

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"

JANUARY 2021

"HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

"CABOOSE! END OF YEAR REPORT FOR 2020"

Dear Friends & Family,



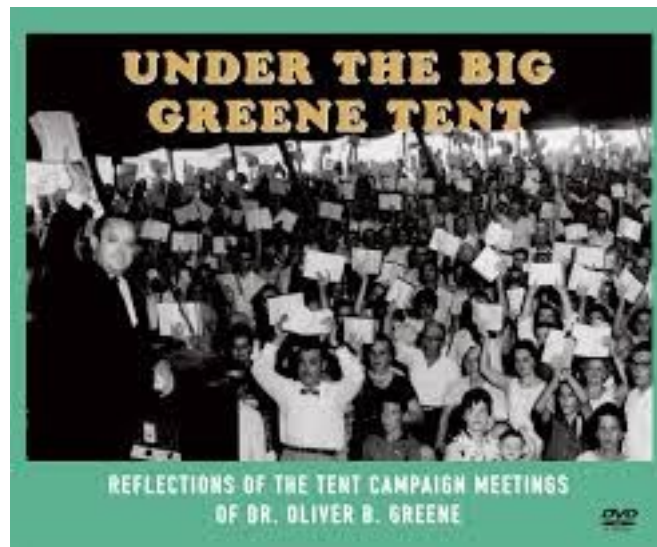
This week will mark the completion of 35 years of full-time ministry, & 21 years less a month of living-by-faith itinerant ministry as an Elim Fellowship home-missionary. Once again, as in previous years, 2020 encompassed traveling several miles [though significantly lessened by Covid-19 restrictions] to minister in various states, which included DE, PA, NJ, & MD. I traveled approximately 2,018 miles for preaching ministry. Venues of ministry included Sunday morning whole-family services, kids mini-Covid-camp substitutes, an inner-city children & youth outreach, a church elder ordination ceremony, a family VBS, & a kids' workers' seminar. Expressions of the Body of Christ I ministered to were Elim Fellowship, The Hopewell Network of Churches, United Methodist, Church of God, Liberty Fellowship of Churches, & Independent. In addition, on the Sunday mornings I was at my former home church, "Immanuel Church", I strove to provide puppet shows for the nursery, toddlers, & elementary aged. I have found these short puppet shows to be one of the biggest thrills for the children that day. As with camps, I strove to make sweet childhood memories in the House of God among His people. Amen.



NOTE: my preaching & traveling load was significantly limited in 2020 due to Covid-19 quarantines, closures, & restrictions. Because of this, my preaching of the Word went into a “Video Virtual Venue” for a vast portion of 2020, as did so many other Christian ministries. This confinement & restriction was a great duress to me who has always been a “people person”. However, I cannot disagree with Kim who has repeatedly told me during this Covid-quarantine-confinement season that I am consistently reaching more people, both old & young, than I ever could via my in-person itinerant work alone. How so? Via my two weekly video productions, vis, “Chip Sunday Shows”, & “Cab!Talks”-the former for kids {& adults!}, & the latter for adults. Since mid-April, I produced 36 Cab!Talks & I would guess at least 50 Chip Shows. How can this be if I do each of them weekly, on Wednesdays & Sundays respectively? Well, besides producing Chip’s weekly show, I’ve sent out countless short Chip Shows to private individuals, mostly for their birthdays, including children & adults! Plus, there have been a number of occasions in 2020 when I’ve sent a personal Chip Show to dear friends who have contracted the Corona Virus. Hence, Chip is kind of a medic in a way-a merry heart makes good like a medicine! JOY! As I’ve written in recent past newsletters, these two video productions take up most of my time re: ideas, filming, scripts, sets, props, “guest stars”, post-production, posting on social media venues, study & note-taking & typing said notes for the Cab!Talks, & all of the post-production work that goes into them. I’ve actually been trying to figure out how to take a break since last April, since Kim keeps reminding me the children & adults wait each week for these two productions! Here is recent feedback re: a new viewer of Cab!Talks that encourages me to keep producing them-& it’s from a former camper whose children now are campers! “Guerty! I've been loving your Cab!Talks! In 2018 I read the Old Testament for the first time in decades & at the same time started studying John, reading it over & over. Hosea 2 & Ezekiel 16, along with multiple chapters in Genesis, Exodus & Deuteronomy lifted the fog of bad theology I had in place for years. I received the gift of a healthy fear & awe of God, along with a clearer picture of his love & faithfulness to his deeply flawed people. These scriptures broke so many heavy struggles off of my life. Unfortunately, not many people, as you have said, teach or discuss these

awesome OT truths often. So...I appreciate the time & effort you are taking to put these teachings on the internet! I look forward to listening & learning more in the coming weeks!" [Christina] *Another dear sister/friend in the Lord emailed me: "...have listened in to some of your Cab talks, amazing how much you pack into a few verses. Really enjoy them!!" [Chris]// This makes me want to continue them. Thank You, Lord.

"A 'FUN'-DAMENTALIST"



With this Covid-confinement squeezing exponentially more fruit production & ministry out of me than I could have ever imagined, I could not help but think of one of my favorite preachers when I was a baby Christian, vis, Oliver B. Greene. Brother Greene was a fiery fundamentalist-& I loved him for it. There were no gray areas with Brother Oliver-it was either black or white. He would traverse the country holding revivals in his big "Green" tent [yes-it was green!]. I liken myself to being a fundamentalist at heart-apart from the derogatory connotation that label has come to receive in days gone by. I love it that I can give both young & old the "fundamentals" of

the faith, & have “fun” while doing so. [fun, at the appropriate times i.e.! I HATE when preachers are more stand-up comics than preachers! If so, GOD has not called them!]. Later in his life Brother Greene was hampered with physical ailments & limitations which necessitated him getting off the road. The Lord then led him to begin a radio ministry, vis, The Gospel Hour. By doing so, he reached exponentially more people with the gospel than he ever would have on the road. I myself LOVE being an itinerant minister on the road! I feel it is what I was made for! I love long drives alone in my truck with the Lord. I have no plans to stop doing so at this point; but, when I do, I wonder if the Lord will have me give myself full-time into video productions. We shall see!

“IT’S OLD FEZZIWIG-& HE’S ALIVE AGAIN!”



Most of you will recognize this famous line spoken by Ebenezer Scrooge of his former employer in Charles Dicken’s famous “A Christmas Carol” literary masterpiece. My heart so resonates with it in that a little over a week ago I had the ecstatic pleasure of preaching to a LIVE audience after over a 3-month hiatus of doing so! I had last preached live on Labor Day Sunday in early September! In almost 35 years of preaching, this was by far the longest preaching hiatus I’ve ever experienced. [Note: I emphasize “live” as I mentioned above, I’ve been teaching every week “virtually” since last April]. My dear “little brother” & friend, Gary Buck, whom I’ve known since he was 15, & who has grown up with me in camps: camper, counselor, worship leader, & assistant director-asked me to preach his two Christmas services-complete with Time Machine dramas-my specialty! 😊 Virtual ministry definitely has its place & I’ve heard of several churches actually expanding their audiences {& offerings!} via live-stream technology. However, nothing comes close to being with God’s people in the flesh. I was excited-yet, to be honest I also was scared. Gary’s church is a big one. Plus, he told me when he invited me that over 2X the actual number of his congregants who attend live watch online!

TECH-STRESS



Added to this was my recent acquisition of deeper knowledge into various copyright laws & stipulations re: the movie music I use in my ministry. I have used it for decades but to my recollection not via live-stream. Gary's church live-streams. I was told YouTube has much tighter restrictions re: use of copyrighted music, even for churches, when they live-stream. Hence, I learned if I used the Time Machine drama music I had used for prior events for Gary's services, YouTube might shut down his church's live-stream service right in the middle of the service! Hence, besides immersing myself in the text of John 1:1-4, 14 from his gospel's Prologue, I had to spend many, many hours researching, sampling, downloading, etc. various songs from copyright-free music websites. As much as I resented having to do this, I wanted to do everything legally & ethically, as I have feared for decades losing the anointing of the Lord if I knowingly was breaking the laws of the land. I wanted to be "legal", so I could be "free", conscience-wise. This was more difficult for me than you'd think. The music I have both acted & preached with is "my" music-I have owned & loved these soundtracks for decades. I know

them. I know which songs to use-which songs evoke the proper emotion & “feel” I am trying to portray out of the Time Machine. Now, in the space of a few days, I had “get the feel” of new music I had never known.

“A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS”-BUT NOT IN MY CASE!



In my preaching I rarely ever use slides or PowerPoint presentations. I did however want to use one for these two services, vis, a picture from Google Images of a bearded man in shock. I had used it for a newsletter in 2019. Why? I had been doing an in-depth study of the book of Jude-one of our Lord Jesus’ half-brothers. Both he & his brother James didn’t believe Who their Older Brother was until after the Resurrection. Can you imagine how stunned they both were that this “man”, Whom they roomed with for decades in Nazareth was the Creator of the universe?! I wanted to show said slide to try to convey this stunned silence. Upon further inspection of it this time, however, the man in the slide looked familiar. He looked like an actor I had seen in a movie many years ago. It was him. When I asked Gary about it, Gary advised not using the slide for another reason-this same actor was in a very immoral, yet popular TV series. I’m soooooo glad I asked Gary first! ☹️ When “showtime” [Time Machine “showtime”, i.e.] finally arrived, I hit even more technical difficulties. One of my actor’s sandals that I had brought for him were too big. He proceeded to do the two dramas barefoot! I grimaced but what could I do? The show must go on! In the 2nd performance at the 11 o’clock service, my fogger wouldn’t work! This is a time traveler’s nightmare! Here I was dressed up as the prophet Isaiah from 700 B.C. ready to come out & I’m stressing behind the Time Machine trying to get the fogger to work, clicking the switch “fast & furious” several times, but to no avail! I finally had to let it go as I could feel myself getting out of character, not to mention losing my sense of the Holy Spirit’s presence-which is EVERYTHING to me! ☹️

“WHERE THERE’S SMOKE-THERE’S FIRE”?



{Here’s my actual fogger. Fixed it with a safety pin!}

Well, in this Time Machine operator’s case, “where’s there’s NO smoke, there’s fire”!-as in Guerty’s fire! Yes. I got mad! ☹️ In Time Machine operation, smoke means a lot to me. It reflects & enhances the ethereal mist of centuries or millennia gone by. The time travelers enter a sanctuary not only out of the Time Machine but also from “mist-ery” of days gone by. Such are the frustrations of us creative types! 😞 You must remember, Beloved-what I do & “how” I do it, is like presenting the Word of God in a “Sight And Sound” theater capsule! Services like this are truly mini “productions”! So much work goes into them-& it’s all a labor of love! Despite these obstacles, I was very much humbled once again by our Lord’s favor & hand upon me as I strove to bring all focus upon Him & His precious Word. That’s all I wanted. Praise God, from the feedback I got from both old & young, that is what happened. Praise His Name. Here is a link to the Time Machine drama & message should you care to watch: <https://youtu.be/OHEHb1usss4>

“THE DEVIL’S ‘FOGGER”



Speaking of foggers, I was out in the garage this a.m. fixing mine. Also, speaking of foggers, the devil has owned one for millennia & he loves using it-especially at Christmas & Easter! He sprays his cloudy & distracting mist every year over these two, holy, glorious, & God-originated seasons. His heartiest endeavor is to distract people from God’s most glorious acts-the Incarnation, Crucifixion, & Resurrection. Hence, every year, Christmas & Easter are always a “mix”-thanks to him! ☹ Oh, God, how we long for that Day when there will be no more mixture! In the face of this, I wanted so very much & even prayed to this end-that at the end of the service everyone would be talking about the Lord-& not me.

“CHREASTERS”



Many years ago a dear friend described people who only attend church on Christmas & Easter as “Chreasters”. I had never heard that expression before. Yet, for these two services, Chreasters were definitely on my mind & heart. Why? I have often thought & have believed for years Chreasters do themselves more harm than good eternally if that is their plan for the rest of their lives i.e., to attend church only on these two Christian holydays. It would be better for them not to attend church at all on these sacred Holidays than to come just for them. Why? By exposing themselves to God’s Word like this, they only make themselves more accountable on Judgment Day for light received that they did not respond to! Oh God-it sends cold chills down my spirit. I specifically addressed the Chreasters at both services in solemn & serious entreaties.

“THE RED JAR & THE WHITE ROBE”



Speaking of fundamentalists, another favorite preacher of mine both as a baby Christian & now is Lester Roloff. I will never forget one of his many quotes: “When the Angel of Death comes looking for you, the only thing he will be looking for is the blood.” Brother Roloff was paralleling this to the Passover, when the Angel of Death [Ps.78 says specifically it was a “band of destroying angels”] came to the doorways of Egypt looking for the Passover lamb’s blood sprinkled on them. In my message that Sunday, I concluded with the need for the Incarnation—the pre-existent Logos needed to become flesh so as to have blood to shed in the place of God’s people. I told the Chreasters that when they die there will be two judgments—1 immediately & 1 at the Day of Judgment. The judgment/decision occurring immediately at death, like with all of those in Egypt during the Passover night, was a “search for blood”. If the lamb’s blood was seen, the inhabitants were spared. When a human soul dies these days two things are immediately “scanned for” by the Chief Magistrate of Heaven: Christ’s blood & Christ’s righteousness [illustrated by a jar of “blood” & a white choir robe]. The presence or absence of these when the deceased is examined determines their eternal fate, vis, immediate entrance in the glorious presence of God, or being immediately cast into Hades to await the Final Judgment. I pray our gracious Lord will have mercy.

“CHESTNUT-BUT NOT ‘ROASTING OVER AN OPEN FIRE’”



My beloved Tel Hai Camp people allowed Kim & me to stay at camp during the weekend we ministered at Gary Buck’s church. This very much added to the specialness of that weekend. As I said above, it was my first time preaching live in over 3 months, it was at the church of a very dear brother & friend of mine, there were many people at this church I have known & loved for decades [former campers whose children are now campers were in attendance!], the ground was covered in snow [a precious touch for late December-we haven’t had a white Christmas since I can remember!], & I got to be on the road again-& with my much-better-half at that! Tel Hai Camp graciously allowed us to stay in Beechwood Lodge-at no cost-the very building I have lodged at every summer for weeks since 2001. Underneath one side of Beechwood Lodge is a meeting room called Chestnut. I have ministered in this room many times-men’s retreats, youth retreats, etc. But it is most special to me as this is the room where we conduct camp staff orientation 3X every summer. In addition, it is in Chestnut where I conduct Bible Study Methods & Quizzing every summer for all 3 camps. <https://youtu.be/2CBn2xzFx6k> [here is a link of me teaching it at a camp in FL in 2005]. Yes, it is a very special room. Given Kim & I had to get up very early that Sunday morning, I went downstairs to Chestnut to get some things for Kim stored in the refrigerator in the little kitchenette there. When I opened the door, it was very cold-& dark. The room was empty-& quiet. I felt my spirit start to mourn deeply. My eyes started to water. There were no staff nor children being filled with God’s Word. As I stood there looking across the room at tables that were set up-but with no one around them, my heart wondered, where are they? Here I was thinking of them, missing them, longing to be with them again, as Scrooge did with his childhood friends when the Spirit of Christmas Past took him back to those years-yet, just as with Scrooge, whose childhood peers had no idea of his presence, so it was with me & my staff & campers. Yet another line from Dicken’s A Christmas Carol came to my mind: “These are but shadows of the things that have been. They are not conscious of us.”

Oh God. Oh God, Beloved. I cannot adequately convey to you how very deeply saddened my heart was via all of this. I began to entreat our Father to fill that room once again. May it be so.

“THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST-IN ETERNITY”?



You may do with this what you'd like, but while standing there in the cold very early that morning in Chestnut, that same line from A Christmas Carol reverberated in my mind & heart again in another context-& a very sobering one at that. It had to do with lost sinners in Hell for all of eternity. "These are but shadows of the things that have been-they are not conscious of us." In a very real sense, this is exactly what will happen in eternity, Beloved-the lost-those who ignored God in their thoughts & chose deliberately not to be "conscious of Him" throughout their lifetimes, will now, for all of eternity, will be to God & His people in Heaven, merely "shadows of the things that have been". Neither the Lord nor we, His people, will be "conscious of them". Oh God. Oh God. Thoughts like this drive me to my knees-& face. I want to keep having thoughts like this in the New Year-so that I might be that much more consecrated & devoted to Him-to be used by Him to reach His people-& the lost. May it be so. Amen Kim & I pray for you as for ourselves that our Father will place us in His perfect will in 2021.

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: "After I preach a message I want the people so stuffed & blessed, that they 'burp spiritually' after the meeting."; "The only time it is even too late for God to intervene in the salvation of someone's soul is when they have blasphemed His Holy Spirit." [M.R.G. circa 2018]



Caboose! On the Loose:

*Lookin' out for the little guys...

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

Jan. 5: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//Network pastors' mtg.

Jan. 20: New Covenant Community Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area credential holders mtg.

Jan. 3, 10,17,24,31: Chip Sunday Show productions & postings

Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27: Cab!Talk verse-by-verse Bible exposition Wednesday productions & postings

*Michael is an ordained Elim Fellowship itinerant Stateside missionary & is also licensed to preach the gospel by Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE. 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](#)