



The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

March 2009

March 1, 2009

Boynton Assembly of God
Boynton, PA

This morning the weather was brisk, but the spirits on the bus were cheery. As happens from year to year, there are changes in personnel as faithful members leave and new members join our ranks. We look forward to working with the seven new members who have decided to bless us with their time and talent.

We are missing a few members this morning due to over-seas travel, so our group seemed a little small; however, God's Spirit was still present and we had a good morning service with the friendly folks in Boynton. We began with a few songs for the children. Why do we complain when we have so much and others have so little? The next part of the service focused on Christ and the forgiveness that we can have through His blood. We finished the service with some songs about the second coming of Christ. After the service a lady came up to Lorraine, took both her hands and said, "You are absolutely radiant when you sing. I had to change my seat just so I could watch you". Our facial expressions go a long way in communication.

Since both services today are local, we went home for the afternoon.
-Lynnette Yoder

Maple Glen Mennonite Church

Grantsville, MD

Since we come to this church every spring, Mike decided to take requests from the congregation. At first there weren't many, but more came later and we did most of the service on requests. "*One Day at a Time*" and "*Don't Give Up*" went well with Mike's encouragement to stick it out when life is getting you down. Marty also sang "*God On The Mountain*" and "*He Giveth More Grace*". With Jesus, our journey in life just gets sweeter every day. There was also a request for "*Where Will You Be*" which was sung by Phil Beachy. He was in the audience and graciously consented to sing his former solo. We finished the service with songs about heaven, which included, "*I'm Too Near Home to Turn Back Now*," "*I Bowed On My Knees and Cried Holy*," and "*When We All Get to Heaven*". After the service there were many friends and family to greet.

-Lynnette Yoder

March 15, 2009

Mountain Top Church

Rocky Gap, MD

We met at the Church at 8:15 and left the locker at 8:30. We didn't have very far to travel this morning so we were able to sleep in a while. During the service, Mike read and talked from Romans 8. He also sang "Had It Not Been". Martin Schrock sang "Prodigal Son" for one of the first times. We took a break while the Men's Quartet sang "Many Mansions" and a new song called, "Never Grow Old". Someone in the chorus made the comment that we had the largest quartet in history. Brent sang too, and so there was a five person men's "quartet." Brent sang because he was trying to learn the song so he can sing when Lyndon is unable to come with us. Since we were so close to home for both the morning and evening services, we spent the day at home or visiting others. Then, before you knew it, it was time to hop back on the bus!

Hostetlers Church of the Brethren

Meyersdale, PA

After a relaxing afternoon at home and more than likely a nap, the chorus, refreshed, noisily hops on the bus for the fairly short ride to the evening program. Once on the bus, everyone is chatting about the afternoon and how nice it was to be home. Some were eating, reading or getting the nap that evaded them while they were visiting this afternoon. We pull up in front of the church and the men jump off the bus and do their normal routines of setting up sound, recording table, and risers. It is such a blessing not to have to rush into the church if I don't want to! We meet, once again, a half hour before the service to have devotions. Kenton Yoder is our spiritual leader this year and he had a very encouraging and challenging meeting tonight. He talked about giving generously and I had to think about how many times I hold back time, energy, talents, and even money because it is easier. He mentioned that God calls us to give generously and I think that we would be happier if we did so more often.

The Church this evening is pastored by Menno's neighbor, so that was a special treat, something I hadn't

known. We had, once again, a number of new members sitting in the audience. It is interesting being up there singing and seeing these new faces look at you and mouthing the words of songs while you are singing. Hopefully, they will be joining us singing in a few trips! The Ladies trio sang, "Tools in the Master's Hands" for the first time. This is a beautiful song. Then the quartet sang, "Hallelujah, What a Savior," while the rest of us took a break. During our refreshing break, many of the chorus decided they needed a drink but couldn't find any cups, so they decided to use their hands to drink from. The camera was nowhere to be found, but the sight was too amusing to not mention! After a good, long break the chorus did the second standing and the service ended and we were back home before we knew it!

March 29, 2009

Bunkerhill Brethren in Christ Church

Bunkerhill, WV

This was our earliest trip this year so far, about 6:30 a.m. We arrived at the church and climbed on the bus, which wasn't running yet. When Arlin had gotten to the Church early this morning to start the bus and do last minute checks, he found out that the battery wasn't cooperating and that the bus wouldn't start. He charged it for a long time, and after everyone was onboard and ready to go it started! Praise the Lord; He answers prayers, for I would imagine everyone had said a prayer for the bus to start! We left only five minutes after the planned departure time and as far as I know didn't have any more trouble the rest of the day with the battery. There were several visitors along with us today. It is always a pleasure to have people come along!

We made our way through the fog this morning to West Virginia and were greeted by bright shining faces. They served us a delicious breakfast and warmed our hearts. We met for prayer and then made our way to the Church for the service to start. Durrel sang with us for the first time this morning, and during the break he was asked how it was going and he replied, "It's twenty percent pure terror and eighty percent pure joy!" After having a good laugh at that comment, we went back in and sang. Marty sang "Prodigal Son" and Mike sang, "I'm Not Ashamed." I couldn't help but notice how both of those songs really affected people. They seemed to penetrate deep into the hearts of some of the people and conviction and joy seemed to radiate from them. I sometimes wonder about the lives and stories of the people that we sing to and wonder how the songs and God's spirit touches them while we are singing. For instance,

one lady that I was talking to this morning said that she was eighty-six. Some of the ladies and the pastor that were also sitting with me, commented that the elderly lady was always at the church and always helping when they needed something done. That was just an encouragement and challenge to me to see someone who has served the Church and Christ so faithfully continue to do so even in their older years. While we were singing "He Paid a Debt He Did Not Owe," Mike had a revelation. He realized that the song said, "He didn't give to me a loan," rather than, "He didn't give to me alone." He told the audience and then asked the chorus to see what they had thought all along. Many of the chorus members were surprised at this also!

Joyce had a lot of interesting contact this morning with people as she was working at the recording stand. Someone commented to Joyce that everyone in the chorus looked really young and Marty asked, "Should we take that as a compliment?" Joyce also reported that a man had paid for a CD and told her to keep the change. Later, she realized that the man had paid for the CD with a one hundred dollar bill! This came after Mike had told the audience at the beginning of the service about the battery and having trouble starting the bus! Praise the Lord, He definitely provides for and through His people!

After we had all boarded the bus and were settling in for naps, conversation, and some brainteasers and puzzles, Mike began to relate something that Raymond Martin, the pastor, had told him about the beginnings of the Church. He said that in the early nineties God sent Him to look for a mission Church. He was led to this small plot of land with a small church already built on it. He went to the board that was helping him look for a place and they decided it was too much to spend. So, after hearing the Lord tell him to buy it himself, he and his wife purchased the property. It was a nice piece of property in a highly visible part of the town, which was something that Raymond had wanted to get the church up and running. Raymond had said that it started out with twenty-five people the first Sunday and has grown to be two hundred members! He mentioned that it is mainly people who did not have a Church background and that it is still growing. They are expanding the Church and adding other buildings to the property as well. Eventually, the Church purchased the property and God has fulfilled His promise to Raymond. After Mike finished this story, Marty realized that the air conditioner wasn't working properly, so the ride to the church in the evening was slightly warm!

Martinsburg Brethren in Christ Church

Martinsburg, PA

We arrived at the Church shortly before supper. We ate a family style meal of soup, sandwiches, applesauce and cookies. After supper we got ourselves ready for the service and devotions. The Pastor of the Church prayed with us before Kenton started talking. His prayer blessed me, and the one part that stood out to me was that he prayed we would love each other and that our love for

each other would show our love and commitment to Christ. Sometimes I forget how our relationships with each other portray our relationship with Christ to those who are watching us love and live our lives.

We sang "Come Bless the Lord," "Stand Still and See His Glory," and "Come to the Water." After these first three songs, Mike stopped and asked Earl, the pastor, to come and pray for us because he sensed a heaviness and a resistance to the spirit. Following the prayer, Mike asked Marty to come and sing, "I Claim the Blood." After the service Mike mentioned that he was thankful that most of the heaviness was lifted.

We loaded up the bus and headed home and once again arrived home safely, which makes me very grateful for God's protection and committed, careful bus drivers. Thus ended the month of March. Now we look ahead to April!