

# THE MOUNTAIN ANTHEMS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2005

## Pleasant Ridge Church of the Brethren Needmore, PA

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 4**

*"In a world of fear and turmoil,  
in a race that seems so hard to run,  
Lord I need thy rich infilling,  
even so Lord Jesus come."*

We sang this at Grace's request and how appropriate for the time in which we live. It's fearful for the sinner; those who watch world events and make no sense from them. For the Christian, the common denominator is always God.

We enjoyed a beautiful, sunny day. Left at a comfortable 8:20 a.m. with lots of visitors on board. Corinda and Evan Sommers with cousins John and Wesley Sommers all were with us. Ryan Yoder came with special friend, Liz Eicher. Mike Petersheim and Becky Dornburg also contributed to the fun and laughter of the day.

We welcomed Ron back from his trip to Belize. Also Lori from her summer in Canada. Gerald's were unable to travel with us because Loretta was sick.

We did the entire service in a one hour standing to an auditorium half full. Menno was in charge. He said on Saturday night while he was preparing, the song, "*I Dreamed I Searched Heaven for You*" just seemed to jump out at him. So we sang it. Afterward, he gave opportunity to anyone in need of prayer to raise his hand.

Over the bank from the parking lot, in a grove of trees, stood a large pavilion. What an awesome day for a picnic! Brilliant sunshine and no humidity. The tables were loaded and the food delectable. It's always great to fellowship over a meal after a time of sharing spiritual food with a congregation.

### **AFTERNOON**

We cleaned up and had another service at this church. Mike was in charge. We sang, "*Under His Wings*," and "*Father's House*." Marty did "*God on the Mountain*." Mike asked us if high gas prices make us feel uncertain. What about the mess down in New Orleans? Isn't it wonderful to have a place of peace to go to in troubled times? Then we did "*Peace, Perfect Peace*."

## Long Meadow Church of the Brethren Hagerstown, MD

### **EVENING**

For devotions this evening, Kevin challenged us with stories of people who received answers to their earnest prayers: Hannah prayed for a son; Elijah prayed that it wouldn't rain; the church prayed for deliverance for Peter when he was locked in the prison. We are all praying for a good recording day, Kevin said. If we pray and believe, God will answer our prayers.

Menno led the first half of the service with Mike finishing the evening. After we sang, "*I'll have a New Body*," Menno said he is 79 years old now. In his young days he felt like he could take on anything. Now his body is feeling it's age. When he gets to heaven, he'll be young again. Other songs we did were, "*We Shall Shine as the Stars*," and "*Jesus Will Outshine Them All*."

Both Menno and Mike said they would be grieved if we got to heaven and *one* of the Mountain Anthems would be missing. The church too was challenged to diligently prepare for heaven.

On the way home "*the back of the bus*" version of "*Happy Birthday*," was sung for Rose whose birthday is on Tuesday. It was sung so exceptionally out of tune that I think serious consideration should be given to doing it as a single.

## Recording Day Alive Studio, Harrisonburg, VA

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 10**

(Loretta and Kenton contributed to this report since they were invited to the sound room to evaluate each song after it was recorded.)

What goes on in the spirit world in the weeks and days preceding a Mt. Anthems recording? Prayers ascend. Angels fight with the powers of darkness. More urgent prayers follow. Satan's strategies are confused. Darts get through. Prayer blocks others. On the day of recording so many prayers are ascending that the Mt. Anthems have a heavy cover.

We rolled out of the parking lot at 5.40 am., Arlin was at the wheel. Dense patches of fog hung over the lowlands. We changed drivers at Winchester and Gerald took over. Wispy dawn clouds of pink and tangerine took on an ethereal appearance, the kind Jesus might step out on if he chose to come today.

Recording for Kenton was different this year. On the Christmas recording he had directed two songs and also listened to most of them in his capacity as assistant director.

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This year he was responsible for the new projector system (run by a laptop computer) which he would use to show all our music rather than taking along sheet music and stands as we had in years past. He was responsible to make sure that all the music was scanned in, arranged, and ready to present. He also needed to make sure cords, cables, and the stand for the laptop came along.

Halfway down to Alive, Kenton suddenly thought of it that he should've brought our projector screen along. He had been told there was a large one at the studio. But there was plenty of room on the bus and we could've loaded ours "just in case."

We arrived at the studio at 9 am. The chorus lounged around in the break room while Mike, Kenton, Menno, and others prepared the studio.

The first thing Kenton noticed upon entering, was the extremely tiny screen--approximately half the size they had been told it would be. It was too small to place the projector far enough away so that its fan noise would not be picked up by the microphones. They had discussed putting the projector on the back side of the microphones, which would have put it close enough to the screen (although the image still would have been limited by the size of the screen.). However, recording engineer, Sam, had placed two microphones far enough behind the other microphones to pick up the sound of the entire chorus to add into the mix. So Kenton couldn't place the projector there. What to do?

They spent well over an hour trying to figure a way around this problem. Every time they wanted to try a spot, the projector had to be plugged in, go through the warm-up cycle, experiment and be found unsuitable, turn off the projector and let it go through a cool-down cycle so that the bulb wouldn't blow, unplug the cords and get ready to move again. That probably took 7-8 minutes per attempt.

(They also lost ten minutes at the beginning when Kenton was trying to figure out why he couldn't get an image projected from the laptop. Finally he was wise enough to check his cables and discovered he had plugged into the wrong slot in the projector. Mike prayed furiously, probably while developing an ulcer. "Nerves were tense and spirits tried," and it was still morning, not eventide.

Dorothy Hartman saved the day by suggesting the use of long sheets of white table paper covering a portion of the front wall of the studio to form a make-

shift screen. One of the studio engineers got out a VERY tall ladder and several people helped hang the paper. Kenton found a spot to set the projector inside an isolation booth (to cut the sound), and we were finally ready to go. Kenton felt very bad for Mike, because we knew coming down it was going to be a big day, and now it was already past 10:30, and nothing had been accomplished yet on the recording.

We made slow progress in the remaining morning time, because we were trying to get some of the more difficult songs recorded. When Mike, Loretta, and Kenton would go into the control room to listen to a recent take, Sam was always very careful to keep pushing the decision back on them.

*"Is this the sound you want?"*

*"Are the bass doing their best on that slur?"*

*"I hear a dominant alto."*

*"I believe the tenor are flattening a bit."*

*"Why don't you switch a few soprano, maybe you'll get a better sound."*

Sam is very calm, easygoing, soft-spoken, and gentle. Despite the difficulty of making some of the decisions, this made the atmosphere in the control room very relaxed and non-threatening.

When we wanted to do "Peace Speaker" Anita thought she couldn't do her part because of a cold. But we went ahead and demonstrated to Sam how it's done so he'd understand how the parts inter-mingle. I prayed fervently that the sound of the cold in her voice would not come through. It didn't. Sam thought the song was good enough for us to record.

The isolation booth was about the size of a telephone booth without a roof. Plexiglas surrounded the top above the wooden sides. When Amy and Lynn stood in this box to do their high part for "*I sing the Mighty Power of God*," the chorus bled so much into their mic that Sam put a lid on the box. We still bled through. So Sam decided they'd do their part separately.

We had trouble seeing Loretta in the box so we turned on the overhead lights to do her solo. Since they put out a lot of heat, and the A/C is turned off during recording, it got pretty warm in the studio.

To entertain us, after a song was recorded and the chorus was lounging around, Junior collected water bottles and built a tower. He managed 5 on top of each other before they fell.

Sam cracked jokes with Mike and us through the window so often that we didn't need the traditional jokes read to us to keep things light.

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Menno had given his word to Mike that he would let him be “totally in charge.” Sitting in the control room all day and not offering an opinion was surely a different position for Menno but one that he did well.

Menno had done well on the second “take” of his solo, “*Stand By Me*,” but then Sam told him he sounded glassy, so the Plexiglas was taken off of the booth and he recorded a third time.

On short notice, Mike filled in and directed the solos, doing an outstanding job. We had not practiced with the soloists in the isolation booth, because we didn’t know that was what Sam would want. We had always practiced with the soloists directing the chorus backup parts the way they wanted it done, assuming that the soloist would then record their part while listening to the backup later. Sam felt we would get a better sound if we recorded soloists and backup simultaneously (but with the soloist in the isoboth), so we modified our plans.

Mike Petersheim was a big help. He was able to run the laptop and projector for Kenton so he could focus on singing, etc. Mike hadn’t been able to rehearse with us, so he didn’t feel able to help sing for the recording, but Kenton was very grateful for the assistance he gave.

The last song was recorded by 6 pm. Then we re-did “Living Water.”

With a spirit of subdued jubilation and a collective sigh, we enjoyed a delicious meal at the Golden Corral and arrived home by 12:20 am.. The Lord be praised---he answered many prayers today.

## Goshen Mennonite Church Laytonsville, MD

(Submitted by Gerald Tice)

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 18**

We left at 6:30 this morning for Laytonsville. Like all other mornings, the bus was running. Ah! The sound of a good diesel engine.

We stopped at Sidling Hill Rest Area for a restroom break because the church has only outdoor facilities. The church house was built in the 1800’s and is a historical landmark. They are in the process of adding restrooms attached only with a breezeway so they do not disturb the historical prominence of the building. They had a segregated place, in the old days, with it’s own staircase for slaves.

Arriving at our destination 4 minutes early, Pastor Lee Mummau had Marty go past the church to a side street to turn around and approach the semi

circle driveway from the other side and pull in instead of back in like we did in the past. This must be one of the hardest entrances to get into that we have in our travels. Marty did it again with confidence and with very little room to spare on either side.

The pastor greeted us and said he wanted to get us excited with a scripture he read that morning from Job. “*The worm may eat my body, but my flesh will someday see God.*” We perhaps looked unenergized coming out of our reposed stupor. This man was more excited about receiving our message than I was about giving it. God help us!

Menno directed the first half and Mike the second. Requested at this service were, “*Sin will Take You Farther*,” by Marty and “*I Found the Lily in My Valley*,” by Loretta. Two older songs we did were Bill Gaither’s “*I Will Serve Thee*,” and “*The Lighthouse*,” written by Ronnie Hinson.

For a small church, they fed us well and had ample food.

## Grace Memorial Community Church Cumberland, MD

**EVENING**

This church is located on Seton Drive, close to Sacred Heart Hospital. The program started at 6 pm. and they gave us a snack afterwards. Mike directed the entire service. The last song we sang was “*Gone*.” After we finished, Menno said, “We can do that again.” The men’s quartet also did their new song, “*Midnight Cry*.”

Guests with us today were Lynita, Judith, and Crystal Yoder. Just like we need more Yoders on the bus.

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There were only three altos in the morning service. Loretta joined them for the evening service. There were 3 tenors who sang.

We had only 45 minutes home which got us to bed earlier than sometimes.

God take our efforts of the day and bless every soul that we came in contact with.

-compiled by Lena Eicher