



The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

July 2007

Evangelical Brethren Church

Hanover, PA

SUN. SEPT. 2, 2007

*Stand still and see His Glory,
Watch as his mystery unfolds,
Bask in the sweetness of pure living
water,
Refreshing, reviving the soul . . .*

The songs Mike led us in spoke of that deep, personal relationship we enjoy with Jesus Christ when He is Lord of our lives. This one was followed by "Purify Me" and "You are my All in All."

The sun was just touching the sky with a blush of peach as we gathered for our 6:45 leaving time. Menno asked God's blessing on the day.

It was 50 years ago, Aug. 11, 1957, Menno told us, that the Mt. View Amish Mennonite Youth Group had their first singing engagement at the Friendsville Brethren Church. He wishes we would have done something special for the anniversary but I guess the date slipped by without him realizing it at the time.

We arrived at the church at 9:45 and enjoyed a great service.

We sang 3 songs for the children this morning. Among them, "Why Complain?" Mike asked the school kids to listen to what is says about the teachers.

"Why complain about your clothes and your shoes?"

Why complain about your teacher and her rules?"

"What about rules?" Mike asked. Teacher's rules, preacher's, husbands,' policemen's rules? What about when you're driving down the road and you see those flashing lights telling you to slow down to 45 mph. or fines will be doubled? Mike said when he gets on the road he just wants to get to where he's going. Why poke along?

Other chosen songs were Marty's "He Giveth More Grace," "Never Ending Joy," and "Don't Give Up." Requested was "The Lily in My Valley" by Loretta.

People from the congregation begged for the last two songs: "Ready to Go" and "Come on Home," by Menno. It was closing time. Menno said he'd do the first one. Then Mike said if he was up to it he could do the second which Menno then did.

Lunch was baked potatoes, baked green beans, red beets, pickled eggs, ham slices, and dinner rolls. Delicious huge sugar cookies and cupcakes finished it off.

Chambersburg Church of the Brethren

Chambersburg, PA

EVENING

In this vast complex of buildings the main sanctuary is used for two traditional services each Sunday; contemporary meetings are held in the gym. I suppose chorus members could have each had a room to themselves in which to nap.

Altogether we did 26 songs for this warm audience. A number of River Brethren were among them.

When Loretta started singing "You Can Have a Song" Lynita noticed a girl perhaps age 6 or 7 light up, and pay attention.

We sang of God leading us along thru water and flood, about the keeping power under his wings. We told them that in Father's house there's fellowship. We reminded them of God's great love in sending his Son to die for unworthy us in "I Stand Amazed," "Because He Loved Me So," and "The Cross in the Middle," a request Menno did.

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We finished with songs about heaven. Mike stopped us after the first verse of "*The Lights of Home*." He told the audience to really pay attention to the words we were singing. We ended with "*How Great Thou Art*," also a request.

Fair Chance Methodist Church Uniontown, PA

SUN. SEPT. 16, 2007

This morning when I pulled the old bed sheets off my flower bed, they crackled with ice from our first killing frost.

Chorus members came onto the bus, shivering. Menno said they had 32 degrees at their house. He led us in prayer before we started our day.

We traveled I. 68 W to Cheat Lake where we exited and passed a lot of construction. The forests were lush green against the rich blue of the sky. Some villages we passed through were still shrouded in fog. For a short while our route paralleled the PA turnpike.

We used a narrow road then a tiny lane to reach the rear parking lot of the church, arriving 4 minutes early.

Menno said he knew this pastor from Greensburg though this was our first concert at this church.

The church was a large alpine style built with orange brick. Light through tall slices of colored glass lit the sanctuary where a S.S. class was in progress. It was a challenge for the sound crew to set up in this less than ideal setting, but they managed it.

Mike began the service by having Loretta do the solo, "*I Thirst*." The spirited "*I'm Not Ashamed*," is a new song in which Mike does a solo on the first verse. I believe this was a blessing to the audience.

Other songs we sang were "*Deeper Than the Sin Stains*," "*Because He Forgives*," and Menno's solo, "*The Cross in the Middle*." There were no requests

this morning. Marty reminded our listeners that the God on the Mountain is God in the Valley. We finished with "*There's a Crown in Heaven*," and the all time favorite, "*The Holy Hills*."

We arrived at the Smithton church by 3 PM with lots of time for Brent and Kevin to play football with Brock and Brooke on the sun-dappled lawn. What fun on such a pleasant fall day.

Grand View Church of God Smithton, PA

EVENING .

Menno led the first half of this service beginning with "*Joy to the World*." Grace requested "*Lord Jesus Come*." "It's been a long time since you did that one," she told Menno..

When Menno blew the pitch for "*Why Me?*" at the same moment somewhere distant a whistle or horn sounded, throwing us off pitch. (Later Joel declared it was a cell phone on the front bench.)

While Loretta sang, "*Wish You Were Here*," a lady near the front had eyes brimming with tears.

Other requests tonight were, "*Gentle Holy Spirit*" and Marty's "*He Giveth More Grace*."

Later he told me that was the first solo he ever sang and he started doing it in 1980.

Cornerstone Mennonite Church Eldersville, PA

SAT. SEPT. 29, 2007

This church outreach is located in an old rambling school that always seems to have rooms under construction. The church only rents part of the building.

Fall is in the air; the weather sunny and pleasant. Green leaves have taken on a tinge of yellow. Here and there, long plumes of goldenrod garnish hillsides.

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For devotions “Pete” read to us from the book of Job. Then we divided into small groups to pray.

We began this worship service with “*More than Conquerors*,” and “*Come Bless the Lord*,” Mike leading us. Loretta did, “*There is a Haven*.”

“*What’s in a name*,” Mike asked the people. He said the night before, he and Lynnette had attended a concert. The comedian-like speaker said that once while in the shower he had some really random thoughts. *What if Jesus would have been named Buford? “Buford is the sweetest name I know. . . .”* Jesus is actually a very common name in some parts of the world. The speaker concluded it’s not so much the name but the man behind the name that makes it special.

Menno has often said he doesn’t like his name. But how many people know the name, *Menno Beachy*? Mike asked.

*As I travel thru this pilgrim land, there is a friend
who walks with me,
Leads me safely thru the sinking sand, it is the
Christ of Calvary,
This would be my prayer, dear Lord, each day, to
help me do the best I can;
For I need thy light to guide me day and night,
blessed Jesus, hold my hand.*

To sing this animated song, Mike asked the congregation to join us. What would a person do without Jesus? To live without his guiding hand would be like a traveler without a map on a dark road, inching forward without benefit of headlights or full moon, heading for a chasm where the bridge washed out.

All of our bridges have washed out. But then Mike sang, “. . . *had it not been for a place called*

*Mt. Calvary,
Had it not been, for the old rugged
Cross*

*Had it not been for a man called
Jesus,
Then forever my soul would be lost!”*

Because of what Jesus did, we have a message, a “*Wonderful Story of Love*” as the men sang when we returned from break.

Near closing, Menno sang his testimony, “*Ready to Go*.” and by special request we finished with “*I Found the Lily in My Valley*”

We saw tears in the audience. Afterward, a number of people thanked us for the service and said how they were blest.

Following they served a wonderful meal of Haystacks, delicate pastries, and ice cream dessert to hungry chorus members for our late supper.

East Union Mennonite Church

Orrville, OH

SUN. SEPT. 30, 2007

Dawn was just pushing up the shades of night, painting the sky in peach and pale blue when we met at the school at 7 AM . In the deep woods and hollows left-over darkness lingered.

Chorus members took naps as the bus traveled through sun-washed, peaceful countryside, small villages with neat homes and farmettes.

This church is a large brick structure with several wings and many classrooms. We filed in to sing at 10:45 and did the service in one standing which lasted over an hour.

The audience helped us this morning with “*I Want More of Jesus*” and “*Christ Who Left His Home in Glory*.” Mike sang, “*I Know a Man Who Can*” (mend broken hearts; wash sin sick souls white as snow). What a Savior Jesus is!

Solos this morning were Marty’s “*God on the Mountain*,” “*There is a Haven*,” by Loretta, and

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Menno's "Come on Home." I believe each was a blessing and challenge to the hearers.

Pine View Christian School Wooster, OH

AFTERNOON

It wasn't as warm today as two years ago when we sang here in scorching heat with wilting bodies. There was no need for large fans this pleasant afternoon.

Mike took requests from the audience for the service.

I Found the Lily

Tears are a Language

I'm the Lamb

I Claim the Blood

Hallelujah Square

'Till the Storm Passes By

I'm Not Ashamed

A lady told Mike she bought several CDs from us a few years ago in Florida when we were on our

southern tour. She brought them to Ohio. Then she developed problems with her eyes and went to visit a physican, an unsaved man. She gave him several CDs.

Later, he was driving down the road, listening, when he was arrested by the song, "*The Cross in the Middle.*" Pulling over, he stopped the car and re-played the song three more times.

The Spirit of God came upon him and so gripped him with conviction that he gave his soul to Jesus right there on the spot. The lady said he is now a different man. Praise God!

The woman bought more tapes and CDs today.

What a joy to sing and praise such a Redeemer. No matter where He finds a man, he can transform that life and preserve him for an eternity with Him.

Continue to pray for this ministry. Think of all the other stories we'll never hear of lives changed and souls won for the kingdom. Only eternity will reveal it.

-Lena Eicher