



# The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

July 2007

## Montgomery Brethren in Christ Church

Mercersburg, PA

SUN. OCT. 14, 2007

Gerald led us in prayer before our departure this morning, asking for God's blessing on the day while darkness looked in the bus windows. Chorus members settled for naps during this two-hour drive.

Menno and Grace are touring the New England States with son Jim and his wife. A special point of interest is Fanny Crosby's grave which Menno has long wished to visit.

As darkness gave way to dawn the bus again climbed the mountains to the ridges and swept down into valleys. The sun was a ball of orange hanging in a clear sky while mists clung to deep hollows.

We arrived at the church at 8:15 to a parking lot under construction. If it wasn't for the large, rough, packed-down gravel, the place would have been a muddy mess.

We enjoyed a good service with a very attentive audience. *"Whisper a Prayer in the morning, whisper a prayer at noon . . ."* *"Oh, sing unto the Lord a new song, oh sing unto the Lord a new song . . ."* *"You can have a song in your heart in the night, After every trial, after every mile. . ."* Loretta sang. In the first standing we did 13 songs including Mike's new one, *"I'm not Ashamed."*

After intermission, we did three more songs: *"Wonderful Story of Love,"* by the men, *"For Those Tears I Died,"* and *"Lily in my Valley,"* by Loretta, which was a request.

Distinguished Pastor, Dennis Ritchey, felt really blessed with the music and said he could go home now, spiritually satisfied.

The church was having their revival meetings with Richard Lehman as evangelist. Richard said,

growing up, this had been his community but he has lived in southern Kentucky for the past 15 years.

He was especially touched by Marty's solo, *"I Claim the Blood."* During the song a number of hands were raised in agreement.

The evangelist's text was taken from Matt. 7:13 about the strait gate and the broad way which people can travel without effort.

He also expounded on houses built on rock versus those built on sand. Character is the foundation of our lives. Reputation is what people see.

He told the story of a little girl watching a man put a coin into a weigh machine that apparently wasn't working. It registered his weight at 78 lbs. The little girl said to her mother, "Mom, that man is hollow inside!"

Mike commended the church for their good singing. Often when a piano and organ are present, the singing is mediocre at best. But they really put energy into their songs.

During intermission they played, *"Till the Storm Passes By."*

After lunch, Kevin, the pianist, entertained us again by playing the piano only this time his son, nine-year-old Shawn accompanied him, playing the trumpet. They did *"It is Well"* and *"The Star Spangled Banner"* among others. Little brother, Seth also joined dad at the piano. Very nice.

## Pond Bank Mennonite Church

Chambersburg, PA

### EVENING

This church was a large rectangular combination of gray block and white wood and steel for the gym. Eleven graves lay very close in the pocket-size backyard.

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The gym inside was decorated more like a church. Dark green carpet covered the walls about half-way up to the painted white walls above. New maroon chairs lined the auditorium on clean bluish red carpet. Behind the platform, a lighted, colored glass window hung above a cross and in the foreground greenery and lovely fall flower arrangements completed the setting.

We started out with *"The Love of God (within the heart)," "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"* and *"Come Holy Spirit."*

It was a good service, Part way through, Pastor Marlin Ebersole said he felt a sermon coming on.

After break time, the men's quartet reminded the congregation of *"The Many Mansions,"* prepared in heaven for those who love God and about *"Resurrection Ground."*

The ladies sang;

*When no one cared about me,  
if I should live or die,  
And no one bothered asking,  
why I go alone and cry;  
When burdens got so heavy  
that I could not face the day,  
Then I feel his arms around me,  
and I hear him gently say,  
Lean on me . . ."*

Solo's were *"I'm Not Ashamed," "The Lily in my Valley,"* and *"God on the Mountain."*

## Old Bethel Church

Markleton, PA

**SUN. OCT. 28, 2007**

A bank of black clouds lined in gold blocked the sun while a cold wind hurried chorus members onto the bus. .

Recent rains have brought down a lot of leaves leaving trees bare.

We call this place the church at the end of the road--at least it looks like the end. The road is level past the church then dips sharply and angles down left into the woods and away.

Menno led the first half and among the songs, we did were, *"Be Still and Know that I Am God," "Spring Up, Oh Well,"* and *"More than Conquerors."*

He asked Pastor Doug Baker what a person is who is more than a conqueror? For answer Menno said he believes it's when you have won the war and still have ammunition left.

Menno's solo, *"Ready to Go"* finished the first half.

The men started the second half with *"Wonderful Story of Love."* Other songs we did were *"Deeper Than the Sin Stains," "Oh Lord, Our Lord,"* and *"He Takes a Beggar."*

Mike said a lady came to him in the vestibule and requested *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"* because that song has been so meaningful to her through life.

Downstairs, he walked around considering what else the chorus should sing and was impressed with scriptures on the walls that testified of God's faithfulness. Mike asked the congregation to help us with the song after he read related Bible verses.

Lunch today was hot soup and sandwiches.

## Summit Mills Grace Brethren

Church

Meyersdale, PA

**EVENING**

This was the last concert of the year. Mike Pete shared a praise report then we sang for our devotions.

Mike led us in *"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues," "In the Valley He restoreth my Soul," "Gone,"* and *"I Bowed on my Knees"* to name a few.

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Solos were *“God on the Mountain,” “I’m Not Ashamed,” “I Know a Man who Can,”* and for the second time today, *“I found the Lily in my Valley.”*

Mike said it’s nice to have home folks in the audience. He introduced his parents, Menno and Nona Yoder, and his in-laws, Marvin and Mildred Yoder, and asked them all to stand.

After the service the chorus enjoyed food and fellowship in the Bill Yoder home. Bill said *other people serve you when you are away. Now we’d like to do that here at home.* Thank you! Bill, Mary Jane and family.

--Lena Eicher