



# The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

August 2008

**August 2, 2008**

## **Zion Christian Fellowship**

At 1:00 p.m. we were heading for Middlefield, OH, for an overnight trip. We reached our destination at 5:10 p.m. We had a wonderful meal that included some of the best grilled chicken that I've had in quite a while!

*We had a very meaningful service tonight. The church house was well-filled, and the people just seemed to soak our songs into their hearts. Menno sang two solos. They were "The Cross in the Middle" and "Where No One Stands Alone." While he was singing, there were quite a few tears shed by the audience. A ladies' trio consisting of Lynnette, Becca, and Joye sang "A Fugitive from God" tonight for the first time. Good job, girls!*

*During the first part of the service, I could see two boys that were sitting together toward the back, and they weren't paying too much attention. They were busy with other things until Menno sang "The Cross in the Middle." The one boy put his head down, and after that he sat there and was very attentive, which really blessed me.*

*During the second half, Mike asked for requests which were, "I Dreamed I Searched Heaven for You," "Where Will you Be," "I'm Not Ashamed," "He Giveth More Grace," and "Gott Ist de Liebe."*

### **Funny Happening of the Evening**

*After we were already lined up and ready to go in, one of the girls was leaning against the wall and felt something prickly in the shoulder of her dress. To her surprise, she pulled out a small laundry "lint-catcher" ball.*

*By Wanda Swartzentruber*

I should also mention that we had requests for two of Loretta's solos: "I Found the Lily in My Valley" and "Wish You Were Here."

**August 3, 2008**

## **Pilgrim Mennonite Church**

Our morning service started at 10:00 a.m. and went to 11:30 a.m. Mike had warned us that it would be a full service. Requests for today were "The Cross in the Middle," "Had it Not Been," and "God on the Mountain."

At break time the men's quartet sang "For God so Loved the World," and then the ladies started the second standing with "Lean on Me." We sang a number of songs about the cross and the blood of Christ. Mike had

the audience help sing on "Show a Little Bit of Love and Kindness." The audience remained attentive despite the length of the service and the hot weather.

One lady had three nose bleeds this weekend. It was a definite aggravation, but God's control of the timing was amazing! The first one occurred Saturday evening at her host's place, the second right after we were done singing this morning, and the third during intermission at the evening service. None of them started while she was singing!

After a wonderful carry-in lunch, we were on the road again. We left at 1:00 p.m. for the long 3 hour and 15 minute drive to Masontown, PA. Such a long drive gives everyone but the driver time for a long Sunday afternoon nap! There are a few people foregoing the chance for a nap in favor of a chat or a good book, but, for the most part, the bus is quiet.

A young lady was unable to find her covering and exclaimed, "How in the world can you lose a covering?" The gentleman sitting in front of her turned around to see if he could be of assistance and was able to inform her that the item in question was still perched on her head. The young lady was much chagrined!

After our rest stop, things became livelier again, especially in the back of the bus! They got so loud they woke me from my nap! "How rude," I thought, but then I remembered times when I'm having a good time and get rather loud myself. It's all part of "bus life."

## **Masontown Mennonite Church**

The bus pulled into the parking lot of Masontown Mennonite Church at 4:30. Supper was scheduled to be served at 4:30, so we all got off the bus and found our way through the complicated church to the basement where they had supper waiting for us. We did our norm of eating and gabbing, and then impatiently waiting for Mike to start the "Thank You" song so that we can go and get cleaned up for the service.

Joel and Doug tried their hand at setting up sound. They got it pretty close, but they were glad that Loren was there to do the "final touch". That way if it sounded bad it was his fault.☺

We met for devotions at 6:00 down in the basement where we ate supper. Most of the time was spent with sharing. Several people shared how they had been blessed by the service the night before. It is amazing how you

can sing the same songs over and over and still be blessed by them.

We were lined up and ready to go in at 6:30. We thought that they were going to have an opening song before we went in, but after a bit, a lady comes to the door and motions for us to come in. Well, we went in while the congregation all clapped, and then they had their opening song with us standing up front, and a little boy standing in the aisle doing a little jig.

It was a very good service. The audience soaked up all the songs and clapped after each one. After the song "I Bowed on My Knees and Cried Holy" a lot of people stood and clapped. It was a very spirit-filled service.

While Menno was singing "Ready to Go" and "Where Will You Be a Million Years from Now," I (Doug) had to think about some dear older people in Mongolia who were kind of like grandparents to me. They had made a decision to follow Jesus, but later decided that they were not going to walk with Him anymore. I had to think about how they are not ready to go, and if they do not accept Jesus, then in a million years they will be suffering in hell. I just had to cry at the heart-breaking thought. Please pray for their salvation.

For the last song the quartet sang "Midnight Cry." They struggled at several parts in the song but finished well.

After the service we tore down our stuff and were ready to leave by 8:45. The back of the bus was well-entertained by a wild game for the one and a half hour ride home. We pulled into the parking lot at 10:10. Everyone was overjoyed to be home so early. There was a lot more chattering as people got into their cars than when we get home at 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning. It was a great trip, but we were happy to be home nice and early.

By Doug Yoder

## **August 16, 2008**

### **Shekinah Christian Fellowship**

*We left the Mt. Anthems building at 12 noon, with a beautiful sunny afternoon for traveling. A total of ten people were unable to travel with us this weekend for a variety of reasons. The roll*

*call on the bus was twenty-five: six soprano, three alto, six tenor, and five bass.*

*We had a rest stop around 1:45. Arlin drove after the rest stop, and the men's quartet worked on some of their songs.*

*We arrived at Shekinah a few minutes before 4:00. At 4:30 we were served a meal of hot ham and cheese sandwiches, baked beans, chips and delight.*

*The service began with scripture, prayer, and two congregational songs. The chorus opened with "Even Winds Whisper His Name," followed by Marty singing "How Big is God!" Mike shared about a man he met, a Quaker who studied different religions, but didn't know where he would go if he died.*

*Menno sang "The Cross in the Middle" and "Where Will You Be" in the first standing. The ladies' trio sang "A Fugitive from God." The moderator closed with the thought that we will all be somewhere after death. The Shekinah Christian Fellowship and Shady Lawn congregations hosted us for the night.*

*The Lord blessed us with safe traveling, friendly people, and a good service. We have a "Great and Awesome God" to serve.*

By Joyce Schrock

## **August 17, 2008**

### **Free Grace Brethren in Christ Church**

We met at 8:00 a.m., loaded luggage and headed for our morning's destination. We received such a warm welcome! It has been many years since we sang in this church. They told us they had been praying for today's service. I was so pleased to hear that, but it meant they were expecting a lot from our program. Thankfully, we serve an awesome God Who gives abundantly more than we can imagine.

The service went very well, and we felt the presence of God. There were requests for "Come on Home" and "Marriage Supper of the Lamb." Marty sang "He Giveth More Grace."

We were served a family-style meal. The food was excellent, and we enjoyed the fellowship very much!

We left at 1:30 p.m. and had some wonderful nap-time during our two hour drive. Not everyone napped, but a large majority of us did.

### **Mattawanna Mennonite Church**

We arrived here at 3:00 p.m. We had a light meal, and then it was time to "pucker and primp" before devotions.

It was a bit hot and stuffy in the basement, but thankfully the auditorium was air-conditioned. The church was packed full. Even the entryway boasted several chairs.

This evening Marty sang "God on the Mountain." Menno filled requests for "Early in the Morning" and "Where Will You Be?" The men's quartet sang "Midnight Cry" and "For God so Loved the World." After the closing prayer, Mike was inspired to sing "I'm Not Ashamed."

The recording stand did a brisk business while the fellows tore down sound and risers. Most of the girls were changing clothes for the drive home. After the boys are done stowing away the equipment, they turn into quick-change artists, and the boys who help with the recording stand relieve the girls working at the stand so they can change too if they are so inclined. I know to some folks it may seem unnecessary, but it sure feels good to travel in something you haven't already sweated in for a whole day. Also, casual clothes are generally more comfortable than dress clothes.

We headed for home at 9:30 p.m. We have a three and a half hour drive home. That means we should be getting there about 1:00 a.m. God bless the "Oaklandites" who have another 45 minutes or an hour's drive before they get home. Once again we owe praise to God for granting us safety as we traveled.

## **August 30, 2008**

### **Bethany Fellowship Church**

It's 7:30 a.m., and the bus is nearly ready to roll. We got started just a few minutes late. Menno is here to see us off. He's wearing his cowboy hat and carrying his walking stick. ("I thought I should dress as if I'm staying home.") He and Grace won't be along this trip. We're heading for Indiana.

We are small in number with four sopranos, four altos, four basses, and six tenors. There are several family groups missing because they are attending various events at home. We are praying that God will especially bless us with strong, clear voices. It's hard to sing well when you're battling colds or allergies.

After much driving and two rest stops, we arrived at Bethany School for our evening meal. We then headed a few miles down the road to the church to set up and change clothes.

Kenton directed this evening so that Mike could sing with the bass. Requests included "The Lord is my Light" and "I'm too Near Home." Both the men's quartet and the ladies' trio shared songs this evening, the ladies before break and the men after break. Kenton chose a lot of songs about heaven for the second half. We ended with a

note of praise in "O, for a Thousand Tongues." Solos tonight were "Sin Will Take you Farther," "Though Your Sins be as Scarlet," and "Early in the Morning."

After the service the church youth invited us back to the school for some volleyball. A good time was had by all. Hopefully they'll be just raring to go when it comes to tomorrow's early start!☺

## **August 31, 2008**

### **Clay Street Amish Mennonite Church**

**Very few times before did I wish to just stay in bed more than I did this morning. After playing volleyball and staying up late talking with my host the night before, there was not much time for sleeping. However, after the alarm went off for the fourth time, it was time to get up, shower, and swallow some cinnamon toast crunch in time to be at the church to leave by 7:00.**

**The sunrise this morning was very beautiful and inspiring. As we loaded the bus, many people commented about admiring it on the way there. What a perfect way to start the day. Most of us felt like I did that morning and were soon back to napping on our way to the next church.**

**We had a cancellation about a week or two ago for our service this morning, so Mike had been on the phone trying to line up another church. It seemed that through the phone calls and the timing of everything that God was leading us to this church this morning.**

**When we arrived, some us guys proceeded to set up sound, which was a bit of an adventure this weekend since there were very few singers (18), and some of our main sound guys were not along, but we figured it out and everything went well. Most of us met before the service as we often do, to pray and ask the Lord to be with us and bless the morning.**

**The Lord did indeed answer our prayer. The people seemed to be blessed. There were especially many tears shed during Marty's solo "I Claim the Blood." The pastor gave the people a chance to share after we were done singing, and it was good and encouraging to me to hear the testimonies of how God spoke to them through the songs we sang. We also got to listen to a sermon this morning. Something we don't often get to do when we are on a trip. It was a very good morning that I believe the Lord had a hand in directing.**

**They served us a very good meal afterwards, and since we had the afternoon off, we took our time and enjoyed it to the full (and we were full.)**

**By Brent Schrock**

There is one incident that Brent forgot to mention. When we met in the morning, Mike realized that he

couldn't find his manila folder. He uses it to help himself stay organized. He checked everywhere he could think of and asked his wife if she had seen it. No one seemed to know where it was, so he jumped into someone's truck, and they left for the school where we ate supper the night before to see if he left it there.

After he left, someone wondered where Mike was going, and Lynnette explained what was happening. Suddenly the manila envelope appeared. It was there all the time in the custody of one of his brothers. They had found it in the gym at the school, lying on the floor. They picked it up and brought it along because they figured Mike had forgotten it. However, he hadn't realized what Mike was looking for and hadn't bothered to give it to him yet. He thought he'd hand it over when Mike came back to sit down. Talk about a lack of communication! The saying, "All's well that ends well" seems to apply here. ☺

### **Northwood High School Auditorium**

After we ate lunch, we piled back on to the bus and headed for James and Gladys Yoder's. They had invited the whole gang to hang out at their place. We spent a very enjoyable time renewing "old acquaintances." A lot of Mt. Anthems' personnel taught VBS in Sioux Narrows while James' family was there.

By 4:45 p.m. we were back on the bus and heading for the high school. Our main sound-man wasn't along this weekend, so Joel, with Marty's help, set the sound. He did a good job despite his uncertainties. We were told that this auditorium holds 700 people. We didn't quite pack the place out, but it was respectably full.

Marty sang "God on the Mountain" and Mike sang "I'm Not Ashamed." The men's quartet sang "Wonderful Shepherd" and "Resurrection Ground" during our

break time. Mike shared a testimony about a time in his life when he was suicidal, then he sang "Where No One Stands Alone." After we sang "Never Ending Joy," a gentleman in front shouted, "Sing it again!" We complied. I think that's the first time I remember doing an encore on that particular song. We ended the service by having the audience stand and sing "Our God, He is Alive" with us. The auditorium had great acoustics! What an awe-inspiring ending to our evening.

Due to various circumstances we decided to travel home Sunday evening instead of waiting until Monday as we usually do. It was actually the bus driver's suggestion initially. So now we are headed home. We have a long 7 ½ to 8 hour drive. The host church prepared packed lunches for us to take with us. We had asked them to do that instead of feeding us before the service.

We left the school close to 10:00 p.m., so we should be home around 6:00 a.m. if all goes well. Of course that might depend on how many rest stops we need to make on the way home. They sent a large number of extra drinks with us, and one of the boys thought they must want us to stop frequently.

We did arrive at the building by 6:00 a.m., a tired bunch, but happy to be at home and not just getting up to start our trip home.

My prayer is that God would bless the songs we sang and the pieces of music people bought. We may sow the seed, but only God can bring forth the fruit. He is worthy of all the praise for the good things that happened on this trip. Despite our small number, God is still blessing people through the message of the songs we sing. As you can see from some of the things people have shared this month, the chorus members are blessed as well.

So long for now. I'll be talking to you next month. Until then, may God be a strong presence in your life.