

December 1, 2013

Dear *Friends & Family*,

FOR KIDS FROM 2 TO 92 or, 'LICENSE' TO PREACH"

(11/3) I returned home last night from ministering for the very first time in **Washington, D.C.** [Since 1986 I have ministered in **16 different states**. Whenever I do so for the first time, I procure a license plate from that state & attach it to my Time Machine. Hence, the TM has a new plate!]. The inner-city kids ministry where I preached was the exit off of 295 South that followed the exits for Capitol Hill & Pennsylvania Ave. When I arrived at the center, it was crawling with adults, not children. There was an army of them. My hostess for this annual outreach event [www.gatepostDC.org] told me there would be about 100 adult volunteers. They were mostly standing around chatting waiting for their marching orders, as they were going to be sent out to scour the neighborhood to invite children & parents to the event. A live band, food, a Moon Bounce, face-painting, etc. were all part of it. I would do the gospel presentation for the children later in the afternoon. The building we were in was also a local church, converted from an old apartment building or perhaps a store-front. The very first thing I began to do after my truck was unloaded was to recruit my actors for the **Time Machine** drama. This is not uncommon. I more often than not use personnel for dramas from on site. [Once, while preparing for a Time Machine drama at a Christmas banquet, I recruited some men for it who were coming to attend the banquet! {Some of my actors couldn't make it.}] Getting my Time Machine, object lessons, & equipment to the chapel area was equivalent to a mouse going through a maze! As the afternoon progressed, there were people everywhere, bustling about with their respective duties. It truly looked like The Kingdom of God on earth in action. I was told I would only have the children for my part of the ministry that afternoon. I must confess-I was pretty disappointed. I wanted them all! I had to go to an empty hallway & pray re: that. I

asked the Lord to forgive me for any ambition that was a source of my disappointment & to give me a heart for whomever He chose to send to me.

PREACHING IN A SUBWAY STATION

Yes-a subway station. That's what it felt like. As the time came for me to begin preaching, people young [& might I say, *very* young? There were a # of **2-year-olds**-not my usual forte nor preference! J] & old kept coming in. At the end of the service I was told there were **115 children** present, not to mention several adults. Many of the children were bringing in trays of food. This was a first for me. Perhaps they thought it was a dinner theater? J I have ministered in the inner-city & also in rowdy children's services several times through the years. The exception here was that these children did not seem *deliberately* so. However, in nearly three decades of doing so, this particular service was easily in the top 3 for disruptions, distractions, & interruptions.

A MIC-LESS 'MIKE'

Having grown up in the **Delaware Valley**, I had the privilege of being able to view several children's shows unique to the area. One was *Happy the Clown*. In his studio, he had a boom microphone with a face on it. When the show opened, Happy would sing to the boom, a.k.a., Mr. Mic: *Good morning, Mr. Mic, good morning, Mr. Mic. I hope you're feeling fine today. Good morning Mr. Mic, whooo hooo.* My mother would sing that to me as a young boy. However, on this day, Mr. Mike would not be accompanied by Mr. Mic! Given that I need the freedom to hold up & operate my various & sundry object lessons when I preach, a wireless lapel or headset mic is a must. I brought mine for this service

but it wouldn't work, given how much metal was in the ceiling. Translate? In the hour or so that I preached, I had to virtually yell to keep attention & be heard. The place became packed as the service progressed.

CLOWNING AROUND

To make matters more difficult for me, there were two clowns walking around the room during the message, handing out candy to well-behaved kids. I know there is a huge NYC kids ministry that has done this in their program for decades. I've never used this method, though I know for many kids' ministries it works. I use other means to induce children's attention. I had to gracefully, tactfully, & comically (no pun intended) ask the clowns to stop. I had to dismiss them in such a way so as not to provoke the children's ire for 2 reasons: kids love clowns & kids love **candy**! An aside: having ministered to children now since **1986**, one very common aspect of children's ministry I've never used was "clowning", though for sure, we do a lot of clowning around with the kids, re: establishing relationship before we minister to them.

And those of you who have worked with me know I've used just about every other means of pre-ministry entertainment there is!

[A friend & former co-worker with kids recently reminded me of my former, typical commencement of a kids rally-riding my **unicycle** up the center aisle & purposely having a wipeout on it! J]

A 'GRIM' RESULT

To add to all of this mayhem, when I operated the Time Machine & brought out **Adam & Eve**, followed by the **Grim Reaper** [I use him to elaborate re: Rom.5:12, 17 re: the entrance & reign of **Death** into the

world via Adams sin] a little girl started uncontrollably crying out in fear. Good grief. Ive used these characters for years now & dont get such responses. Guess she was a little bit too young. Remember-I never *request* children that young, as precious as they are! J Ive always felt upper-elementary children were my forte. However, it seems Jesus keeps setting me up with those considerably younger! Given the dynamics & atmosphere in the room, I could immediately tell it was disheveling my usual presentation of quoting *Scripture* & delivering *systematic theology*. In times such as these, Ive learned to keep going. About halfway through the service, the *Spirit of the Lord* began to come noticeably into the room. It was absolutely amazing, given all of the issues mentioned above, that everyone in the room became attentive, quiet, & still. I felt that deep, sweet, rich presence like I do at the end of a camp evening chapel service. Wow. I had preached to this group the gospel elaborated, which involved the Fall & its resultant depravity, the Law of God & its curse on people who didnt keep it perfectly, Gods options to save *Lucifer* & the fallen angels instead of human beings & to save Israel only instead of us Gentiles. I preached on His wrath & how He propitiated it [satisfied it by His Sons sacrifice] for those who embrace Jesus. I concluded with calling the audience to cling to Jesus to *escape Gods wrath* that is coming in the future & to receive His perfect gift of righteousness which comes to & covers those who believe for the rest of their lives. Many children's hands went up & stayed up. According to my hostess, she counted 50. I didn't see anywhere's near that number, but then again, I wasn't looking for them as much as I was concentrating re: "keep going". I then had the adult leaders in the room go among the kids & lay their hands on them & pray. I then related from Mark 10 how Jesus, when children were brought to Him, took them in His arms, embraced them, & laid His hands on them. We just waited on the Lord in His rich presence for several minutes. My hostess emailed me this a.m. with the following, which I think best sums up the event: ***"You were a blessing for sure. The kids [there were many adults in the room too] really liked your presentation and obviously it was covered by the Holy Spirit. It was hard to get to the give-aways [prizes at the***

end] with the presence of the Lord in the room. Blessings and Thank-yous abundantly." Teri

"CLOCK of AGES?"

I can honestly say in almost three decades of ministering to children, that this event was one of the most physically draining I have ever done, given the circumstances [I've heard more than once that **one hour of preaching = 8 hours** of regular work, given the outpouring & spiritual, emotional, & physical expenditure involved - how much more a children's service such as this!]. And yet-I would do it all again in a second! I can think of no greater honor, than to be entrusted by the Lord to minister the gospel of His Son to the young. My deepest ache is that it continue for years to come. Interestingly enough, three days after this event, I'm ministering to a group of senior citizens in PA, jumping in age from **2 to 92**? I love my job. J May your **Christmas** be **Christ**-filled this year.

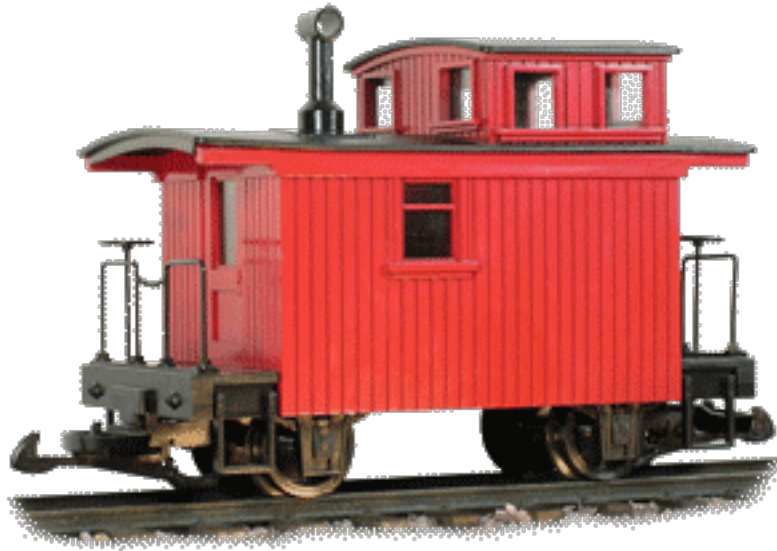
PS-I've added many sermons from my archives in the basement to my iTunes account. I hope they bless!

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***[Michael is an ordained Elim Fellowship itinerant home 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 full-time. Since 2000, he & Kim have lived by faith, having no salary, retirement to speak of, or health insurance-yet this is their calling at this season of their lives. Michael preaches Gods Word & systematic theology, using both visual aids & drama, to all age groups either separately or combined, as the Lord opens doors. To help support this work, please make all tax-deductible gifts payable to: Elim Fellowship, 1703 Dalton Rd, Lima, NY 14485], denoting it for the home-mission work of Michael Robert Guertin. If your church would be interested in ministry or helping to**

support our missions work in the U.S. to both old & young please feel free to contact us. Thank you!



*Ministry/events for **DECEMBER** & those not listed in last months newsletter:

Caboose! on the Loose:

Nov.10,17: IC, Wilmington, DE: The Fathers House: childrens church worship leader

Nov. 16: IC, Wilmington, DE: DEHOP: worship team drummer

Nov. 28-Dec.1: Northern VA: visiting both sides of the family for Thanksgiving

Dec. 6: IC, Wilmington, DE: Seniors group: ministry of the Word

Dec. 6: Schorn Residence, Hockessin, DE: IC home fellowship group

Dec. 8: IC, Wilmington, DE: Warehouse youth group Christmas Talent Show: Emcee

Dec. 21: IC, Wilmington, DE: DEHOP worship team drummer