

Audio Sermons: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministries/audiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>

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

Website: www.cabooseministries.org

Caboose! Facebook Site: “Michael

‘Guerty’ Guertin”

August 2020

“SPRINGS SPRING IN SPRING CITY”



Dear **Friends & Family**,

[7/19] Kim & I returned from an all-day ministry trip to Pennsylvania. It was an historic event in a way-I had been “quarantined” from ministry for 4 months. Prior to yesterday I had not preached to a live audience since March 15th, the “Ides of March”, when I, along with **Jim DiBiao** re-enacted my **Via Dolorosa “Fortress Antonia”** scene at a church in Maryland. Up until yesterday I had been “confined” to ministering to God’s people via video productions & the internet. It felt so good to “get out” again. I feel I was made for the road. I guess being in my 21st year of itinerant ministry that’s a given. Joel Kolb, a dear brother & friend whose children are like “my children”, is the new pastor of Spring City Fellowship of the Hopewell Network of Churches. He, like I & so many others, felt the very deep dismay of not having Hopewell Summer Camps this year. Joel’s children, like so many others, have grown up in camp. It is the first time in Hopewell Camps’ **34-year** history of not having them. It is the first time in **Tel Hai Camp’s 70-year** history of not having them! Well, Joel wanted to do something about it. Despite Covid-angst everywhere, he went ahead with his plan to conduct a “Family Fun Day” at his

church yesterday. Several weeks ago he & his secretary asked me if I would come & minister. Need he ask?? If you read my two previous newsletters you know I was chomping at the bit to get out there with “Jesus & the kids” again! As I wrote last month, He heard my prayer--ministry events have fallen upon me like manna from Heaven! When Kim, “**Chip**” [my trademark puppet of 29 years who somehow perpetually remains 4 years old!], & I arrived we hit the ground running. As always, there were tons of items & ministry equipment to unload & setup, fellow brothers & sisters to train who would assist me yesterday, etc. Two things I immediately noticed when we arrived--there weren’t a lot of children there--& they were relatively young. I had anticipated the 2nd fact. I didn’t know what to expect re: numbers re: summer & Covid! And yet--there were as many if not more adults there as children. I always go with the goal, plan, & intention of feeding all ages.

“THE DEVIL IN THE DETAILS”?



I came with the intention of preaching the gospel the way I typically do, vis, *The Gospel Elaborated*: Creation, Angelic Fall, Mankind’s Fall, Depravity, The Giving of the Law, The Curse of the Law, God’s Wrath, Propitiation {how God removed His wrath from off of His people by the offering of His Son}, God’s sovereign freedom to save or not to save angels or men, or none, the Incarnation, The Great Exchange of Jesus’ righteousness & His people’s sin, The Cross, Repentance towards God, & faith in Christ. While setting up, I was a bit “thrown” by two things. “Lord?, they’re so young. Do I teach them re: Your wrath?” At first I decided not to. But I also knew our Lord, over the years many, many times had given me His ability to communicate such things that a child could understand. Right before service time I decided to setup my “wrath jar” object lesson to do so.

“IT WAS QUITE JARRING”




I mentioned “the devil is in the details” above as one of the most crucial object lessons I own & have used for decades, vis, my “sin jar”, had a malfunction during setup. Actually, it was not the jar itself, but the stand that holds it. Under the jar of water is a metal tray on which it sits. Underneath the tray is a light socket. This was the issue. It wouldn’t light up. I couldn’t elaborate visually on Adam’s innocence nor his sin without it. In the decades I have preached this message in this way I have not once not had this jar at my disposal. Needless to say, it threw this very “visually-oriented” preacher! The Devil loves little things like this-he’ll do anything to try to hinder the gospel from getting to children-or to any age group for that matter! And yet, as with all of the Devil’s schemes & machinations, they only are permitted by the Lord & occur in order to fulfill one of the Lord’s higher purposes. If they do not do so, our sovereign God does not allow them. #1. It forced me to trust Him to cause His Word to be delivered with or without this particular object lesson. #2. It led me to once again lean on other members of Jesus’ Body. Praise the Lord, there were competent brothers just sitting around waiting for the service to start, & one of them was an electrician!

“WHO IS THAT MASKED MAN?!”



The children sat on the floor with the adults on chairs around tables. One little boy was wearing one of those plastic masks that have been around for decades which includes black horn-rimmed glasses, a mustache, & a big flesh-colored nose! In all of my years, this was a first. “Michael? What did you do??” I kept

going! That kid would probably have been me decades ago.  Despite the very serious, sober, & heavy aspects of the gospel message, I felt our Lord’s ability to communicate to the young come upon me again. I love Jesus when He does this-so much. It could only be Him. He is THE Master Communicator! Pastor Joel sponsored this event in the hope it would be kind of a camp-substitute & that it was! The Holy Spirit’s springs of comfort, security, & peace filled the room as He enabled this preacher to make Jesus the “Center of Attention”.

"PEYTON'S PLACE?"



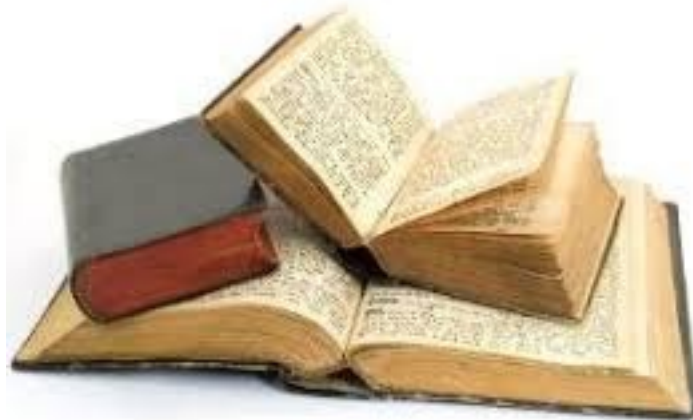
Despite having been involved in camp work for **37 years**, I shall never forget as long as I live a particular kids' camp chapel from last summer. As the majority of the children were up front on the floor of the chapel in Hemlock Hall at Tel Hai Camp, one little girl, whose name is **Peyton**, sat there in the Lord's sweet but heavy presence, weeping so quietly & tenderly. Tears, one at a time, just slowly rolled down her cheeks as Jesus' presence ministered to her. She wasn't talking to any other of the children who were all around her. She was just taking it, rather, "Him", in! I came home from that camp last summer & tried to share with Kim this story re: Peyton-I remember crying trying to do so. Well, Peyton was there yesterday! Her mother Jess was a camper in my early years at camp. Now more than one of her children are campers. This is the beauty of staying in one ministry for so long! Peyton's grandfather was one of the brothers who helped me with my "jar light" glitch [btw, her grandfather was in one of my Time Machine dramas at



this church about 15 years ago!]. He told me while I was loading up my truck that he asked Peyton if the service today was like camp. She said, "Yes, only the ones at camp are longer-& at night." Yes--"springs did spring in Spring City". And, as always, it never matters to me how many eternal souls are there-only that they get God's Word!



[8/3] I returned home from an 8-day, 557-mile ministry trip yesterday which I shall have to write about next month. I'm so very grateful to the Lord for all of these open doors! May He fill me with Himself to do what only HE can do! Amen.



***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: "One reason for weak & shallow conversions is weak & shallow preaching." [MRG 1/30/15]



Caboose! On the Loose:

****Lookin' out for the little guys...***

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

Aug. 1: Good Shepherd Community Church, Reamstown, PA: kids 3-day summer camp

Aug. 2,9,16,23,30: "Chip Sunday Show" video productions

Aug. 5,12,19,26: "TabTalk" Scripture exposition video productions

Aug. 16-21: City Light Ministries "Fortress" Day Camp-week 1, Reading, PA: a.m. chapel speaker

Aug. 23-28: City Light Ministries "Fortress" Day Camp-week 2, Reading, PA: a.m. chapel speaker



*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 gift no matter how small would be greatly appreciated! Thank you! [click here](#)

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