



The Mt. Anthems Newsletter

May 2010

May 9, 2010

Divine Hope Church

Mt. Lake Park, MD

We headed out rather early this morning considering we were only going an hour away. However, this church has two morning services, an early one and a late one. We were to sing at both. When we arrived, the ladies of the church had donuts and hot beverages waiting for us. What a pleasant way to start the day. I am not aware that we have ever sung at this church building before. This particular congregation resulted from a church split, and we had sung for the original congregation several years ago before the split.

We sang for approximately a half hour at each service this morning. Solos this morning were done by Marty and Mike – “God on the Mountain,” and “I’m not Ashamed” respectively. We’ve been working on the song “I believe in a God” during practice. This morning Mike pulled it out of the stack and we shared it with these folks. During the second part of our program “Gentle, Holy Spirit” was dedicated to a couple that someone in the chorus knew personally. When we sang “The Cross in the Middle,” Mike passed our spike around for the audience to examine. It is a replica of ones they found on Golgotha.

I don’t know if it’s because of the drop in price or because we are in a more local area, but the “*Sing unto the Lord*” project sold “like hotcakes.” Once we had recordings packed up, we headed to the next church to eat lunch.

White United Methodist Church

Loch Lynn, MD

Kevin volunteered to write the afternoon article for me. Following are the thoughts he wrote while we sang.

We came here for lunch first, which was lots of good food. We are on the front bench. Lots of people are behind us talking. The stained glass window beside us was donated by “Russel and Anna Sue Harvey.” Pastor Joe is retiring next month after eight years of pastoral duties here. The girls are wearing Charcoal again, and the men are doing something different. They are wearing black pants and white shirts.

Mike is trying to wake everyone up from their Sunday afternoon naps. He is fairly successful. Some of the choir looks glum. Some look scared. Some just look.

Oh! Now the song “The Wonder of it All” makes them smile. That’s good. That song excited us too. We clapped hard.

The church has good sound, wood ceilings, wood benches, and wood walls – sounds good. The baby behind me sounds good too. Two girls sing high on “I Sing the Mighty Power of God.” Wow! They just sang “Prayer of Thankful Praise” and didn’t flat it. It sounds good. The alto section just nailed a pretty alto line on “My Savior’s Love.”

Mike is thinking a lot about Israel today and about the life of Christ. He wants us to remember everything Christ has done for us. Marty is going to sing “I Claim the Blood.” It’s a source of strength, a source of power – Jesus’ Blood – the blood shed on Calvary for me and for you. As I listened, I felt a bit like the lady who just wanted to touch His garment. Just one drop, just one drop.

The little baby wanted to sing too and went up front. Her mom (I think) had to go get her.

Everyone is going to sing “Low in the Grave He Lay,” hoping to sell the “*Sing Unto the Lord*” book. Mike thinks that soon he will think 2010 was the good ole days.

“I Need the Prayers of Those I Love.” I think most of us need the prayers of those we love, those we don’t and everyone else who will pray for us.

Now it’s break time and the quartet is going to sing, then after break, just all the ladies. They sing “Lean on Me.” Someone’s phone just started going – bet they won’t forget to shut the ringer off again for a while.

It’s fun to watch everyone’s mouths fly up and down on “Great and Awesome God.” Mike is going to look for some music to sing a certain song. It looks like he found it. The choir just stood looking unsure, but now they look comfortable again.

“But He died alone, for you and me...” What else is there to say? Someone in the audience liked “Standing on the Solid Rock” because they said, “Alright!”

“Is That the Lights of Home” struck a chord with me because nothing is more enjoyable than coming home: coming home to Dad’s, to a place that I know – Home.

They closed with “Marriage Supper of the Lamb.” Mike was trying to get the choir to smile, and to use the song to give the congregation “glory bumps.” The choir is smiling.

By Kevin Coblentz

Saint Mark’s Lutheran Church

Oakland, MD

After a brief ride we arrived at our evening destination. They were serving us a light supper at 5:00 p.m. Salads of all kinds and desserts were on tonight's menu – very refreshing. Since the service was to begin at 6:30 p.m. we had a limited amount of time in which to get ready. A few of us were late for devotions even though we were rushing around.

Kenton Yoder did the directing this evening and Mike sang with the chorus. It's been a while since Kenton last directed us, and he was a bit rusty. Over all he did a fine job! There were a few unexpected events... Mike was singing his solo "Though Your Sins be as Scarlet" while standing among the chorus. The mic cord brushed against one ladies leg and she gave a startled jump. Her sister, standing next to her, got a fit of the giggles when they glanced at each other at the end of the song.

We sang a mix of old and new songs tonight. Kenton is notorious for pulling out some old songs that we haven't done in awhile. ☺ He's trying very hard not to give us all prematurely gray hair. Marty shared his solo "The Prodigal Son." We had six requests for this evening: "Though Your Sins as Scarlet Be" (ladies song), "You are my All in All," "The Holy Hills," "I Bowed on my Knees and Cried Holy," "Prayer of Thankful Praise," and "I'm no Kin to the Monkey."

There were a number of "home church" folks in the audience this evening. Most of them were from the Oakland area.

We had a short drive home, comparatively speaking, and arrived home before 10:00 p.m. I didn't feel as if I immediately needed to fall into bed in order to get up for work Monday morning. I could relax and enjoy the evening a bit.

May 22, 2010

Fairview Mennonite Home

Cambridge, ON, Canada

The sun wasn't up yet as we dragged our sleepy selves out of bed and got to the building. The bus was scheduled to leave at 5:00 a.m. When Kenton asked if we all have our passports, a pair of eyes got wide... we're glad that he didn't wait to discover the missing passport until we were at the U.S./Canadian border!

While we waited for the passport to be fetched, Kenton opened it up for any of us to pray. Someone asked God for good health for us all. Immediately after they said that there was a loud sneeze! ☺ It caused a few smiles.

Mike and Lynn aren't along this weekend because it's close to Lynn's due date. Who knows? A baby

might've been born on the bus if she would've come. ☺ Kenton will be our director this weekend.

Crossing the border went great! We did it in record time – 15 minutes!

We stopped at Fairview Mennonite Home for our first program. As planned, it was a quick stop. We sang in our travel clothes and didn't set up sound. Some of the new chorus members sang with us for the first time this afternoon. It seemed to go fine for them, in spite of the heat, as far as I could tell.

A few songs we sang were, "Blood-Washed Band," "Deeper than the Sin Stains," and "What a Meeting in the Air."

By Lynita Yoder

Heritage Mennonite Church

Millbank, ON, Canada

We arrived at our evening destination a little before five. Heritage Mennonite church is an old church built of light grey stone. The windows are made of beautiful stained glass. Inside are wooden benches that were built in a way that lends itself to the aura of the church.

The service started at 7:30 p.m. We sang in two standings, the first being about forty-five minutes long. During our break Byron had children's meeting. He read about King Nebuchadnezzar and his golden image, and the three Hebrews who didn't bow down to worship it. Byron reads that scripture with such expression that we all love to listen.

By Josh Swartzentruber

One gentleman discovered to his dismay that his black pants were missing from his garment bag. He borrowed a pair from someone else, but commented that they felt "like a pair of leotards." ☺ He was going to check out other options for tomorrow.

On the way in for the first standing, one young lady stepped on the heel of another young lady's shoe. She walked right out of it and not knowing quite what to do, she just kept walking. Like the boy in "*Diddle Diddle Dumpling*" she sang with "one shoe off and one shoe on" for that whole standing. She quickly and unobtrusively picked the offending shoe up again as she went out for break. Of course once we were in the basement away from the audience, there were quite a few girls chuckling over the incident. ☺

Marty was the only soloist along this weekend. "God on the Mountain" was the solo he sang for this service. Kenton wanted to do "I'm Not Ashamed" so he bravely sang Mike's solo part. He didn't do too badly either considering that he had never done it before.

MAY 23, 2010

Grace Mennonite Church
New Hamburg, ON, Canada

I was surprised to see a certain fellow walk in this morning with a silver shirt on. When he had tried on the one we ordered for him, it was too tight across the shoulders and we had to reorder. He and his wife were discussing this at their host's house. Their host wondered if his silver shirt might be a close match. The host loaned it to him for the day. It was an almost perfect match. God works in mysterious ways. This fellow gave up a pair of pants (for a fellow chorus member) and gained a shirt. ☺

Our service this a.m. started at 9:45. We sang for both the Sunday School and Church services. I felt it was a very good service. We started out with some praise and worship songs, then some songs about what Christ did for us when He was on earth, and then some songs about how He works in our lives now. Some of the songs that stand out in my mind were: "The Lord is My Light," "Ten Thousand Angels," "God on the Mountain," "The Prodigal Son," "For Those Tears I Died," and "Marriage Supper of the Lamb." "God on the Mountain" was dedicated to a family who lost a child born prematurely.

After the service we had a light meal of soups, sandwiches, and cookies. It was very tasty. There's about a 45 minute drive to the next church. Most people made use of the opportunity to catch a quick nap.

Anecdote told to several chorus members by an audience member: "When we were still children, our family left the church after a service on a snowy, wintry day. When we reached the end of the road (a stop sign), Dad hit the brakes and we slid right through and into the ditch on the other side of the intersection. The engine stalled and everything got very quiet. The only sound we could hear was the Mt. Anthems singing "'Til the Storm Passes By" on the tape player.

"To this day when we hear that song, we remember that accident."

By Kenton Yoder

Countryside Mennonite Fellowship
Hawkesville, ON, Canada

Hot is the best word to describe this afternoon's service. ☺ I'm not bragging, just mentioning the temperature. The auditorium was full of people, there was very little air movement, and the stage lights were blazing down upon us. Satan seemed to be working overtime. I didn't feel we sang quite as well as earlier on this trip. Part of that was an issue with the sound system. It just seemed as if the sound went out of our mouths and promptly died. I couldn't hear the monitors. It seems odd to look back over the years and remember that all our programs used to be that way. Monitors were not used when I first joined the chorus 27 years ago. Despite these things, the Lord blessed the service.

Some of the songs we sang, to name just a few, were "I Believe in a God," "Because He Forgives," "Lean on Me," "Never-ending Joy," and "The Holy Hills." One of the ladies sang "I'll take my flight **on** a mighty eagle" instead of "**like** a mighty eagle. ☺

By 4:30 we had changed clothes, packed up our equipment, and were pulling out of the parking lot. We have about seven and a half hours driving time in order to get home. If our border crossing is as simple getting into the States as it was getting into Canada, we should be home by 2:00 a.m.

Well, the border crossing wasn't quite as simple but it did go quickly once we finally got started. When we arrived, we had to wait approximately a half hour before they were ready for us. We all had to disembark. They checked our passports and did a walk-through of the bus, then let us back on. Twenty minutes later we were back on the road. We arrived home around 1:30 a.m.

PTL for safety while traveling 900-some miles on this trip. He blessed us richly. We made new friends and renewed acquaintances with old ones. If you haven't already done so, check out our itinerary and keep us in your prayers. God bless you.

Written and compiled by Joye Yoder

Caleb Lamar Yoder was born to Mike and Lynn on May 29th. Mother and baby are doing well. Thank you for your prayers.