUN. OCT. 1, 2006

The rain from last night left colored fall leaves stuck to cars and sidewalks. The air was chilly this morning. Puffy rain clouds were gun-metal gray. We rolled out of the parking lot at 9:20 just ahead of arriving church traffic.

Brooke needed to read the Alice and Jerry book to me right away, so we had story time the first part of our ride.

We did it again. On a red carpeted stage, in a white, six-sided auditorium filled with mauve chairs, we gave another concert to a smiling attentive, audience. One of the ladies in the front row mouthed the words as we sang. There were tears.

Mike shared that he had a heavy heart this morning. A vehicle accident yesterday on Trent Road resulted in an entrapment. The person inside died. For that person life was over. This time it was him. Next time it could be you. Or me. A sobering thought. We sang *"If We Never Meet Again."*

Marty sang, *"He Giveth More Grace,"* probably my most favorite song that he does.

We sat down on the stage during intermission while the offering was being taken. Later, Pat Walsh, the pastor, said he turned to his wife and said, "Now aren't they just the picture of peace? When they get off the bus . . . when they sing?"

"That was worship!" a lady said after the service. "It was a wonderful time. They sang some of the old and some of the new. I'm so glad they came back."

At the door, Reverend Walsh speaking to parishioners as he shook their hands: "Are they wonderful or what?"

It's from God that we get our heritage, talents, and abilities. We give Him praise for everything.

Clinton Church of God Normallville, PA

EVENING

After the bus was parked, Brooke spent a leisurely afternoon reading the play, "Chestnut Roots" to Kenton who was going to play several parts at the Springs Folk Festival. The running

commentary between lines became rather humorous.

Somehow a rabbit trail led to Brooke informing him that during Mr. Yoder's science experiment they drank sugar water. "Then we drank water without sugar. It didn't have any taste!" (Hmm . . . what kind of water does this child normally drink??)

As usual, these folks laid out quite a spread for our supper.

For meditation this evening, Junior asked us to each share a personal proverb we had learned sometime in our lives. (He said if someone hasn't learned anything in life, we will all gather around and pray for that person :-). Here are the words of wisdom shared:

"The key to a happy life is to enjoy every day right where you're at." -Dwight

"Sharing our burdens with others by being open lightens our load." -Rodney

"Being comfortable with who and what you are makes people enjoy being with you." -Mike Pete

"A purposeful dependence on God can make His awesome love more real to you." -Melissa

"Instead of being discontent with what you don't have, focus on what you do have." -Melody

"If I haven't been there, and if I haven't done that, I don't know as much about it as I think I do." - Jr. Beachy

"Expect the unexpected. Actually, that's impossible. So when the unexpected comes, you just have to trust God, because he has your best in mind." -Geneva

"Never take a picture into a mirror unless you know what's behind it :-)" -Joel

(for more information on this one ask Joel)

"God is amazing. He is able to do above and beyond all that we can even ask or imagine, and he delights in answering our prayers." -Judith

"In life it does not matter so much what happens to you, but what happens in you." -Lyndon

"Circumstances in life may change, but God never changes. And God remains good." -La Von

"Haste makes waste." -Loren

"Life's circumstances can either make us or break us." -Monica

"What goes around, comes around." -Gerald

"A place for everything, and everything in its place." -Loretta

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"Older people have a wealth of wisdom and experience for us to tap in to and learn from."

-Lynnette

"When it seems as if your prayer is going unanswered, look for an unusual or unexpected answer."

-Joye

"God is either taking you through a journey, trial, etc. or He just brought you through one or He is preparing you for one."

-J.Y.

"Never say, "Never."

-Heidi

"It's easier to preach about what I see others practicing than to practice what I preach."

-Kenton

"Anything worthwhile takes effort and a plan."

-Lena

Mike read the letter of greetings Menno had given him to read to all the churches. What a service in this old, unpretentious church! The songs flowed out to the people, layer upon layer. *"God is waiting in the silence for a heart that he can fill . . ."* *"Oh, it is marvelous and wonderful, what Jesus has done for this soul of mine . . ."* *"Blessed Jesus hold my hand, yes I need Thee every hour, through this land this pilgrim land protect me by thy saving power . . ."* *"Pour it forth a Mighty Anthem like the thunders of the sea, through the blood of Christ our ransom, more than conquerors are we . . ."*

Mike asked Loretta to do, *"You Can Have a Song."* We ended the service with *"How Great Thou Art."* It was only 8 PM.

Traveling home, Marty announced over the intercom. "I just got a call on the CB. Someone said, 'The Mt. Anthems are my favorite group!'"

Jenners Grace Brethren Church Jenners, PA

SUN. OCT. 15, 2006

This was a crisp, sunny morning. Frost covered the low-lying areas. Chorus members boarded the bus, shivering. The Beachy sisters drove to the church since this was a trip close to home.

We welcomed Jason Beachy and his sister Kathy as visitors. Both had been faithful members of the chorus in years past. Michelle brought her friend, Joe Brenneman along. Brent Schrock also joined us. In 1988 he had been a Mt. Anthems baby when his

parents traveled with us.

We arrived at the Jenners Church at 8:45 AM. Loretta, Aimee, and Kenton led the group in prayer before we went upstairs to sing.

This small church was only about half full, made up mostly of senior citizens. Mike started us off with *"Where Two or Three or More."* We did *"O Lord, Our Lord"* and *"Our God, He is Alive."*

Loretta introduced the twins before doing, *"I Thirst."* She said Brooke really looks after Brock, especially now that he has broken his arm. On Tuesday the school had an activity at Swallow Falls. Climbing on the monkey bars, Brock fell and got a bad break on his arm above the wrist. He had to have surgery. His cast starts at his fingers and goes up to his shoulder. Brooke said one day all Brock let her do for him was to tie his shoes.

The audience enjoyed, *"I Found the Lily in My Valley."* Loretta said she felt pressed to say that in every stage of our lives we all deal with our own personal issues. She sees a lot of older folks today. We are younger people. No matter where we are, God meets us in our valleys.

In the audience were Kevin and Amy Yoder. Mike introduced Brent Schrock and told of his interest in joining the chorus.

Lunch was offered across the street. On the menu today: mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, turkey, pasta dishes and fruit salad. For dessert we could choose from various cakes.

Amity United Church of Christ Meyersdale, PA

EVENING

When you pick up an orange and start to peel it, what do you expect to find inside? An orange, did you say? Surprise! When Junior tried it, out popped an apple!

When people look at you, are you on the inside what you appear to be on the outside? Junior asked. Or are you wearing a mask? If your inner person were laid bare, what would people find? Are you terrified at the thought?

Why do we wear masks? Could one reason be pride? Also in the past when we became vulnerable and shared with someone, did they reject us?

Junior turned the apple and showed us were a

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chunk had been gouged out. He said when we hide our wounded side and put on a mask, we also hide the good side of us and people won't get to know that part. He challenged us to be open. To dare to be real.

The old auditorium was who-knows-how-old? Pale lemon colored walls rose to vaulted ceilings with open beams. Great acoustics. The windows were of stained glass. On the graduated floor stood heavy, red padded wooden benches.

We did "My Savior's Love," "The Holy Hills," "Deeper Than the Sin Stains," and finished with "Rise Glorious Conqueror." The auditorium rang.

Mike did Menno's solo, "Where No One Stands Alone." I believe this was the best I've ever heard Mike do this song. It brought tears to our eyes so see Menno get to his feet, from where he was sitting at the back of the church, and raise his hands to God.

Loretta did, "You Can Have a Song," and Mike dedicated it to Menno.

A number of Mt. View Church home folks sat in the audience along with friends and acquaintances. It was good to have their support.

After the service a lady and her husband exclaimed to me about the songs, how much they enjoyed them.

World Missionary Press New Paris, IN

Oct. 21, 2006

There were only two vehicles in the dark parking lot when the Beachy girls and I arrived. Then vehicles sailed in for 6:30 AM leaving time.

The bus was well populated for a change. Rest stop at the service plaza along the turnpike, shortly after 9, woke everyone up. Sunshine streamed in through the bus windows. It was a blue, cloudless day.

The line at Mc Donald's moved so slowly we decided to do without breakfast. Even coffee.

WE WERE READY TO LEAVE FROM THE REST STOP. MARTY ASKED, "IS EVERYONE HERE?"

"CLOSE ENOUGH!" LOREN HOLLERED FROM THE BACK.

Along the turnpike, driving through flat Ohio and Indiana, once lush green corn fields were now brown and withered on large farms. Here and there lay a reflecting pond. And then brown woods.

We arrived at our destination at 2:45 PM. The building in the shopping plaza where the banquet would be held had been a former Wal-Mart.

Inside, the large hall was full of round tables set for the dinner. On the tables was literature and yellow numbered signs.

It was an inspiring and thought-provoking evening. We sang from 5:30-5:50 and then again from 7:55-8:10. A timer was used so speakers wouldn't go overtime. Orie Schrock had always wanted to be a missionary. After his invalid wife died, whom he had cared for for 20 years, he volunteered at WMP. He's 82 and still works 5 days a week.

WMP produced 54,647,100 items of Scripture this fiscal year. The bindery they bought comes from the CIA building in Washington, D.C. Along with the bindery came \$15,000 worth of extra parts.

We sang, "Little is Much," "Our God, He is Alive," and "Gone." Tears showed in the eyes of people during, "I Found the Lily in my Valley."

George Saieg, in a robe of gray and black, gave an Arabic Christian perspective. He said an ad for Coke was run in his country. Two mosquitoes were sucking on a straw and talking to each other.

"Oh this Coke is good! We won't feast on human blood any more. This Coke is so good!" George's message to us: We have something far better than Coke to offer to the thirsty people of this world.

Santosh Thomas traveled here from Kashmir, India, where he is a missionary. At 16,000 feet, that place is called "the rooftop of the world." People live there without heat in their houses, they just dress warmer.

Santosh said he flew 36 hrs. to get here and gets to talk only 31 minutes. This happens only in America.

Kashmir is divided into 3 people groups and is bordered by Afghanistan and Pakistan. Only 0.01 percent of the people are Christians.

A man went into a shop. "Can you tell me," he asked the owner, "are there any Christians here?" The shopkeeper looked all around his shop. "I'm

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sorry," he said, "I don't have any here. Maybe you can find some at the next shop."

Santosh went to a prison to distribute literature to Islamic terrorists. After he finished, the terrorists asked him to stay longer and talk more about his message. He stayed and talked two more hours.

Woodlawn Amish Mennonite Church Goshen, IN

SUN. OCT. 22, 2006

The cold, windy, and rainy weather did nothing to dampen the spirit of worship in the service this morning. It was a rich. We did "*Come Bless the Lord*," and "*Ten Thousand Angels*," followed by "*Christ Who Left His Home in Glory*," and nearly raised the roof.

Mike did Menno's "*Early in the Morning*" solo by request. After "*I Found the Lily in my Valley*," by Loretta, and Marty's solo, "*God on the Mountain*," an older gentleman got up and in a faltering voice said he's in that valley right now. Marty led in a prayer for him.

The chorus got in on a special event this morning; a newly ordained minister delivered his first sermon. Dean Miller titled his sermon, "How is your Song?" Several people gave testimonies of how blest they had been with the singing and the message.

Fairhaven Amish Mennonite Church Goshen, IN

AFTERNOON

Fairhaven has their church in a brick building, only 2 years old. Muted floral padding covers beautiful oak benches on brown carpeting. Behind the large reception area is a huge social hall where community wedding receptions are held.

We met in the sewing room. Junior led us in a time of sharing before the service. It was a time of binding together. Mike prayed for us as a chorus and Junior prayed for Mike.

"God is waiting in the silence for a heart that he can fill . . ." That large audience was absolutely silent. It probably has to do with our people being "the stille in the land."

I thought Mike did a great job on "The Cross in the Middle." He hit the spike just right. It was his first time doing that solo of Menno's

We felt sorry for the Chicago group that arrived about halfway through the second half. We learned after the service they had started their church service an hour early just so they could be here. Then church went overtime and they got a late start.

We began our long trek back to PA around 4:45 PM with packed lunches. Mike expressed his appreciation to us for putting ourselves into the services. To show their love to us, he and Lynnette had brought candy to pass around. We arrived home safely at midnight. Thanks Lord, again, and again, and again for a fantastic year.

-Lena Eicher