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"GUERT'S 'SUMMER SCRIPT'"



Dear **Friends & Family**,

I mentioned last month that I was on the precipice of my three annual **Hopewell Summer Camps** at **Tel Hai Camp** [This is my **30th** season with the Hopewell Network Camps & my **31st** with Tel Hai Camp], not to mention an additional inner-city camp in Reading, PA which I served at last summer. What is my summer script in the light of these? Well, for one thing, it's writing a script! My new **Time Machine** drama which I also mentioned last month is "**Abraham & the Three Visitors**". This particular TM script was relatively easier than those in previous years. How so? I took the script almost verbatim from "**Script**"ure & from the screenplay of the **1966** biblical epic produced by John Huston, "**The Bible**". Nevertheless, I still had to do my usual "theatrical license" script writing as well. **MUSIC TO MY EARS** Next-the soundtrack. The music for Time Machine dramas is so crucial. Often, I've been inspired to create, write, & produce certain TM dramas via certain movie scores that moved me. The music often "carries" the drama. Finding just the right songs for the appropriate scenes in the drama is a challenge. Then, there is the timing of the drama. For one thing, the Time Machine dramas must be no longer than about **12 minutes**. Why so, Michael? Because the TM drama is only a tool, so to speak. It is a lead-in to the most important part of the service—the preaching of the Word of God. You want the drama to enhance the text of Scripture, i.e., to help visualize it-to "make the Scriptures come to life" as I often say. Your ache is to bring your audience back in time to where they are enthralled, engrossed, etc., in centuries gone by. If the Holy Spirit does not touch the drama & the audience, we are left with cheesiness, pitiful acting, etc. But-if the Spirit of God anoints it, it

“packs a punch”. That is always my ache & prayer before a Time Machine drama. **TIMING IS EVERYTHING** Because the drama music carries so much of the presentation re: mood, intensity, etc., it must be timed exactly with the script & action in the drama. This is one of the hardest parts for me when I edit the TM drama soundtracks. **BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD** After my preliminary Time Machine soundtrack is finished, which also includes a TM narration which tells the audience what they are about to see, I then gather my fellow thespians to practice it. We did so recently & as is often the case after said practice, many tweaks ensued. I had to rearrange some lines, change some staging, & also delete one song from the soundtrack as it made the drama too long & left me & my friend who plays “Sarah” [I play Abraham] too much time to ad lib before the “Three Visitors” enter.

EDITH HEAD & ME



You may wonder, “Who in the world is Edith Head??”. She was one of the most famous Hollywood costumers in history, winning a record 8 Oscars for a woman in her trade. I first noticed her in **Cecil B. DeMille’s THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**, which had a very profound effect on my life while watching it in a movie theater in South Jersey at the age of 16. As I’ve written before in previous newsletters, it was the first time I can recollect of our Lord beginning to draw me to Himself-which happened when I was 18, which I’ve also written about. Just like with Ms. Head in Hollywood, a major part of camp preparation for me is costume-making, amassing, etc. In the past, for about 20 years, often I would costume an entire army, complete with weapons & armor! This year’s TM drama entailed 3 angel costumes, & tunics & accessories for Abraham & Sarah.

UNCLE SAM {Guerty?} WANTS YOU!



By far, the most difficult, stressful, & time-consuming task I have each summer concerning camps is camp-staff recruitment. And yet, it is by far the most important task I do. How so? The counselors make or break a camp. Each one must needs be a *servant*. This year I've lost at least *20 veteran staff* from previous years! That is about the average number of staff for an entire camp! And that is just those I can think of & tally so far! Work, school, an internship, etc., are the various reasons I've been given this year. Each year I entreat the Lord, the Lord of the Harvest, to send me HIS choices for camp staff-before I make my own! But this particular year the personnel pool is greatly depleted! His is able. When this happens it often translates into many new rookie staff, which is always a welcomed sight. May it be so. **MY MOVIE TRAILER** Oh, did I say "movie trailer"? I meant to say "moving trailer", as, at this time every year I retrieve my ministry trailer that my brother & friend Jim Wolford gave me in 2000 from my backyard for another camp season's use.

[6/18] "WALK AWAY FROM A GOLD MINE?!"



Not long ago someone with good intentions asked me if it was time to give up camps & move on to something else. I was not expecting this & was frankly taken aback by it. Why in the world would I want to walk away from a gold mine? A diamond mine? A platinum mine? Yes. I can't do camps forever. I'm very well-aware of that. There is a precious aged saint who has been at Tel Hai longer than me, a.k.a., "Miss Eleanor", of The Bible Club camp. In her 80's she would administrate the camp from inside the comfort of Beechwood Lodge. She has since retired. Why

is camp such a precious mine to me? It affords me the ability to pour into children up to senior citizens & everyone in between age-wise. It's the closest thing to discipling I have all year round. *Hopewell Summer Camp* is more than a camp-it's a ministry training center. I'd be absolutely out of my mind to go anywhere else! Any other venue in my opinion is a huge step down. "However", as we always say at camp, I've told my camp board boss, a.k.a., Curt Malizzi, under whose wings I securely minister, if he ever feels the camps need to go in a new direction, I will humbly bow out.

"DERE'S GOLD IN DEM' DERE' HILLS!"



[6/29] Speaking of said camps which are a gold mine to me, I returned home late last Friday night from camp #1, vis, Sr. Hi. Camp. As just as I wrote afore, it was another gold mine. I had been praying our God would "compensate" for Covid this camp season, & He so faithfully heard my cry & many others'. We had no stone mountains to pick at. No rebels. The kids came & they came hungry for **God, His Word, & His presence**. For years we have plowed, sown, seeded, watered, & fertilized these kids. This year we just picked fruit. The Spirit of the Lord kept coming sweetly & powerfully each night. I missed my wife but I didn't want to go home. In fact, I didn't want to be anywhere else on earth except in Tel Hai Camp's Hemlock Hall. Why? God was there-with the young. And that's where I want & need to be. Here is an email a mother of a camper sent my church secretary *Naomi Weaver*: **"My son was invited to camp last minute from an acquaintance. At first I was not sure about letting him go knowing he needs to work this summer & is already going on a mission trip. But I felt the camp would be good for him WOW! God touched him in amazing ways!! He has 18 years of good seed in him & it was like at camp it all came to fruition. He came home hungry for God & more excited about his relationship with Jesus than I have ever seen him! THANK YOU for allowing him to come last minute & THANK YOU for hosting a camp that is more than just fun (although he did have a lot of fun too!) He is already talking about wanting to come back next year to help lead worship or serve in other ways :) Grateful to God and the camp, camper's mother"** Yes, Beloved-this is why I do camps. There are too many stories to tell about last week. Needless to say, with this being my **30th year** serving the **Hopewell Network Camps** last week was definitely one of the most powerful I remember. May our Father be pleased to "hover" over us again as He did last week by His Spirit at our upcoming Jr. Hi. Camp this month.

“THE ARK HAS COME INTO THE CAMP-’our’ Camp!”



Speaking of God’s presence coming into the midst of Sr. Hi. Camp last week, in a way it has come into our home. My former pastor Bill Breon had bought a very authentic-looking ark of the covenant for our chapel at Immanuel many years ago. Jon Rigby, who played ***Caiaphas*** almost every year at Immanuel’s “Via Dolorosa” production, would use it as his main figure piece in his ***Sanhedrin*** room. Pastor Bill gave it to ***Via Dolorosa*** in the hope that this regional ministry would continue as it well did this past Spring at another church. Jon housed the relic. Well, Jon wanted to send the ark to the Guertin household. How can I not think of I Samuel where in that case the ***Philistines*** would transfer it from city to city-to their great demise! When we went to unload the ark to place it in our house, my thoughts went to what I have written about many times in my newsletters-that of mine & Kim’s house’s roof “glowing” as we pace & pray around the bottom floor of it. Now, I’m even more poignantly reminded of this challenge-the ark is here. O!, may our Lord look down upon this house with “the ark” in it & bless it with His presence!

“GOOD-BYE ‘MR.K’”



My very dear brother-in-the-Lord & friend ***Rob Klein*** went to be home with Jesus last Friday evening. I was at our post-camp Sr. Hi. staff pizza party when his daughter Raven texted me. While still in shock Rob’s wife Jill soon called afterwards. Rob will be very deeply missed. I

first met him in 1991, my first year of serving in the Hopewell Network Camps, when he arrived to counsel at kids camp that year. He never stopped coming until 2010, as the physical rigor was just too much for him. In 2015 I asked him to be a director, where he served until we last did camp in 2019. Kids camp was not kids camp without him there. **Chip** called him “Mr. K”. <https://youtu.be/EeCgMYl61rw> I can’t conceive of my life right now without Rob in it. It is going to take some time. We always talked about Jesus, camp, & kids.



***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 power of God is the essence of God energizing & producing outward effects”. [William G.T. Shedd, Systematic Theology, Vol. 2, 19th century].



[Caboose! On the Loose!](#)
[Looking Out for the Little Ones](#)

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

June 11: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: hsc Time Machine drama practice

July 3: St. Thomas Church, Bernville, PA: Rob Klein Memorial Service

July 6: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.

July 10-16: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: hsc Jr. Hi. Camp: pastoral director

July 22,23: City Light Ministries, Reading, PA: City Light summer camp: chapel speaker



*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](#)

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