

*June 1, 2014*

*Dear Friends & Family,*

**“FROM HAULING FOR ‘U.P.S.’ TO ‘YOUNG PUPS’”**



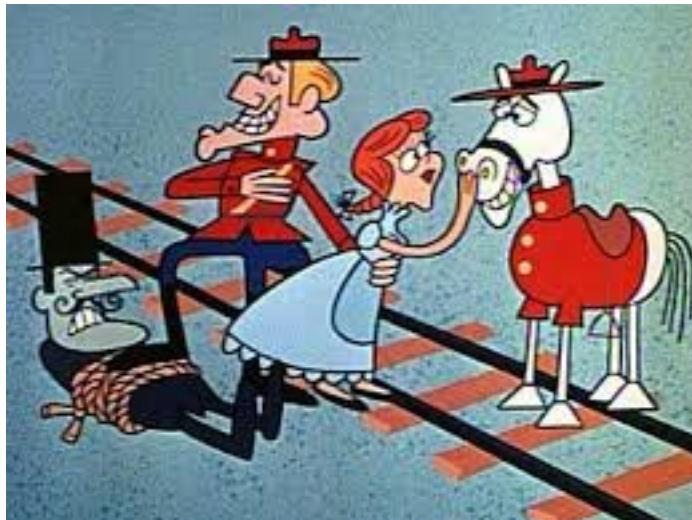
(5/19) I had driven the 90 minutes it takes to New Holland, PA for my monthly Hopewell Summer Camps' board mtg., which is followed by the network pastors' mtg. En route I stopped by the HSC camp shed to pick up some decades-old Bible games I had built while a children's pastor in Reading, PA where we lived prior to Wilmington. Already on my truck bed was a puppet stage we had built upon first moving to Wilmington. My home church graciously permitted an Elim church in South Jersey to borrow it as it wasn't being used by Immanuel presently. This Elim church was heading in a new direction re: its children's ministry & asked me to come & do a workshop with their team, which I did a week prior to this. In the past, whenever I arrived at a new children's pastorate position [I did 4 over the span of 14 years] one of my first endeavors was to build a "wonderland" for the kids to come to each Sunday. I've often likened it to a **"Christian Chuck E. Cheese"**. This would entail building & painting a massive 16' X 8' puppet stage/backdrop, along with several wooden Bible games for the kids to play & review their lessons. Hence-my zeal to provide this church with a kick-start re: "stuff" as much as I could. Well, after the two meetings in PA that morning my plan was to drive to S. Jersey, which I did, to make my big "drop-off". [Interestingly enough, before I went into the ministry in 1986 I worked for United Parcel Service. One of my many tasks while there was delivering packages. What a different cargo I was delivering now!] While in S. Jersey I planned to have lunch with a dear brother/friend/theological men-tor, a.k.a., George Bowen. My wife, Kim, however, had other plans for me!



### **“Welcome To The World Elliot Caleb Guertin!”**

Our youngest son Caleb & his wife Elizabeth had been expecting the arrival of their new baby boy, Elliot Caleb, on April 27<sup>th</sup>. However, Elliot was going to arrive in his own good time! I knew when I left early that morning for PA that the hospital was going to induce Elizabeth if Elliot decided to tarry any longer. However, Kim told me that its policy was only to allow 3 people present in the room, which of course would be Elizabeth’s mother, only sister Lauren, & Kim. Hence, what’s the rush? When I checked in on Kim en route to NJ she told me, “Michael? Don’t have lunch with George today. Get here a.s.a.p.” Huh. It seems the hospital was going to allow me in after all. So, as soon as I delivered all of the kids’ church “goodies”, I headed straight back to DE to the hospital. When I entered Elizabeth’s room I was met by one of the most precious, tender, moving sounds I have ever heard. It was the sound of a monitor keeping tabs on Elliot’s heartbeat. Oh-I was instantly moved to watering eyes as I heard his little heart rapidly beating as he was on the verge of coming into our world. I just sat there in awe for a bit as the others chatted [they had been in the room & had heard it for a considerable time before me]. This precious, tender, helpless little boy was about to come out into a very complex, dangerous, hostile-to-God world. When he finally did arrive, O, how very strongly the fatherly, parenting instinct rose up in

me. I wanted to take him to myself & protect, cuddle, & nurture him. [Of course, our God had already given me that huge privilege 3X in the past, including with Elliot's father Caleb, whom Elliot mirrors in looks!] I just held him in my arms, pondering to myself how very helpless Elliot was & totally dependent on others for survival. If he was left to himself, he would soon die! In my recent travels & preaching I've been exalting the Lord Jesus re: a message "Adoration Versus Idolatry" [you can listen to it via my iTunes' account]. Unlike any message I have ever done, I begin it by coming up from the back of the sanctuary holding a baby doll "wrapped in swaddling clothes" & lay Him in a manger on my object lesson table up front. This entrance is accompanied by music from "The Nativity Story" soundtrack. To think—just like Elliot Caleb, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself lay helpless & totally dependent on Joseph & Mary for survival & sustenance! Of course, The Father of Glory in His sovereignty, would never allow anything to happen to Him—not even to dash His foot against a stone! But, nonetheless, Jesus was *human* like us, of course, apart from sin.



### **"DUDLEY-DO-RIGHT & NELLàTHE LORD & HIS CHURCH?"**

God is self-sufficient. He needs nothing nor no one. The Three Members of the Godhead/Trinity are perfectly content with Themselves, having enjoyed each Other's fellowship in eternity past. They did so when nothing nor no one else existed—not even Heaven! It was just Him-in Three Persons. When He did decide to cre-ate, it was out of no need—it was solely from His Own good pleasure. Of course, given His omniscience & foreknowledge, He knew, permitted, & hence ordained that the Fall should occur. Why? Because by doing so, it would reveal more of His glorious perfections to the universe & to its inhabitants, both angelic & human, than if He refrained from doing so. He created man, out of all of His

creatures, alone made in His image, to most fully display those glorious perfections. The Lord also did so, that man would enjoy Him & those same glorious attributes, both in wondrous adoration & fellowship, viz. “to enjoy Him forever”. God had *no need* either of man’s love or worship. Hence, it is dumbfounding that He desires it so much that He *commands* His people to love Him. Given Who He is-ultimate perfection & infinite love-it is only right & fitting. He has chosen to “set His affection” upon them [Dt. 10:14, 15; Rom.8:29] above all other peoples of the earth. It is further astounding that He makes Himself “vulnerable” emotionally to the affections of His people. “O Ephraim! How can I give you up?!” exclaimed the heart of God through Hosea, when His people had repeatedly committed spiritual adultery with other gods. The Holy One of Israel calls Himself “Jealous”, & for good reason. His sovereign, gracious, merciful, loving *choice* of His people above all others comes with a price—He expects requited love from such lavished grace. He oftentimes gets less than such. Many times, the Eternal Son of God, in Whom all of God’s fullness dwelt in human form [Col. 2:9], would have people in His privileged, coveted presence, desiring & thinking of other things & people “other than” Him, despite this unfathomable privilege to see Him & be near Him, even face to face, while He was on earth. While beholding Him & hearing audibly His words which dripped with the anointing, they would have other desires, interests, & loyalties flooding their hearts.

“Idols” (Ezk.14:1ff), “miracles” & “signs” (Lk.11:16), a “free meal” (Jn.6:26), an earthly inheritance (Lk.12:13), His mother (Lk.11:27), the coming of the Kingdom (Lk.17:20), “Lazarus” (Jn.12:9), Moses (Jn.5:45), Abraham (Jn.8:39), etc. The list could & does go on & on. It’s fallen human nature’s “rather than” principle, which pervades the Scriptures. “They worshipped & served the creation rather than the Creator” (Rom.1:25). One of the works of the flesh is idolatry (Gal.5:20). John Calvin wrote: “The human heart is an idol factory”. This is not restricted to unbelievers, from whom it is expected. “Little children, guard yourselves from idols”, the apostle John wrote to fellow-Christians. The picture above of Dudley-Do-Right came to mind months ago as I pondered this sad state of affairs. Notice Dudley [The Lord Jesus], has conquered his love Nell’s [the Church] deadly enemy, Snidely Whiplash [Satan]. Dudley saved her out of His deep love for her & prizes her as his own. However, upon closer inspection of this picture, you’ll notice Nell is looking the “other” way, toward Dudley’s *horse*, giving him her gaze, attention, & affections. This happens so very often in the hearts of God’s people. The miracle of miracles is that Jesus, like Dudley, *continues* to prize & hold on to her. O wondrous love is this! An awareness of the tenacious faithfulness of God toward His people is one of the most heart-melting truths in the Scriptures. In my travels,



it is a major pursuit in my preaching—“to turn the hearts of the children back to ‘The Father’”. May our hearts be with the Psalmist’s: “Lord? Who do I have in Heaven besides You? And when I’m with You, I desire nothing on earth” [73:25]. May it be so starting with my own. Amen. Sincerely, Michael

Michael & Kim Guertin 3 Windsor Rd., Wilmington, DE 19809 (302) 764-0490  
[guerty@juno.com](mailto:guerty@juno.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*[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, etc.-yet this is their calling at this season of their lives. Michael preaches God’s 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. Thanks!**



**Ministry/events for JUNE & those not listed in last month's newsletter: "Caboose! on the Loose":**

May 1: IC, Wilmington, DE: National Day of Prayer Service: worship leader

May 18: Hope for the Nations Church, Reading, PA: Sun. a.m. service

May 25: Immanuel Christian Fellowship, Manheim, PA: Sun. a.m. service

May 25-June 1: Bay Village, OH: visiting our oldest son Matthew & his family

June 5: hsc board mtg., Morgantown, PA

**June 21-27: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: hsc 2014 Sr. Hi. Camp: pastoral director**