

THE MOUNTAIN ANTHEMS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2005

Montgomery Brethren in Christ Greencastle, PA

SUNDAY, OCT. 2

We boarded the bus in cool and foggy darkness. Rolled out of the parking lot at 6:50 a.m. Millard and Diane Schrock, Judith Yoder, and Fannie Beachy joined us today as visitors. We arrived on the minute at our destination.

*"We're in Father's House
we are not alone;
We're in Father's House
make yourself at home,
The blessing table's spread
there's plenty to go around
We're all family here
we're in Father's House."*

We were definitely in Father's house this morning. We did several songs for the congregation then broke up for Sunday School. The adult class stayed in the auditorium and we were led in an inspiring discussion about Stephen and the Jewish leaders who hated him. Question: *Do you expect to suffer persecution?* Conclusion of the discussion: *If you hold on to truth; if you take a stand for what is right; if you live above the norm instead of blending in, yes, you'll suffer persecution.*

Mike led the worship service. He said he had trouble coming to grips with how a great God can come and live in our hearts. After Marty sang, *"I Claim the Blood,"* Menno asked for time out. He wondered if anyone remembered what happened today a year ago. Marty was in the hospital for triple by-pass surgery.

A number of listeners had tears. By request, Loretta did *"I Found the Lily in My Valley."* Mike introduced Marty as Loretta's brother and also had Millard and Diane stand. Millard is also a brother and a former Mt. Anthems member.

Brock and Brooke sang, *"I am Redeemed."*

All through the service chorus members froze from air blowing down directly on us from A/C ducts.

**WHILE LYNDON AND I SAT ON THE
BACK BENCHES IN CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
WAITING FOR THE REST OF THE
CHORUS TO COME TO LINE UP, WE
WERE OBSERVING THE NOISY LITTLE**

**KIDS UP FRONT PREPARING FOR
CLASS. A LITTLE GIRL, ABOUT 10, GOT
UP TO TAKE CHARGE. GLANCING BACK
AT LYNDON AND I, SHE SAID
EMPHATICALLY, "YOU'D BETTER
BEHAVE. THERE ARE GOING TO BE
SOME TEENAGERS IN CHURCH THIS
MORNING!"**

**DINNER AT PASTOR DENNIS RICHEY'S
CHURCH IS A SUMPTUOUS FEAST.
WHEN WE WALKED INTO THE GYM AND
OBSERVED THE SPREAD, GLORIA SAID,
"I THINK THIS IS HOW THE MARRIAGE
SUPPER OF THE LAMB WILL LOOK."**

As is tradition, Kevin, the former church pianist, played for the chorus after lunch before we parted.

Mummert's Church of the Brethren East Berlin, PA

EVENING

I asked Marty what he does to prepare the bus for a normal trip like this. "This time it was easier than sometimes," he said. Our faithful driver had already fueled up on Monday evening. Bus inspection includes checking windows, lights, belts, coolant hoses, exhaust system, and engine oil. Marty had also done a partial washing of the outside. *Thanks, for being such a faithful man, Marty.* We have been saved many a mechanical problem along the road because of Marty's watchful eyes.

Under Menno's direction, in the first half of the service, we did *"Yes, I Know,"* and *"The Holy Hills."* Before break we sang, *"Where Will You Be?"*

In the second half, Mike asked the congregation if they have ever, like Abraham, prayed for a 'son'? After 10 or 15 years the heavens remained brass. No answer. God's math isn't coming out like their math. Mike led us in *"Don't Give Up."*

It's a joy to sing to a responsive congregation. They joined us in singing *"Our God He is Alive"* until the rafters rang.

After the service, several ladies told a chorus member how much they enjoyed the service, especially Loretta's solo, *"You Can Have a Song."* They regretted not being able to purchase the recording tonight.

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Indian Head Church of God Indian Head, PA

SUNDAY, OCT. 16

The temp was a low 43 degrees. Six bus seats were empty toward the front. At 9:15 a.m., the church parking lot was quickly filling up as we pulled out. Auburn, rust, and emerald color dotted the mountain ranges.

Mike Yoder and Lynnette had gone to Colorado for a wedding and planned to fly home this morning. So Menno directed the whole service.

At about 11:35, the boom for the tenor mic started to drop. Kevin went down and tightened it.

A few songs later, it dropped again. Kevin tightened it again. During Menno's solo, "*Stand by Me*," our last song, both Kevin and I were hanging on to it. The old boom for the bass mic stood straight and tall the entire service. It was the newer one, less tried, that didn't "stand by me."

In many ways, this was an ordinary service. But ordinary? Really none of our services are ordinary where the Spirit of the Lord is working. One person adjusts his life because of a phrase in "*The Cross in the Middle*," a requested number. Another makes a commitment after Marty's solo, "*Sin Will Take You Farther*." Still another is encouraged by "*God on the Mountain*," another request. God says his word will not return to Him void. From this day forward, we have made a difference in the lives of many in *this* congregation.

A number of people expressed their deep appreciation for the song service. "I lost my mother two weeks ago," a man from Lancaster, PA told Menno. "These songs were just for me. This is where the Lord wanted me this morning and I'm leaving filled up."

**CAUGHT IN PASSING (FROM BROOKE):
"BOYS ARE FUNNER THAN GIRLS."**

Laurel View Village Rest Home Davidsville, PA

AFTERNOON

It was windy and turning colder. Billowy gray storm clouds scudded by overhead.

The old folks joined in singing, "*The Old Rugged Cross*," *Oh, How I Love Jesus*," and "*How Great Thou Art*." So many smiles; happy faces.

Menno introduced us and said he liked to call Wes Yoder, the resident pastor, because his dogs were recorded on his answering machine.

Requested this service was, "*I Found the Lily in my Valley*," "*'Till the Storm Passes By*," and "*Hallelujah Square*."

Kevin and Amy Yoder were guests in the audience. About halfway through the service, Mike and Lynn stood in the doorway.

Near the end of the service the alto voices got wobbly. A lady to their left, near the front hollered out, "When will this be over? Goodness! I need air. I NEED AIR!"

Wes Yoder asked the chorus to linger in the lobby after dismissal. The old folks would be coming along to meet us and shake our hands.

"We LOVED that singing!" several ladies gushed.

Another one said, "I *never* heard that "*Hallelujah Square*" song before. I am 82 years old. Where have I been all my life?? It was *beautiful!*"

The entire service was a blessing to me seeing how they were blest.

Christian Alliance Church Johnstown, PA

EVENING

Did you know that Cheerios are donut seeds? And a good business to get in to would be raisin' cookies? Ask Lyndon and Loren. They know about these things.

At break time, the Beachy trio did "*El Shaddai*." The men's quartet sang, "*Would you Truly Long for Heaven*" by request.

Mike, in the second half, said he was so impressed with the beauty of Colorado. "Which do you think was easier for God to do," he asked the church, "creating the world in six days or letting his Son leave heaven for a sin-dark world?"

We did "Angel's Song," for Lorraine. On Tuesday she leaves for a month in Africa.

In the vestibule, a lady told me their on-line Christian chat room met this week-end for a reunion. This service topped it off. The group hails from Connecticut, Vermont, New York, Boston, East and West Penn., and Indiana. They've been chatting for the past 7 years and every few years they meet in person. They were all in attendance this evening.

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Old Bethel Church Markelton, PA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

A cloudless, sunny day, the last scheduled trip on our itinerary. Little Jordan Beachy came along for the ride and brought a lot of energy to the twin's seat. We heard about dreams and fish from Brock. As we approached the church, Jordan confided, "I'm getting 'novice'."

Judith and Edith Yoder also traveled with us.

The church bulletin had this to say:

Please help us Welcome our special guests who come to minister to us today--THE MOUNTAIN ANTHEMS under the direction of Menno Beachy.

Any group is only as good as it's leader. The Mountain Anthems are a tribute to the leadership of Menno Beachy. Give God the glory and say "Thank You" to Menno. (He) reminds me of Epaphroditus in the book of Philippians 2:25 Read it.

In the audience today was the Merle Beachy family and Tina and Ganene Yoder.

It was an interesting service. Pastor Doug and Menno had it going back and forth. We sang "After All," "The Cross in the Middle," and "Gone."

Over break the Beachy trio did, "Lead Me Along the Path."

sharing highlights of the year. Loretta greatly enjoyed and was blest by the southern trip. Kevin shared that one night either before he fell asleep or he suddenly awoke and felt God impress him with the fact that he'd be voted in as spiritual leader for the year. After struggling with it for awhile, he gave in to God. Joye, on the recording committee, was thankful that prayers for the copyrights were answered on time.

Mike led the service. We did a number of songs on the new recording. It's always refreshing to have our church folks in the audience. Requested was "Ten Thousand Angels."

Jim Judy told us how his life was spared in a traffic accident on the Moose Curve in Cumberland when he was a police officer and was directing traffic. In spite of physical injuries, he marvels that he is still alive.

At the end of another good year, the Mt. Anthems say "Thank You" to all of you who prayed for us. May God receive all the glory for anything good that was accomplished. God Bless You.

--Lena Eicher

The Old Bethel Church is located on top of a hill. We had to walk down a steep grade to the gym for lunch. After lunch we sang our "Thank You" song again. As soon as we finished, Pastor Doug popped up and sang at full volume, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas!" He sang a solo all the way through and included the second verse.

Summit Mills Grace Brethren Church Meyersdale, PA

EVENING

Before the service, the chorus enjoyed a time of