



The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

April 2009

April 10, 2009

Bittering Mennonite Church
Bittering, MD

Someone remarked that the Good Friday service at Bittering is the Mountain Anthems' longest running tradition. We arrived around 6:30 in the evening, and since it is near home, we all met there. The bus made a cozy place to have this evening's devotions as Kenton reminded us of the reason for a Good Friday service. He reminded us of the sacrifice that Jesus made for each and every one of us, all those years ago. However, he also reminded us that even though we remember Jesus' death on Good Friday, the story wasn't over, and he would share the rest of the story on Easter.

As we entered the church I happened to notice all the familiar faces, both from Mountain View, Bittering, and other area churches. It was a very pleasant sight and makes my nerves calmer when I see happy, smiling, and familiar faces! Mike sang "I'm Not Ashamed" with such energy that many of the people were very moved and inspired. Marty sang "Prodigal Son" which moved some people to tears. The chorus sang "Love Will Bring Us All Together" for one of the first times as well.

After the service you could hear the merry sounds of old friends discussing current events and their lives, and joyful children running around playing games with their newfound friends. It is always a pleasure to observe how children come together and play no matter whom they are and whether or not they know them. It's always a blessing and a reminder for me not to become exclusive or prejudiced.

April 12, 2009

Faith Christian Fellowship
Catlett, VA

It was a gorgeous, although not perfect, Easter morning when we left the Church at 6:30 a.m. We had numerous visitors with us this morning and the bus was pretty full! Menno and Grace, although not visitors, were along this morning as well.

We started the service with a Congregational song, "Low In The Grave He Lay," which was very enthusiastic and inspiring. You could sense the passion and conviction with which the song was sung throughout the church. After this Mike asked Marty to sing "Prodigal

Son." Marty posed the question, "Are we better off now with salvation than Adam was in the Garden of Eden?" He made some comments and said he had read this in the devotional he is using at the moment and was intrigued by the concept of this question. After singing for longer than normal this morning, 9:45 to 11:30, the service closed with the reminder that Easter and Christ's resurrection give us power over Satan and the power to go on when we are struggling.

After a wonderful and filling lunch, we got ready for another service, which would be all requests. Mike made the comment that when we are singing at a church more than once in a day, it seems like there is more bonding and the time spent is special. Of course he wasn't discounting any other time spent at other churches either. It's just that we don't have to rush off after the service or after a meal, and you can talk with more people and connect better. Kenton had the second installment of the topic that he started on Friday evening at Bittering Mennonite Church. On Easter Sunday we rejoice in the resurrection of Christ and what all that means for the Christian. However, he then pointed to some of the many horrible things that have happened in the world since Christ's resurrection. If our focus is on these things, we may become discouraged or lose faith. But Christ is coming back! This is an incredible thought, because all we can see now is the injustice and pain going on all around us and in the world, but Christ sees the perfection that will be here once He comes back to reign forever. The thought makes me anxious for His coming to receive His children!

After the inspiring devotional, we were refreshed and ready for the service. Mike took requests, and we sang many older songs, including "King Jesus" and "Music of Heaven." Menno sang "Hallelujah Square," Mike sang "I'm Not Ashamed," and Marty sang "God of the Mountain." Aimee Beachy sang with us for the afternoon service. After we sang "Oh What a Day" many people made comments about how the song had inspired them or someone in their family had appreciated and liked the song and always requested it when they heard us sing.

Part way through the service, we took a break. Before the break we had a normal sized group and after the break we had a slightly smaller group. Five or six people needed to sit out the second standing because of colds or other sickness. As we walked out again after the break, Menno made a face at us while Mike was addressing the audience. Mike turned around and was a little shocked at the amount of missing chorus members. His

face was priceless as he turned around and told the audience that the chorus was “dropping like flies!” After some hearty laughter, we continued to sing the requests Mike had received.

After some time of singing, Simon Schrock and Menno had a prayer of blessing for Mike and the chorus. After this, Menno directed the last three songs. These included him singing “Grace Enough” and “Stand by Me.” We ended with “Lift Your Glad Voices.”

After much reminiscing and catching up with friends, the chorus and all the visitors who came with us climbed on the bus for the ride home. It was a gorgeous day, and we soon discovered that the air conditioning was not working correctly. Praise the Lord that it wasn’t intolerably hot this afternoon!

-Sierra McDonald

April 26, 2009

Fair Chance Free Methodist Church

Fair Chance, PA

Our meeting time this morning was set for 8:30 a.m. We were glad to have the bus back in time for this trip. It had a brief stay in the automotive hospital, to the tune of approximately \$5000. While it is not entirely healthy yet, it’s usable for this trip.

It is so beautiful outside today. The flowers are blooming, the sky is a brilliant blue, and the sun is shining brightly. Spring is one of my favorite times of the year.

Mike opened this morning’s service with “Love Will Bring Us All Together.” Solos were “Prodigal Son” by

Marty, “Stand by Me” by Menno, and “I’m Not Ashamed” by Mike. Another song Mike chose for this morning was “One Day at a Time.” We hadn’t done that one for awhile, so we made a few mistakes. There were many empty spaces in the pews, but it was encouraging to see the faces of several young people in the crowd.

A young gentleman in the church, a Boy Scout, earned his Eagle Scout badge by building a barbecue pit at the church’s picnic pavilion. We ate our noon meal out there, and then they had a rededication service for the pavilion. It was perfect weather for dining alfresco.

Grand View Church of God

Smithton, PA

We met outside for our devotional time this evening. The scent of violets hung faintly on the air, and the grass was dotted with these beautiful little blossoms. The air was balmy and the birds were singing with gusto. In fact, I was slightly distracted during prayer time, because I was listening to their symphony of praise to the Lord of Creation.

Pastor Keith Solomon and Menno are good friends. They get a kick out of teasing each other and the jokes were many. Marty shared his solo “God on the Mountain,” and Menno sang “Ready to Go.” Mike had Menno come up to direct his favorite song, “Marriage Supper of the Lamb.” We sang quite a few of the songs from our *Sing Unto the Lord* project this evening.

The conversations on the bus were lively for awhile. and then things quieted down a little bit. Most of the drive home was over winding roads, but we arrived home safely once more. God graciously blessed us with a wonderful day!

By Joye Yoder