

***PLEASE UNSUBSCRIBE from our newsletter if you don't have time or interest to read it! We don't want to send you something you don't want or just delete! I myself have unsubscribed from SEVERAL ministry publications, both e & snail mail, as we all cannot read everything!**

****However, if you know of someone you think it might feed & bless, feel free to pass it on! Thanks!***

Love, Michael & Kim

***please find attached a picture of me portraying "DANIEL" at a children's service in March**

****VISIT "CABOOSE!": myspace.com/cabooseministries**

***VISIT OUR CAMP WEBSITE! : www.hopewellsummercamps.com**

May 1, 2008

"HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY!"

Dear Friends & Family,

"CHOICE TIMES WITH CHILDREN"

Not long ago, I returned home from ministering to a group of children in PA. What a delight to have a "kids' only" service again. Their hearts are so much more fertile than us adults. They have less pain, fewer sins, less deception, minimal religiosity, &, if the Lord is merciful, their whole lives ahead of them. "If the Lord is merciful, Michael? How so?" I read on my mother in law's refrigerator a saying years ago I shall never forget: "Old age is a privilege denied to many". What an honor, privilege, & "endeavor of trepidation" to preach the Word of God into these little ones' lives! And as always with me & children, it was no "kiddy-kiddy" message! I preached on Daniel In The Lions' Den & how it was a type of Jesus' passion, death, & resurrection. Jesus told the two disciples on the Emmaus Road that ALL of the Old Testament, a.k.a., the Law, the Psalms, & the Prophets—they all spoke of Him! The parallels & types from Daniel's "Passion" of the Lord Jesus are numerous, & striking! The additional blessing that you have after a children's message, if the Lord so allows, is to play a Bible game that reviews & further reinforces the sermon. And, that we did! It also enables me to give the kids "a little something" re: prizes before they go home. Most of the time, our children's services don't end this way. The Lord usually graces us with precious response time in His presence. After the children's service was over, we packed up, loaded my truck, & then I spent a delightful hour having lunch & "just hanging" with the teens. I have done two youth retreats with them in the past.

"ON THE FRONT LINES-WAR AMONG THE YOUNG"

(4/21) Last Wednesday night, I was asked a couple of days before the event to preach to a youth group in PA, as the originally scheduled preacher couldn't make it. I had two messages I considered preaching, as they were fresh in my heart & mind. Then, my host communicated to me that the youth that the Lord was bringing to his group were wrestling with such sins & issues as abuse, low self-esteem, homosexuality, etc. In the light of this, I decided to preach on a "nuclear" text, re: the depravity of man followed by the lavished love & grace of God in spite of it: Eph. 2:1-9. I prayed. I studied. I packed my object lessons & loaded them into my truck. On the way, I purposely listened to the soundtrack from "The Greatest Story Ever Told" to help me focus & concentrate on the Lord & the message while driving. When I got there, I was hit by a number of "glitches" & distractions. They were both physical & spiritual. After setting up, I tried to find a place to pray. The church had much going on that evening; available rooms were scarce. Over the evening, I wound up praying in a children's ministry arts & crafts supply room, an assistant pastor's office, & a storage closet. When I got up to preach, I felt as if I were fumbling, not knowing which way to go. I've often taught that one of the most evident reasons you can tell that Satan is after the young, both youth & children, is by the warfare encountered by those who seek to minister to them! This evening's event was no exception. I kept going, trying to convey to the youth that one of the most potent ways to know the love of God is to know how "unlovable" you are in yourself. This shifts all of the source, origin, &

initiative of a loving relationship with God to GOD, His sovereign mercy, & grace. This is exactly what this text in Ephesians teaches. By the end of the evening, despite my fumbling & incessant wireless micro-phone distractions, the Spirit of God came to us. Like so many of our camps services, His presence was deep, rich, & sweet. The kids just sat there. Stunned? I hope so. I believe that is what the love & grace of God, when we truly understand it, is supposed to do to us! I've often said, & it's my goal in preaching, to so convey the gospel that people are sitting there thinking, "This is too good to be true". It is then, & only then, I believe, that we've come to understand the good news as "good" news, & how our God intended. What is another way that I know that Jesus "has come" to a meeting I'm in, whether I'm the one ministering or not? That's easy→I don't want to go home! It was ten o'clock, & I had considerable packing to do & about an hour's ride home, but I truly didn't care! I felt I could have stayed there all night, & I'm one who needs & loves my sleep! I just kept pacing back & forth across the front, praying, laying my hands on or holding some of the youth there. Several have been to camp with me since they were small children. What a delight that was, truly one of the richest, sweetest blessings our God has ever bestowed to me—to be able to "grow up" with these precious children.

"HEY, 'TONE IT DOWN' A BIT, WOULD YA'?"

In recent newsletters, I have discussed in length Moses' Tabernacle in the Wilderness, or the "Tent of Meeting", & how exclusive, dangerous, & deadly it was, even though it was a *copy* of the original Tabernacle in Heaven! The Lord once spoke to my heart while pondering Moses on the mountain, that "He is so lofty & exalted, that He *still has to descend* to us to meet us on the mountain"! When one considers all of the death that occurred around the copy of the Heavenly tabernacle, one is astounded to think that the "Shecinah" enclosed therein was only a *drop* of God's presence! Given our God's immensity & vastness, this was necessary, as to display His full glory, not only the Tabernacle but the whole earth would be obliterated! We humans have technology that can "tone down the volume", or, "adjust the tone", re: bass & treble, with our audio equipment. We see the Lord "toning it down a bit", & rightly & necessarily so (!) when He spoke to Moses & the Israelites then too. The Scriptures say that He spoke to them "out of the fire" (Dt.5:4). Moses shook with fear (Heb. 12:21). The Israelites cried out not to have God speak to them this way anymore (Dt.5:25). God was to do so hundreds of years later, speaking to Elijah with a "still small voice" (I Kgs. 19:12). Our Lord Jesus Christ, "toned it down" for the Apostle John, so that "the beloved disciple" could lay his head on Jesus' chest. And so it is, every time we approach our God. This "toning down" or limiting Himself is so characteristic of Him, so that He might have us "come close" & "be safe". As the beaver in C.S. Lewis' THE LION, THE WITCH, & THE WARDROBE said to Peter of Aslan: "Safe? Who said anything about safe? Of course He's not safe...but He's *good*". The ultimate "limitation" which will be displayed by our God is that God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, will retain His glorified "limiting" *human* body for eternity! He will never return to His pre-incarnate state as "solely Spirit". He shall be The God-**Man** forever! "O, What Wondrous Love Is This, O My Soul!"
Kim, Caleb, & I thank you so very much for all of your help & support,

Michael

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[Please make all tax-deductible gifts payable to: Elim Fellowship, 1703 Dalton Rd, Lima, NY 14485. Thanks!]

[Michael is an ordained Elim Fellowship itinerant home-missionary, endorsed by his local church. He supports his family & his ministry by faith.]

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

April 11: Chadds Ford, PA: camp directors' mtg.

April 16: Hopewell Christian Fellowship, Elverson, PA: youth group meeting

April 17: New Covenant Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area pastors' mtg.

April 20: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: "Warehouse" youth group: worship leader

April 21: Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, PA: Tel Hai Camp Spring banquet: attendee

May 6: Hopewell Christian Fellowship, Elverson, PA: camp board mtg//pastors' mtg.

May 11: University of DE: Caleb Guertin Band "Rock For Life" pro-life rally concert

May 14: Hopewell Christian Fellowship, Telford, PA: youth group meeting

May 18: Wilmington University, Wilmington, DE: our son Caleb's graduation ceremony

May 23: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: Warehouse Youth Group: Caleb Guertin Band concert

NEWS&NEEDS: after a year of neglecting to do so, I've begun doing stretching exercises that an orthopedic surgeon gave me last year. May the Lord use them!

***Giving** was the lowest in 8+ years last month. We press on, until He says, "Stop"! ☺

RECENT READING: "Our Sovereign God", James M. Boice, editor.