

**Audio sermons:** <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministriesaudiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>

**YouTube Channel for Time Machine Dramas & Sermons: “Michael Robert Guertin”**

**August 2018**

Dear Friends & Family,

**“...and THY ‘STAFF’-They Comfort Me...”**



**[7/22]** I returned home very late this past Friday night from my 2nd of 4 camps I serve at each summer. This one was our HSC Jr. High camp. We had 118 7th-9th graders. More about them later. What makes or breaks a camp each year is its staff-hands down. [I had this 3 min. video made to inspire our Jr Hi Camp Staff for the week: <https://youtu.be/os421u2dS8E> ] Each year, each camp, our faithful Lord has sent me His staff-all far from perfect, fighting fears, feeling inadequate for the task-just like us directors. Yet-this is the kind of staff I prefer. This way, I know that if anything of eternal value happens, it is God Who is doing it. Every camp, every year, my heart is just as burdened to minister to & pour into the staff as it is to the campers the weighty doctrines of the Word in the hopes that their experiences at camp will be *doctrinally & not emotionally based*. We had 3 rookie staff at this past camp. Two of the three had not even been a camper. I heard from both of them when camp for them was over. The first had to leave camp early on the last day due to a prior commitment. She handed me a note on Friday just before she left camp. She wrote: *“Dear Guerty, First, I want to thank you for calling me to be a counselor. I don’t know if [our mutual friend] told you, but I am a fairly new Christian & I still have a lot to learn. With that being said this camp has been wonderful for me. I know I am here to counsel the girls & I have been doing so by the power & touch of God & in turn I have been counseled by them & the other counselors as well. I cannot explain to you what this camp has done for me, but I know it has changed my life. I fully know that it was in God’s perfect plan*

*for me to be here because I never-ever answer unknown numbers & that day I obviously did. I cannot thank you enough for allowing me to be part of this Hallowed Ground [our camp theme this year]. God bless you...I want you to know that after your message & after this amazing camp I was able to let go of something that was most definitely not pleasing God & it took me four years to do it but God most definitely gave me the strength to do it & I feel like a weight had been lifted off of me [her name]."* She later texted to me en route home that day: *"I just have to share that the first song that came in my car today was Sparrows by Jason Gary after I have been praying all week for God to allow this fire to continue to burn in me...thank you so much for asking me to do this I really hope you understand how much this place changed my life There is no doubt that I would love to counsel again though!! There is no better feeling, I would do it again in a heartbeat."* Another rookie counselor emailed me the following: "Dear Guerty, Thank you for allowing me to experience the awesome week of Jr High camp. I had no plan of counseling for camp until [my daughter] asked if I could go because there's never anyone to take pictures. After receiving my congratulatory email about coming to camp I immediately thought to myself, what in the world did I get myself into. :) 2 weeks before camp I almost called to ask to be removed. I ended up being horribly spiritually attacked with depression that I just couldn't shake. I'm so glad that I pushed through and came anyway. The week was incredible. I had the best group of girls as a first-time counselor. Our entire cabin got along super well. You would've thought they had known each other for years. I had 2 girls accept Christ, 1 that I had been praying for a breakthrough at the start of the week. I kept feeling that she needed to know she didn't always need to be so strong & that it was ok to cry & ask for help sometimes. Thurs night when brother Eric did the altar call she went out & as I hugged her I just shared my story with her. First off not many know my childhood background as I simply don't share it. For whatever reason, well I know it was God, I shared with her my story & she just broke down. Having been adopted as well & having just lost her mom to cancer 2 years ago she was just in a bad state. Ministry every night had me crying as I just kept feeling the overwhelming presence of God's love pouring out on me. I am looking forward to next year, although I won't see the girls I counseled as they have moved onto Sr high camp. :( I promised them I would pray for them & keep in touch. You guys are doing an awesome job, keep up the good work. Love, [her name]. Her husband later wrote me & said of her: "What she needed she got. She wants to sign up for next year. God really moved in her life."

## “THE WORD & THE WEIGHT”



This is my 28th year at Tel Hai, & last week was my 62nd camp for the Hopewell Network. As with previous camps, I strove to have my preachers & teachers bring sound, biblical, text-driven doctrine. Why? This alone increases the chances of response on the part of the hearers having a sound, biblical response to the Word. It is very, very easy to hype-up teens & children in a service-especially a camp service. I dread the thought. I fear there are too many camps where either the teaching is light & fluffy, or where the worship is hype-filled. I ache & mourn re: this when I ponder it, & hence strive to avoid it at our camps, without, though, God forbid, restricting the Holy Spirit's moves. Rather, I mourn & ache for Him to do so. As I've often said, I hate "Pentecostal-ism", but love Pentecost! The camp heard messages re: The Broad & Narrow Gates & Ways, Jonah & running from God & pursuing your own will versus God's, Judgment Day, Justification Versus Sanctification, & praise & Jesus' Name being viable weapons in our warfare, just to name a few. What happens when God's Word is faithfully preached & Jesus is made the rightful Center of Attention? His Spirit is manifested among us, & the weight of His glorious presence is felt by all. "Glory"-*"Chabod"* in Hebrew, basically means "weight", & that is what the camp feels ever-increasingly as the service progresses. The end result? Campers on their knees & faces before the Lord up front.

## "MOTHER & CHILD REUNION?"



Our Thursday evening service almost went until 11 p.m. Most of the campers were up front, holding each other & singing sweetly. If there is a Heaven on earth to me, this is just about it. One of the many blessings of staying in the same ministry & location for many years is to see the generations pass through it. As I beheld, held, & prayed for some of the campers, I couldn't help but melt as I pondered their mothers in the very same room & Holy Spirit's presence 28 years ago. One of the said mothers was 13 when she started at camp. Two of her teenage children were there. Another mother was 9 her first year at camp with me. I never cease to remind her re: her sticking her tongue out at me way back then as if to jokingly portray a spoiled brat. Well, in reality she wasn't. She & her family returned last year from spending several years on the mission field in Africa! They have 5 children now, two of which were with me at this camp. She texted me re: camp: *"Awesome! I'm so thankful for camp & it's a blessing to see my own kids, their cousins, & other alumni/counselors returning with their kiddos. Our girls talked the whole way home about their week!!! Gift given from the Lord"*. Few things melt my heart in life such as this. Speaking of campers, a first-timer from VA, whose grandfather was our camp "gopher", was deeply touched by the Lord. His grandpa texted me: " Good morning. I just had a wonderful conversation with [his grandson] about the camp week. He told me & I quote "it was the best week since Dad died [suddenly this past Feb.]" He told me the chapel was absolutely amazing & the testimonies people gave...it really impacted his heart & he had an amazing & fun time. I am thankful beyond words for your sacrificial giving to him to be a part of the camp." A camper's grand-mother wrote me: "Dear Guerty, Such a powerful testimony of God's love...You've got a great team working with you. [My grandson] had an awesome experience. We've never seen

him to excited & overjoyed about anything ~ and he said one of his favorite times was chapel! Of course! That's what they all say! He met the Lord in a powerful way & only regretted that he didn't come years sooner. He can hardly wait till next year. Thank you, brother. His sister will be coming to the elementary camp next month. She's really excited to come as well. Thank you again for all your pour into these youth. We love & appreciate you more than we can say! Blessings..."

### **"ACCIDENTS NOT WAITING TO HAPPEN"**



I returned home this past Friday night from my 3rd of 4 annual summer camps. This was my NY camp. We had over 200 5-13 year-olds. Each year when I arrive to unload & setup, dozens of Camp Victory staff surround me as I hand them tons of equipment from my trailer & truck bed. As I went to grab my old-fashioned milk box I use as a cooler, I had not noticed it had broken my truck rear window. As I snatched it from the bed the broken glass caught the back of my hand & cut & tore it back severely. I'm sure I needed stitches but didn't have the time nor money to pursue getting them. 200+ children were arriving first thing the next a.m. & I had lots of setup to do. We bandaged it profusely & eventually put gabs of "Liquid Skin" on it. It is slowly but surely healing. About 2 hours after ripping open my hand, I was assembling my Time Machine & a part from it hit me in the eye, causing it to bleed in the white of the eye like it never had. A friend of my daughter who saw a pic of me with the bloodied eye said I looked like a monster! This is how I started my week! Despite these three initial mishaps I kept going. I then began to experience cold-like symptoms, on top of my back-to-back camp fatigue! And then my trailer jack broke as well! Some dear saint/servant brothers both installed a new [used] rear window & also bought me a new trailer jack.

Despite my repeated attempts to repay them they refused. May the Lord reward them. As with my PA camp the week before, these precious little ones received doctrine well-beyond their years. I had children in the front row learning how to read, & some in the back row whose hormones were kicking in! **“SERIOUS SUBJECTS”** They learned re: The Parable of the Sower, Depravity & Grace, Judgment Day, & Romans 1 [which deals with atheism, apostasy, infidelity, idolatry, immorality, homosexuality, etc. & God’s resultant punishment of handing them over to their own evil desires & reprobate minds {I used Barbie & Ken dolls for the last topic}].



Jesus enabled me to have some portions of these heavy doctrines shoot over the heads of the youngest ones yet strike home at the hearts of the older kids & staff. I was scared to give some of these messages, yet quite relieved when I heard back from a number of staff that they were glad I gave them, & they had some of their own children in the audience.

"1 more of 4"



I head out for my 4th & final camp in about 10 days. It is my annual Hopewell Network kids camps. It is a delight. It's the weighty doctrines of the Word enveloped in the heavy presence of the Spirit of God, all encapsulated in an environment that looks like a Christian "Chuck E. Cheese", complete with puppets, costumed characters, Bible games, a Time Machine, a robot, candy being dropped from the sky out of an airplane, etc., & so much more! ! I can't wait. Come, Jesus, come.

***\*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 various Bibles I have studied from.] "We all thank Jesus for HIS cross-but do we thank Him for ours?" [6/19/'04]// "Any part of your theology that does not give God *all* of the glory is not of God!" [7/2/'04]// "Keep your eyes on the Lord & your nose in His Word." [7/22/'04]



*Caboose! On the Loose:*  
*\*Lookin' out for the little guys...\_*

**Ministry/Events for AUGUST & those not listed in last month's newsletter:**

**August 7:** Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg./Network  
pastors' mtg.

**August 11-17:** hsc Kids' Camp, Honey Brook, PA: pastoral director

**August 26:** Hockessin Chinese Evangelical Community Church: Sun. a.m. service

**\*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 [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 the link below to give directly. Any sized amount would be greatly appreciated! Thank you! [click here](#)**

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