

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

Facebook: "Michael Robert Guertin"

January 2023

**CABOOSE! MINISTRIES END OF YEAR REPORT**



**Dear Friends & Family,**

This week will mark the completion of **37 years** of full-time ministry, & **23 years less a month** of living-by-faith itinerant ministry as an **Elim Fellowship** home-missionary. Once again, as in previous years, **2022** encompassed traveling several miles to minister in various states, which included **DE, PA, NJ, & NY**. I traveled approximately **2,427** miles for preaching ministry, not to mention several more for non-preaching ministry-related events. Venues of ministry included Sunday morning whole-family services, an inner-city children & youth outreach, youth retreats, a camp fund-raising banquet, 3 youth/children's summer camps, an addictions' recovery ministry, a "Villains of Via" Easter Season dramatic production, a men's Bible study, **LEAD THE GENERATION** Youth & Children's Workers Conference [virtually], & Home-schooling/Christian school chapels. Expressions of the Body of Christ I ministered to were **Assembly of God, The Hopewell Network of Churches, Evangelical Free, Fellowship of Full Gospel Churches International, & Independent churches**. I continued to produce [re-doing post production] & post several video productions, including "**Cab!Talks**", "**Chip Sunday Shows**", & various church, camp, & Time Machine dramas, etc.

**"THE PLOW & THE SICKLE"**



**[11/12]** I returned home just a bit ago from a multi-youth group retreat in the countryside of PA. The event included several unchurched inner-city teens. I could tell. During worship in song there was a pack of them near the rear of the chapel hanging out on a table very close to my Time Machine, out of which I was to portray Martin Luther & preach later in the service. They were definitely not flowing with or interested in the exuberant youth-led worship. I was worried as I hung out backstage in costume if they'd move away from the Time Machine or not, & hence

“blow my cover”. To ensure this did not happen, prior to getting my monk robe on I approached the retreat leader during worship in song & asked him if he & his team would make sure these teens were moved from that area before we started that part of the service. He reassured me he would. After portraying Luther, I came back out as “me” & prayed, & then preached re: why the gospel is so precious & why it must be protected as Paul charged Timothy in II Tim.2:14. I told them it saves us from sin, from the justice of the Law, from the wrath of God that breaking His holy Law incurs, from the snare of the devil, & from the fires of eternal hell. I knew I was preaching deep & hard to folks who I’m sure had not heard preaching like this before. And yet I still felt to keep plowing. I did entreat them at the end to flee from the wrath to come & to exchange their sin-filled “F+ Report Card” for Jesus’ A+ one. I sat down. My host, Darrell Zimmerman, got up & like a tag-team wrestling match, took over preaching for me & whipped out his “gospel sickle” so to speak. He challenged the teens to not only raise their hands if they wanted to surrender their lives to Jesus, but to come & stand up front, both as a testimony & for prayer. I was amazed re: some of the teens who did! Some of them were from “the pack in the back”-Jesus Name be praised!

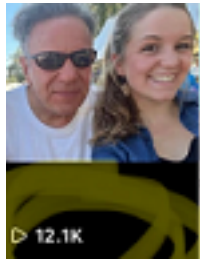
### “GOD’S ‘CHIMNEY SWEEP’?”



[11/18] As if being “God’s plow” wasn’t enough, as stated above, I’ve had the honor of being dubbed by another description just recently. One of my absolute all-time favorite people on the planet is **Derek Forsberg**, whom I affectionately call “D”. He has been by my side for decades in countless Time Machine & hsc field dramas, & not to mention my Roman officer comrade “Derecus” in countless *Via Dolorosa* episodes. A comic aside: his wife Renie, a dear sister & friend in the Lord once complained to me that I al-ways had her husband play villains in my dramas. It cracked me up. She was mostly correct, as D’s dark features, unlike mine, fit the part! [And, by the way, I have been literally “behind him all the way” as his stand-in (sit-in?) drummer for countless worship services & events]. The summer of 2022 was no exception, as D portrayed **Moses** in my hsc “Summer Stock” “Nadab & Abihu” Time Machine drama which we performed at all 3 hsc camps & in addition, at a youth retreat in NJ last October. Well, this past November I was scheduled to perform “Nadab & Abihu” at a church in NY twice. Sadly, & understandably so, I could not bring D & my other “seasoned Time Machine” travelers with me, so I had to train my host church’s drama team to be their “understudies”. I sent D & Ken Swann (a.k.a. “Aaron” in the drama), & Julia Capaldi (“Elisheba”, Aaron’s wife) a close-up pic of myself as “**Mishael**”, a kinsman of Nadab & Abihu. For this drama I was standing nearby to my cousins **Nadab & Abihu**, so when the fire of the Lord consumed them for blatant irreverence, I survived the fire but was severely charred by the terrifying experience. When Derek saw the picture, he replied in a text, “**You are the LORD’s chimney sweep. Cleaning out the cobwebs of the soul.**” My person &

ministry have been likened to many things through the years, but never this! I was sincerely humbled by it. I've realized for decades the Lord has used me as a plow with His people. As I ponder it, I guess this description for what He does in my ministry fits aptly as well.

**"A GRANDFATHER, GRANDDAUGHTER, & 'GOING VIRAL' @12.1K"**



**[12/7]** Last October, Kim & I did our "Triangle Trip", vis, **DE to AL to OH to DE**, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight year. While in AL, our oldest granddaughter, a.k.a. Reagan Grace Norman, asked me if she could do a brief interview with me on her Instagram channel. Her main question: "Papa, what is the one thing you know now that you wish you would have known when you were my age [17]?" I pondered it some & a day or so later I told her I was ready to reply. We sat down together & I told her this, et al: "If there is one thing I wish I would've known when I was your age that I know now, it would be the truth of Judgment Day. I went to Mass every Sunday & every Sunday we recited, '...He will come again in glory to judge the living & the dead...,' but I had little or no idea of what that meant. Now, after having taught re: Judgment Day since 1997, I have a much better concept of this life-changing event. Every single person who has ever existed, from Adam & Eve until the last human soul is conceived, will have a turn, one at a time, standing before Jesus' throne to give an account & explanation of everything they have done, not done, said, thought, im-agine, fantasized, etc. over the course of their entire life. I then quoted Acts 17:31: 'God has appointed a Day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man Whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men (that Jesus is that Man), by raising Him from the dead.' I then proceeded to quote Ecclesiastes 12:14, vis, '...God will bring every deed, whether good or evil, including every secret thing, into judgment...'. Then, Rev.20:12ff: '...I saw the dead, both great & small, standing before the throne. And the books were opened, & the dead were judged according to the things written in the books...'. I told Reagan, if I had known & understood these things at her age, I believe it would have kept me from many sinful things that I did. Some of you may recall a newsletter article I wrote last year about how discouraged I was that a young man who just posted YouTube videos of his daily life, doing silly dances, etc., had over 600K followers! And here I had striven so hard in my **Cab!Talk** video productions to make them as Christ-centered as possible, only to have a pittance of followers compared to him. "Why bother?", I mused. Well, here, on my granddaughter's Instagram account, in one 90 second interview with her, she reported to me last week said video had received **12.1K views & 130 shares!** This exponentially dwarfs any production I have ever produced on my "**Michael Robert Guertin**" **YouTube** channel. I didn't even know what to think or say, except that God knows what He's doing & can do what He wants when He wants to in order to get His truth out. May it be so.

**"COLORING' WITH GROWN MEN, ADDICTS, & LITTLE CHILDREN"**



On a recent ministry trip to N.Y., I ministered **7X** in 3 different locations over the space of 3 days. Said ministry events included two Sunday a.m. services, an addictions-recovery ministry, a men's Bible study, & a Christian school body, comprised of kindergarteners through 12<sup>th</sup> graders! For the addictions' group & Christian school students, I shared my "Process of Illumination" message re: how the Holy Spirit illuminates the same Word of God to believers today that He inspired the sacred authors to write thousands of years ago. With all 3 groups, I taught them the Bible-marking color-code system I taught our own 3 children when they were young, as well as countless **Hopewell Summer Camp** staff & campers over the past several years. This study method is based on the principle of a cow chewing a cud-4 of them, to be exact.

This is an apt way to describe the lost art of Scripture meditation-chewing & rechewing on a certain text or portion of the Word repeatedly. Each time we would read through the given pericope of the passage, I would have the students look for different subjects, vis, persons, demons, time counters, locations, etc.

The full process involves re-reading the text 8 or 9 times. By doing so, we are giving the Holy Spirit time to "open our eyes/minds to understand the Scriptures" as Jesus did for the two disciples on the Emmaus Road [Lk.24:45]. "Why, Michael?". We do so in the deepest hope that "our hearts would burn within us" while He does so [Lk.24:32]. I both loved & was humbled by some of the feedback I received by folks at all three events where we practiced this method: **"That was the best thing I've heard since I've been here"**, said one young struggling addict re: the **Process of Illumination** & Bible-marking system. One of the men at the church men's Bible study who also happened to portray "Moses" for me in the "Nadab & Abihu" Time Machine drama I performed twice while there emailed me after I got home re: this method: **"Thank you, Pastor Guerty. I'm loving the color system. Be blessed (Brother Tim)"** Shortly after my time at the Christian school where I conducted two separate Bible-marking sessions for the upper & lower schools, the chaplain of the school emailed me: **"1 & 2nd graders really wanted to hear more, so you left them wanting more & prayerfully that will drive them into the Bible" (Zach)** At the host church, where I set up my "base camp" in their worship team office as always, one of the brothers there, who happened to portray one of the Levite stretcher-bearers who carried **Nadab** in & out emailed me: **"Thanks Mike. You have been a mainstay at our church for over 25 years. Your ministry has become as familiar as the furniture to us in our church. We look forward to the obedi-ence to the Word that you help bring to life for those able to receive it. It is a blessing to have a mouthpiece of God feed us, so we can in turn.... feed our families." (Geoff)** As with my dear friend Derek's original comment re: my being a "chimney sweep for God", this statement by Geoff deeply moves me. I have never been likened to "furniture in a church", but I humbly take it as a very high compliment.

**"AND HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM....SO MUCH!"**



[12/8] This past Sunday, I had the high privilege to minister to a group of children both in drama & preached Word. It was even more especially a privilege, honor, & sacred convocation as these children were mostly on the younger side of the elementary-aged spectrum. How so? The younger they are, the more easily influenced they are, more relatively innocent they are, & hence "more dangerous" they are if you mistreat them in any way, according to our Lord Jesus. I came out of my host's Time Machine [a rarity as I haven't come out of someone else's Time Machine in decades, & that time it was out of one I built for another church!] as "Simeon". Joseph & Mary & two Temple guards came out of it as well. The baby Jesus (a doll, of course) was in Mary's arms. We re-enacted Simeon's encounter with the Holy Family from Luke chapter two. Afterwards, based on Mt. 1:21, "You shall call His Name 'Jesus', for He will save His people from their sins", I preached re: all that Jesus came to save us from. Part of this message was very similar to the one that accompanied my "Martin Luther" Time Machine drama mentioned above. Jesus saved us from The Law, its curse, God's wrath, hell, sin, the dominion of Satan, etc. Yes-this is a heavy message even for adults! And, again, these children were on the younger side of elementary age!

And yet, there they sat, their eyes affixed on me (for the most part! 😊), listening to a 40-minute sermon!

I'll be honest, throughout the message, I wondered if it was too heavy for them-& I wondered if it was too heavy for the adults in the room too! And yet, when I finished, the presence of the Holy Spirit was so strong in the room that we just sat, soaked, & remained still before the Lord as He ministered to us all. The children's pastor's wife texted me a day or so later re: one of the little boys in the room who she said "was on the spectrum": **"Not sure if Matt told you, we talked with [the father] & his wife last night. She said Ethan came home super emotional & she asked him if everything was ok. He said the service was just so beautiful."** Jesus. As a servant of the Lord to children, what more can I ask for from Him?? The night before I was up mostly since 1:30 a.m. with an anxiety attack. And yet, and yet, He came upon me for the sake of His Name, His glory, & the souls of these precious children. I pray, O, so very much, that it will be our Father's pleasure to continue to fill, use, & send me to other places in His Kingdom this New Year-that I might "furnish them", like a piece of dependable furniture, as Geoff mentioned above, with His Word & ways. May it be so. Humbly, **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]: "The Lord Christ sends out His apostles first-with the gospel. If they are rejected, He will send out His angels-with their sickles." [MRG 11/11/22]**



### ***Caboose! On The Loose!***

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

Jan.3: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg. & Network pastors' mtg.

Jan. 18: New Hope Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area credential holders' mtg.

**\*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. Thank you! [click here](#)****

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