

Audio sermons & newsletters : <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministries-audio-podcast/id506049887?mt=2>

My FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Michael-Guerty-Guertin/436866235170> [Please like & share if you feel so inclined. Thanks!

\*attached pics: 1. praying for Tel Hai's staff opening night 2. Lincoln & Grant in my field drama 3. Grant & escort exiting field 4. Caboose! puppet stage at NY camp 5. "M5" Robot & Ray Gunn at NY camp [used to critique kids' media]

**August 1, 2015**

Dear *Friends & Family*,

### ON THIS AUGUST OCCASION

[7/3] My July newsletter just went out a few days ago but in this busiest season of the year I must write when I can write. I'm battling another sinus infection that is causing double vision. This happened last at my 2<sup>nd</sup> busiest season of the year this past March, aka, *Via Dolorosa*. I have seen double for a week now. On antibiotics & steroids. So much to do re: camp prep, particularly for this month, as I do two back-to-back camps, one in PA & one in NY. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> camp in NY I head to another part of the state & minister twice at a church that Sunday a.m. {Note: yesterday I returned to the ophthalmologist. The MRI was clear. No Lymes nor diabetes via blood-test results. The Dr.'s take? Stress, lots of reading {ministry related}, & zillions of texts re: camp season!}

### TEEN CAMP PRAISE REPORT



www.shutterstock.com - 120301393

I received the email below a few days after returning from my 1<sup>st</sup> of 4 camps. Reports such as this make camp so worth doing & put fresh gas in our tanks. I told the sender I'd make it anonymous. "Guerty, Thank you for your faithfulness in the camp ministry. We have been heavy-hearted for our children as they seem to be not only in the world, but

of it...so worldly, despite growing up in a Christian home & being immersed in the church their whole lives. There are so many things that distract them from pursuing a relationship with God. Often I think it is because they have not really claimed their faith as their own, but instead have been riding on the coattails of our faith. BUT every year, they want to go to camp. And I know they are immersed in the things of God for the week, & that the Spirit is present in that camp. I am only too sad that [our son] is now too old to go. But thankfully, [our daughter] still has several years yet! I have seen some heart changes in [our daughter] since her week at camp, & believe me, we are blessed! The other night she went to bed, & I figured she went to sleep. But when I went to bed shortly after, her light was on so I went in the check on her & say good-night again. I asked her what she was doing & she said she was reading. That kind of surprised me, since school is out, she doesn't have her assigned summer reading book yet, so I wondered what she was reading. Then I caught sight of her Bible. I was so blessed! This is not something my children do. Despite being encouraged to do so, & despite their parents having been their youth leaders & often issuing challenges to the youth to read the Word, our children often did not fulfill the challenge, sad to say. So, I said my good nights again, did NOT make any comment on what she was reading, but know that I left her room rejoicing! So, thank you to you & your staff. We are eternally grateful for the sacrifice you make so that our kids can go to camp. Just a thought-what about a reunion week camp...so those that have graduated can come back & continue on in the benefits of camp?! With love and gratitude, "Anonymous" " [7/27] I arrived home last night from the Poughkeepsie, NY area, having preached twice yesterday a.m., after which I drove to *Tel Hai Camp* to drop off my ministry trailer [an hour out of my way], then onto home. Overall, the NY ministry trip entailed 6 days, 10 meetings {6 of which I preached}, & 874 miles of driving. Prior to ministering in Poughkeepsie I spent a week in Corning, NY re: camp #3 of the summer. It entailed 157 [our highest # for the week] 5-13 year olds. Translate? You have kids in the front row who can't read in the same room with those in the back row who are thinking about sex!

### **MY OWN PERSONAL SUPERBOWL**



A formidable challenge? No doubt. An impossible one when one is attempting to instill the doctrines of God into such young minds. And yet-I was reminded of a quote from a CD soundtrack I have owned for many years-one of many I use for various purposes-from dramas, to working out, to ministry. It's called *The NFL: The Power & The Glory*. It's narrated by the infamous John Facenda, w/music by Sam Spence. It contains various live quotes from coaches & players right in the thick of this very intense high-stakes' game. An anon-ymous quarterback says re: the intensity, stakes, excitement, & stress of playing in the ultimate game of the **NFL**: *Put me on the 1 foot line, & give me 2 minutes to go & give me all 3 of my time-outs, & give me my boys, & then let me hear my name over the loud-speaker. Let me hear the roar of the crowd, let me have them booin' on the 1 side, let me get in & call plays & see their eyes roll as I call these plays & talk to 'em. Let me feel the hair on my back crawl up. I mean, that's what the Super Bowl does to ya'*. That's very close to what I feel every time I'm in an auditorium filled with kids. When I hear my pre-service movie soundtracks cranking, building excitement-that something big is going to happen [*& it IS*, when one considers that we're expecting the Lord of the Universe to fill the room with His presence!], I feel like I'm doing what I was made for! Oh God. I'm listening to *The Polar Express* soundtrack suite as I type. I often play this before a kids' service. My mind then races to their little brains, so clean & clear compared to ours. Daily, they soak up the sludge of the world, & we have so little time to inculcate & instill the Word of God into them. Before we know it, they will be teenagers, with all that that entails, then onto young adults, married, & then on to senior citizenship [if God so *graces* them-& there is no guarantee of a long life!] before eternity. O! What a tender, precious, invaluable window of opportunity our Lord has given to us!

### FROM ROAR TO RESPITE



After the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the NY camp, after the kids & staff had gone home, after their roaring [& believe me-we had them roaring!], I was alone [I stay at the church all week, sleeping in a Sunday School classroom, per my personal request for focus' sake] in the sanctuary. I walked around the perimeter, just praying for the kids, exhausted as I was, sensing & enjoying Jesus' sweet presence.

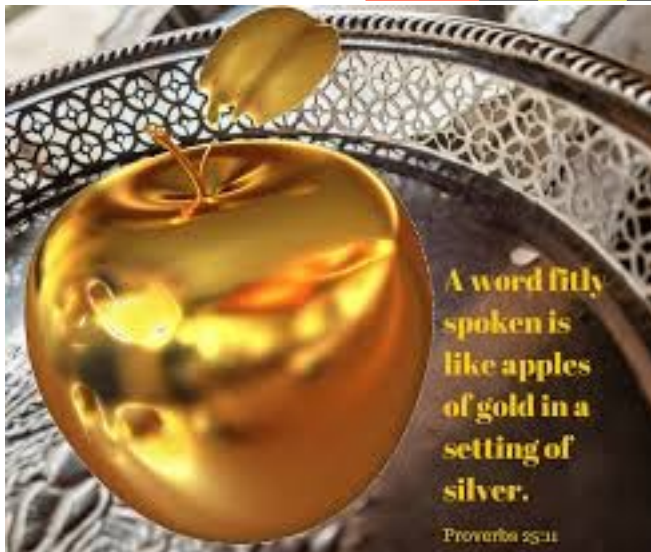
### NOT A MOMENT BEFORE



I've known for decades that children's ministry is crucial. How? By the warfare I've encountered in doing so. Anyone who has not been eaten alive at one time or another while ministering to children?-is not doing it right! This precious week with these children was not without its struggles, distractions, & temptations. **The devil** HATES what we do. I was battle-weary. Once again, as in previous years at this camp, I'd go lie down on my classroom/ bedroom floor, entreating the Lord for help, feeling like I had nothing left to give. I was later reminded via Hebrews 11 that God's men were strengthened *in* battle-not *before* it. And so was the case each day! When I heard the kids' testimonies

on Friday afternoon at the end of camp I was so struck & humbled by how young the children were who shared what the Word of the Lord did in them.

### **APPLES OF GOLD IN SETTINGS OF SILVER**



After my PA jr. hi. camp the week before the NY camp, a mother of a camper shared one of the kindest & most encouraging things ever said to me, which I shall never forget, & as the caption from Pr.25:11 above says, was truly an apple of gold in settings of silver. It was especially appreciated as after my sr. hi. camp in June I had one of the harshest things ever said to me in 41 years of being a Christian. What she told me via a text was simple, but, O, so very profound-a virtual balm of Gilead to my soul: *My children love Jesus more because of you.* I can think of nothing I'd rather hear from anyone than that.

### **MINISTRY FROM THE CROSS**



Speaking of the very deep wound I incurred mentioned above, I used it as a springboard to encourage the jr. hi. camp staff the night before the campers arrived. This

wound felt like a dangling dagger hanging from my lower-gut {feelings-wise}. Any remembrance of what was said to me would make the dagger handle wobble & inflict more pain. I had to battle day & night [& it seems especially in the night!] not to think about it. I was reminded that some of Jesus' most powerful ministry occurred while being nailed to a cross. He bore the wrath of God that His persecutors deserved. He prayed for His persecutors. He ensured that His mother was taken care of after His departure. He encouraged, ministered to, & received into His Kingdom one of the thieves crucified with Him. To me, this is one of the greatest kindnesses of the Father ever recorded in Holy Writ. In Jesus' darkest hour, during the very time He felt abandoned & forgotten by His Father, The Father gives Him a gift-another believer. Surely it reminded Jesus that His Father was near-very near, & continuing to do His work, even while His Beloved was being pierced through with daggers-nails & later a spear, that is. Jesus had said in John 6:65,44 that no one has the ability nor desire to come to Him apart from the Father's enabling grace & drawing power. Of all people! A thief! Placing his trust in Someone who is being crucified along with him! And yet-he asks this condemned Loser to remember him when He enters His Kingdom! Wow. Only GOD could bestow a saving faith like that at such a bleak hour! By grace are ye saved, through faith-& that not of yourselves-it is the gift of God [Eph.2:8]. Hence, the staff & I were encouraged to keep ministering despite the pain. A woman's greatest fruit-her child-is produced through her greatest pain. The knowledge of Jesus continuing to minister despite horrific pain, & the mother's comment above re: the influence our God graced me to have upon her children: My children love Jesus more because of you, were two boosts that gave me strength for the week. O Father. Thank You. Thank You. Please help me by Your great grace to continue influencing not only children but *all* generations for Your Son. In His precious Name, Jesus, I pray. Amen

**Caboose! On The Loose:**



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

July 29: IC, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David: worship leader

August 4: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//HN pastors' mtg.

August 8-14: hsc kids camp: pastoral director

**\*Michael is an ordained Elim Fellowship itinerant Stateside missionary & is also licensed to preach the gospel by the local church he attends, Immanuel Church. *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, 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 via <http://www.elimfellowship.org/online-giving/> . If your church would be interested in ministry by Michael, please feel free to contact us. [www.cabooseministries.org](http://www.cabooseministries.org)  
Facebook: Michael Guerty Guertin**

Michael Robert "Guerty" Guertin  
3 Windsor Rd, Wilmington, DE 19809-2144  
(302) 764-0490

[www.cabooseministries.org](http://www.cabooseministries.org)











