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June 1, 2015

"SPRING IS BUSTIN' OUT ALL OVER"



Dear Friends & Family,

[5/21] This summer will be my 33rd serving in some capacity in a camp setting. The Spring before camp season is always so strenuous & stressful, given I prepare for 4 of them, which includes two major dramas, 1 out of my Time Machine [“The Sons of Noah”] & the other on a field at camp on horseback [“Grant & Lincoln”]. In addition there is the regular administration of the camps. Recruiting campers & staff this year is particularly stressful compared to the previous 24 I've served at Tel Hai. Because of the Penn St./Sandusky scandal, the state of PA has ratcheted up its child-protection policy & understandably so. Now, contrary to years gone by, all of our staff need 3 background checks, totaling almost \$50 in application fees. Given we always have last-minute counselor applicants due to late sign-ups of campers, this makes things especially hard. On top of all of this, our only daughter, son-in-law, & 5 of our grandchildren, on the 15th of this month, head to **Costa Rica** for missions work w/a minimum commitment of 2 years. Of course, their heart is to stay longer. They will live with us the last 5 days they are in town-that's 9 people in a house with 1 shower.

Gulp! ;0) It has been Kim & mine's ache since our children were very young for them to find & fulfill the will of God for their lives, despite our personal hopes, wishes, & desires for them. So, we couldn't be happier & prouder re: all 3 of our children & their families.

However, we *are still parents & grandparents* & yes-human. Hence, it's an ache to see them go. On top of these events & responsibilities, there seem to be countless family events, company, graduations, a wedding, going away gatherings, grandchildren end-of-school events, etc., all of which put the pressure on re: the time, solitude & focus so necessary for camp-or for any ministry for that matter. Speaking of which, I cannot recollect more post-*Via Dolorosa*/pre-camp itinerant ministry than has occurred this Spring. One of Kim & mine's sayings through the years at times like this? "When it rains-it pours". This season of our lives certainly would confirm that.

"IN A 'SHOW-ME' STATE OF MIND"



I've written in the past that I got saved in a convent in Missouri, which is the "Show Me State". How pertinent is the locale' of my spiritual roots to the need I have right now. I need the Lord re: all of the above to *show me* His glory-His manifold perfections that is, for my manifold needs! The theme of camp this year is "**SHOWTIME**", taken from Jn.14: 21B-"...My Father will love them, & I will come & show Myself to them." Typically, as the week of camp progresses, Jesus "shows" Himself to us more & more via the preached **Word & His Spirit's** presence. I asked the assigned preachers to proclaim "the **excellencies** of Him Who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light"[1 Pet.2:9]. My ache is that Jesus manifest, ie, "show Himself" to us at camp. Do you know what, Beloved? I need Him to show Himself to *me* before camp! All of the issues, events, etc. above necessitate that He show me His great grace, doing things for me in all of these needs *in spite* of me! Thus is grace. Just for my sins *today* He has every right to kill me! The wages of sin is death. And yet-I'm *still* alive, AND, I'm calling on Him for His help. And, because of Who He is, & what He's promised, He will give it! If it ever gets to the place where His blessing on me & His provision for me depends on my deserving it, I shall be an empty-handed man! This is what makes His "showing up" so unspeakably precious & **heart**-melting to us, doesn't it? We know deep in our souls we not only don't deserve the many & manifold blessings He daily LOADS us with, but on the contrary, we deserve His hand of judgment. GREAT is His faithfulness. So, I do what the old movie line says, "Build-& they will come." Of course, "Build, & HE will come." May it be so. I have no other hope.

“I'LL 'GRANT' YOU THAT” or “DON'T 'SPARE' ME”



Re: Jesus graciously “granting” His manifold benefits to me, for my camp field drama mentioned above, I’m portraying [Ulysees S. “Grant](#). One doesn't have to be around me for very long to notice many weaknesses. I marvel & oftentimes cannot “take [Kim](#) in”, re: understanding how she can love me like she does, despite the fact that she has been married to me 37 years, & of all people has definitely seen my worst. When she tells me she has been ministered to by my preaching, or when she compliments it, I can think of no more valuable & encouraging accolade, as she *could* be & should be the first to reject it, being exposed first-hand on a daily basis to my sins, weaknesses, & hypocrisies. “A prophet is not without honor-except in his own household”. And-she doesn't ever see my deepest & darkest sins hidden in the gloomy caverns & recesses of my soul! But Jesus does! [I've often “vowed” through the years that if I touch a million souls with my preaching yet my own family won't receive it-I've failed!] And yet-“You see the depths of my heart & love me the same”, as one song goes-& another one exclaims, “I'm so unworthy, but still You love me”. It's one thing for the Savior to love me despite my fatality-deserving flaws, but to *use* me do to His work & represent Him? Now that's another! And yet-this is what Jesus constantly does! And people wonder why I love Him so much! This is where Grant comes in. After a devastating loss on the 1st day of the battle of [Shiloh](#) in TN in [1862](#), there were those in [Lincoln's](#) cabinet [& surely many more throughout the country!] calling for his dismissal as head of all [Union](#) forces. He was charged with ineptitude. There were rumors he was depressed & drinking. Lincoln surely paused & was pensive after hearing these demands. Surely the president agreed with the charges. And yet-he did not take their advice. Why? His retort was: “I can't spare this man-he fights.” How different was Grant from [George McClellan](#), another one of Lincoln's generals, who, a half-a-year after Shiloh, was engaged in the battle of Antietam-

the bloodiest of the Civil War. He had twice the men of Lee, but infuriated the president because he did not pursue the retreating **Confederate** general after the 1st day's battle, complaining that "he did not have enough horses". McClellan was also charged with opposing "forward movements" in battle, being over-cautious. In the light of these deficiencies, Lincoln said of him, "My dear McClellan, if you do not want to use the Army I should like to borrow it for a while." This story makes me think of my own. I've often pondered the **angels**, observing my weakness & blunders down here on earth, like that of Grant's, leaning over to the Lord, suggesting that He dismiss me, & replace me with countless other officers in His Heavenly Army more-suited & competent for the task. I envision the Lord *agreeing* with them, but like Lincoln of Grant [unlike McClellan], saying, "I can't spare this man-he fights". Yes, I'm very aware & often preach that none of us is needed by nor indispensable before the Lord. But I also often preach, "The weaker the vessel, the more glory God gets for using them." "This is my story-this is my song."

Ministry/events for JUNE & those not listed in last month's newsletter:
CABOOSE! On The Loose:



- May 13: IC Young Adults @ our home: Bible teacher**
- May 20: IC, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David worship leader**
- May 24: Reamstown, PA: hsc directors' mtg.**
- June 2: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//HN pastors' mtg.**
- June 15: Our daughter/son-in-law/family head to Costa Rica**
- June 17: New Covenant Church, Audubon, NJ: EF pastors' mtg.**
- June 21-26: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: Sr. Hi. Camp: Pastoral Director**

*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, please make all tax-deductible gifts payable to: Elim Fellowship, c/o 1703 Dalton Rd.,

Lima, NY 14485, marking it "Preferred-Michael Robert Guertin". If your church would be interested in ministry by Michael, please feel free to contact us. www.cabooseministries.org Facebook: [Michael Guerty Guertin](#)

*Note: Should you so desire to help Kim & me continue to serve the Lord in our multi-age group itinerant ministry work, you can donate directly to [Elim Fellowship](#) via the link below. Thank you so much.

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