



Reading Eagle: Jeremy Drey

Megan Healy, 20, of Bensalem, sings along with the music of In His Presence during a show at Rosedale Camp Grove, Laureldale.

Cool Christian music refreshes on a warm night

By Karla Dalious

Voices intern

The noise made around the walls of Jericho was rivaled on July 20 as In His Presence, a contemporary Christian band, rocked Rosedale Camp Grove, 1616 Vine St., Laureldale. This concert was unlike those that most teens have attended this summer.

Hands were raised in praise rather than with glowing lighters or cell phones, and the songs were entirely Christian. Despite the differences, though, the concert was every bit as lively and the teens in attendance were having just as much fun.

The band opened with hits such as "How Great is Our God" and "Lord I Lift Your Name on High" and had many audience members on their feet the whole time. Three harmonizing singers, a drummer, a guitarist, and a bass guitarist made up the band. They worked seamlessly with each other and their compatibility was obvious. As the show went on, it was revealed that the band is very close and three members are related. This tightness contributed to the band's excellence and made the whole thing more fun. They were able to joke with each other and brought the audience into their intimacy.

The location also added to the experience of the concert. Rosedale is a gem hidden among houses and factories. It is a spiritual setting even for those weak in faith and a concert there is something that should not be missed.

The weather could not have been worse, however. The sweltering heat was only mildly subdued by paper fans and the huge open windows of the concert hall, but as the concert went along this lifted along with the audience's spirits. The most amazing moment came when the band was in the middle of "Let it Rain" by Bishop Paul Morton. This song is very chantlike — it repeats and is meditative. It was during this song that the clouds opened and thunder shook the area.

There are rarely crowds as diverse as this one. People of every age, gender, race and denomination were gathered under one roof on a hot and rainy day for one purpose — to praise God. This is something that Rosedale has been seeking for a long time. The religious camp, which has been up and running for 85 years, has seen a decrease in teen attendance at concerts such as this one, and it's not for lack of opportunity. Members fear that teens just don't know what's offered.

Rosedale will hold several more contemporary concerts this summer featuring bands such as 61 South on Aug. 9, Aunamae on Aug. 16 and Mike Hurst on Aug. 17. All concerts start at 7 p.m. and include freewill offerings. They are an experience that all will enjoy and that none should miss. For more information, go to www.rosedalegrove.com.

(Karla Dalious is a Voices intern and an '08 graduate of Muhlenberg High School.)