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YouTube Channel [for dramas, sermons, & puppet shows for kids]: Michael Robert Guertin

Website: www.cabooseministries.org Facebook: “Michael Robert Guertin”

April 2024

“Warning & Encouraging The Little Ones”



Dear Friends & Family,

[3/29] Early in March I was given the high honor & privilege of ministering to a large group of Christian school elementary-aged children, grades K-5th. To be exact, there were 200 of them sitting on the school’s gym floor right in front of me. Though I have driven past the area where [Linville Hill Christian School](#) is located for decades, I never knew it existed until recently, via a sister-in-the-Lord/friend who also has worked with children for many years. And now, here before me, for 20 minutes, was a group of relatively speaking, very young innocent souls, yet, just as immortal as the oldest adult in the room. This group of children was “virgin territory”, “blank slates”, “holy ground”, if you will. Here they were, in this very rural, secluded environment, safe under the care of the godly staff of the school. I was a complete stranger to them, & to the staff, except for the school librarian, whom I attended Bible school with & hadn’t seen in almost 42 years! And yet, I was trusted with these precious little ones. The children in the front were learning to read. The children in the back, on the precipice of puberty! And yet, it was my high task to minister the Word of God to them. “Who is adequate for such things?” (II Cor.2:16). Who, mind you, could both hold the attentions of an age span so wide, & also

effectually minister the truths of the Bible to them? Certainly not me, even with all of my “attention-grabbing” props & visual aids. I knew I needed the grace & ability of THE Master Communicator, the Lord Jesus Himself. And so, once again, I fell on Him, in mind, heart, & soul & also I’m sure at times with my body in my preparation for this sacred event.

“Warning’ the Wee Ones?”



“But Michael?”, some of you may ask, “Why the need to *warn* such very young children?”. I will tell you why. Having ministered to children & youth now in some venue or capacity since 1984, I am very acutely & painfully aware that these precious, tender, “little angels”, sadly, tragically, if left to themselves, do not remain that way. It is an almost unspoken assumption with those ministering to the very young, because they’re so tender-hearted relatively speaking, that they will never grow hard & calloused toward the things of God. Nothing could be farther from the truth. To my very deep dismay & anguish, so many of the children I had the privilege of being with & ministering to in my 4 children’s pastorates, not to mention those who grew up in camp with me, have grown cold. They’ve grown hard, calloused, too cool & sophisticated for God now. They’ve been enticed by the deceit & pleasures of the world. They’ve been taught by new “mentors & preachers” now: actors, actresses, celebrities, musicians, podcasters, YouTubers, Tik-Tok, etc. They’ve believed & adopted the poison of these people. It’s the poison of their beliefs, philosophies, & ungodly lifestyles. And, if they’ve been led away from the Good Shepherd, you can be sure the poisonous teachings they’ve ingested via these people were doctrines of **demons** (I Tim.4:1). **Satan’s** favorite preoccupation in the affairs of men is to **teach** them. And, he always does so *through other people*. I’ve taught children’s ministry workers for years: “The 3 main ways a child learns is by-example, example, & example”. Hence, dear reader, the stakes in ministering to the very young are *very high*. What brings such deep grief to my heart as I type these sad tidings is, that these same precious young, spent countless meetings at

church & at camp in the presence of God. May I say the “heavy, weighty, presence of God”? Hence, if I can get to them while they’re so young, I *will* warn them to do all they can to avoid this disastrous & eternity-determining pitfall!

“The ‘Thick Gray Goopy Mass’ Phenomenon”



And, what was the warning I gave to these little angels? It is the warning I have given countless Christian schools & institutions over the decades. I told them they are in a very, very special place, surrounded by godly men & women. They’re in an environment where the Word of God is held in prominence & high esteem. I made it clear that they being at their school is such a high privilege compared to those children who attend public schools every day. I told them that in the Lord, “with high privilege comes high responsibility, & accountability”. I warned them that on That Great Day when they stand before the Lord Jesus Christ, one at a time, to give an explanation of their life & what they did with the gifts & graces the King gave them, they will be more strictly judged than those who did not have said privileges. Jesus said, “To whom much is given, much is required”, (Lk.12:48). Yes-these are weighty matters. But, O!, how I wish someone would have told me these things as a child, since I too, attended a parochial school for 8 years, not to mention a Bible school for an additional 4 years. What then, is the “Thick, Gray, Goopy Mass Phenomenon”? So many times, when I have ministered in a religious/parochial educational setting, or even a church staff, where the people involved are “around the holy things” every day, I have noticed a horrible phenomenon take place. Fallen human sinful nature, vis, “the flesh”, is always & ever hostile & antithetical to “all things God”. When a human heart is exposed to the things of God on a regular basis, vis, His Word & His Spirit’s presence, if that same heart does not yield to the weight of these holy things, it *hardens*. It begins to treat the things of God lightly, “routinely”, to take them for granted-even irreverently. I liken it to a “thick, gray, goopy, massive wall” between me & this group of people that is very hard to penetrate. Their attitude, if they’re paying attention at all, is, “Oh, I’ve heard this all before”. If that is the case, they’ve never really *heard* it. And what adds to the horror of this “phenomenon”, is that those “under its spell”, don’t realize they are!

"The Cure"



I dared not leave these precious little ones without “the cure” for this tragic spiritual phenomenon, which has plagued so very many churches, Christian schools, & religious institutions. It is “**The Process of Illumination**”. Scripture knowledge minus the Holy Spirit’s illumination, or understanding, is dangerous. Hence, I stressed to the children the importance of seeking the Spirit’s insight into the written Word of God that He inspired so many years ago. That is the key to heart conviction, awe of God, & power in their lives. On my YouTube channel, vis, “Michael Robert **Guertin**”, I have this short, illustrated message, “**The Process of Illumination**”, posted a number of times if you want to view it. Well, my 20 minutes with these “lil’ angels” was more than I could have asked for. They were very attentive, receptive, & tender to my message. I was so broken inside by the Lord’s tenderness in the place, that I was weepy for many hours the rest of the day. I even wept inside a Goodwill store later when I tried to relate what happened to a young woman who grew up in camps with me who happened to be at the store. If you want to hear the actual brief message I shared at this event you may do so via my YouTube channel as well, searching for “**Warning & Encouraging the Very Little Ones**”. Thank you. I know firsthand that “the Cure” works. How so? Despite the fact as I related above that woefully, too many former children I worked with “follow Him no longer”, there has been a faithful remnant of them where, by the grace of God, this has not been the case. I’m glad I cannot count how many former kids from children’s church or camp have actually been by my side for years either serving the Lord & His Kingdom at camps, or in my annual production of **Via Dolorosa**. It is a joy & blessing I cannot contain. I also see it as our Lord’s gracious “heart poultice” to me, given how very deeply & often I mourn for those who have strayed. I keep praying for them! I find very deep comfort in our Lord’s words about His people: “All those the Father gives Me will come to Me, & whoever comes to Me I will never drive away, for I have come down from Heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him Who sent Me, & this is the

will of Him Who sent Me, that I shall lose none of all those He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day.” [Jn.6:37-39] Amen, & Amen!

“The Need is Greater Than You Think”



Very sadly, & tragically, America has been plagued in our public schools, in both lower & higher educational institutions, with the “dumbing-down” phenomenon. Academic standards have been drastically lowered to enable students to have passing grades, despite the detriment to their education this practice facilitates. To my very deep chagrin, I have noticed in Sunday School & Children’s Church curricula a very similar downgrade. Pictures, slideshows, videos, & power-points of Jesus depict Him “caricatured”, to the point where they portray the Eternal Son of God, Who will come in great power & glory, as goofy, to wit, as a “dork”. All realism is gone. Worship songs so often are “happy & clappy”, with little emphasis on doctrine. ***There is no power in so many children’s services.*** There is no seriousness or solemnity, given the weighty matters of the Word of God. There is no conviction of the Holy Spirit. It could almost be likened to “religious playtime”. As with so many seeker-sensitive megachurches across our country, church gatherings have turned into “shows”, concerts, entertainment-oriented “extravaganzas”. It hurts to type this, but I fear too many children’s church services are virtually a “Christian ***Chuck-E-Cheese***”. Beloved? When I’m with children or youth, I know I’ve got about 45 minutes-45 minutes to stuff them with the Word of God in the Holy Spirit’s presence, in the very deep hope & prayer His very sweet but cutting, life-changing conviction will come upon them! Ugh! Of the 168 hours in a week, we get so very little time with them! And, to think of the ridiculous activities that fill up so much of that invaluable precious time! O Father, please help us! Yes, I know. I’m very well aware there IS a time to play with the children! But-“When we play, we play-&, when we pray, we pray”! I know I’m preaching right now, but I’m so very glad

for my own sake that I remind myself of these things as I'm entering into yet another summer camp season. May the Lord God swoop down on us again this summer as He so kindly & faithfully in the past has done.

Sincerely,

Michael



****Caboose! Commentary Corner***: Our daughter Laura once said she'd love to have my old Bibles when I passed for all of the notes I have written in them over the decades. This was quite humbling to say the least, especially coming from one of your own children. Hence, I've decided to post each month random notes/comments from Bibles I have studied from: **“Weak shallow preaching results in weak shallow conversions.” [MRG 1/30/15]**



Caboose! On The Loose!

Ministry/events for **APRIL** & those not listed in last month's newsletter:

April 2: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board meeting//Hopewell Network pastors' mtg.

April 8: Shady Maple Banquet Center, East Earl, PA: Tel Hai Camp fundraising event: meal prayer

April 16: Converge Church, Moorestown, NJ: regional pastors' mtg.

April 26, 27: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: Kolb/Dadd wedding; wedding officiant



*Michael is an ordained *Elim Fellowship* itinerant Stateside missionary & *Caboose!* is also an affiliate ministry of *The Hopewell Network of Churches*. For 14 years he served on various local church staffs as their children's pastor. Since 2000 Kim & he have lived by faith, having no set salary, retirement, etc. to speak of. Yet-this is their calling at this season of their lives. Michael preaches God's Word & systematic theology, using both drama & visual aids, to all age groups, from children to senior citizens, either separately or combined. To help support this work [any amount no matter how small is greatly appreciated!], please make all tax-deductible gifts payable to: Elim Fellowship, c/o 1703 Dalton Rd., Lima, NY 14485, marking it "Preferred-Michael Robert **Guertin**" or you may click on this link to give directly: <https://elimfellowship.org/missionary/michael-guert-guertin> Thank you!

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