



The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

September 2008

September 14, 2008

Rockwood Alliance Church

Rockwood, PA

We met at 8:45 a.m. this morning. We were only going to Rockwood, but we needed to be there early enough to set up sound during their Sunday School hour. We had quite a few visitors traveling with us today, including a Mt. Anthems member who is currently doing voluntary service in Arkansas but was home for a visit.

This morning's service went well. These people always look forward to our singing. The ladies sang "Lean on Me" this morning. Marty sang "God on the Mountain" and Mike sang "I'm Not Ashamed." Menno led three songs, all requests: "You Are My All in All," "Yes I Know," and "Where Will You Be."

Afterward we had the requisite carry-in lunch with the addition of freshly cooked corn-on-the-cob. We sang our "Thank You" song for them and got ready to head out. Before we left, we had a chance to listen in to some of their choir practice. On the bus most people settled in for naps. Normal activities during the drive to Normalville. ☺

Clinton Church of God

Normalville, PA

I was awakened from my nap by a voice shouting, "Get up. It's supper time." Sure enough, I had slept the afternoon away. We had quite a spread this evening. It was bigger than the meal we were served at lunch! After we ate, I hurried to get ready and then spent my spare time writing the article about the morning service. When the winding PA roads cause motion sickness to rear its ugly head, I need to lie down—no reading or writing advised. Therefore, I must "redeem the time" as best I can.

We had only two requests for the evening service, both of them solos. Marty sang "He Giveth More Grace" and Menno joined us for "The Cross in the Middle." At the end of the first half the men did "Wonderful Story of Love."

Due to Lyndon's frequent work-related absences, the men's quartet is getting Brent to fill in as needed. Tonight was his first performance. I think he did a super job! They sang "The Many Mansions." I love seeing the younger members of the chorus stepping up to fill the gaps left by personnel changes.

It was very warm and humid this evening, especially during the first half. During the second half it got very windy outside. You could hear the wind through the speakers at times. It can be rather distracting. It was windy enough that some of the chandeliers close to open windows were swaying in the breeze. I noticed one concerned father change places with his wife after stating he was afraid it might fall. He wanted to protect their small baby. The breeze did help to cool things down a bit and the auditorium was much more comfortable during the second half.

We had 1 ½ hour's drive home. We were home by approximately 10:00 p.m. We felt like it was really early. We'll make up for it next trip! ☺

September 28, 2008

North Terrance Wesleyan Methodist Church

Zanesville, OH

After struggling to pry my eyes open, I rushed around getting ready and made it to the building just in time. We left at 5:45 a.m. Mike led in prayer, asking for God's blessing, protection, and direction for this trip. Once we were on the road, it didn't take long for everyone to settle in for a nap or some quiet time.

We arrived at the church around 9:30 a.m. The guys went in and set everything up, and then we met for a short time of prayer. Shana helped us sing for the first time today. She thought it went fairly well, but as with all first timers, there are always those words you just can't seem to remember. ☺

This particular congregation has a Junior Church program, so there were a lot of kids in the service. They behaved better than I thought they might. They even paid enough attention to answer some questions Mike asked about the songs we sang. We did two songs especially for them: "Put a Smile on Your Face" and "I'm No Kin to the Monkey."

The ladies sang "There's Still Power in the Blood." The bass was sort of lacking at first, but we got our act together eventually. We ended our service with several songs about heaven. Michael gave the audience an opportunity to make requests. The only two we were able to do were "When Peace like a River" and "Amazing Grace." We used the latter as our closing song and had the audience help us with it. They sang with gusto.

After the service we were treated to a wonderful meal. By 1:30 p.m. we are on the road again. A group of boys in the middle of the bus discusses land prices,

another group of people discusses last week's "Young Married's" Sunday School lesson, and in the back of the bus still another group checks out someone's new laptop computer. The bus is much livelier than it was this morning!☺

Bethel United Mennonite Church

Plain City, OH

Our service this evening is at 6:00 p.m. We spent the afternoon sleeping, reading, singing, and visiting. By 5:00 p.m. several folks were starting to arrive.

Requests this evening were numerous: "A Fugitive from God," "My Last Move," "My God and I," and "Gentle Shepherd." We didn't have Aimee along to help with the duet on "My God and I," so Lynnette agreed to give it a try. She did a swell job. "Gentle Shepherd" isn't one of the songs we do, so Mike substituted "Gentle Holy Spirit" instead.

I felt that we didn't sing well tonight, but we had a good service in spite of that. It continues to amaze me how many people speak of how they were blessed regardless of our numbers or lack of quality. It's definitely a "God thing."

We left for home about 8:45 p.m. The church provided us with wonderful packed lunches. We probably have about 4 ½ hour's drive home. Hopefully we'll be home by 1:30 a.m.

Currently there are numerous small groups chatting and playing games. Occasionally you come across an individual who's reading or listening to music. After our rest stop it's very likely that most people will turn off their lights and settle in for a nap. The only person awake will be the driver. I thank God every trip we make for our wonderful drivers. They do such a super good job, and God has blessed us with safety for many years. Please continue to pray for us as we travel. We appreciate your support.