

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 **Caboose!** Facebook Site:
“Michael ‘Guerty’ Guertin”

March 2022

“AN HOUR OF ANGER”



Dear *Friends & Family*,

[2/4] For the past several weeks Kim & I had basically made it an evening ritual to watch a certain hour- long podcast that covered certain hot-topics in our country & culture. They almost always covered the cur-rent pandemic, along with other issues that had to do with far-reaching & deep-seated corruption in our government. There isn't one thing I heard in all of this time that I didn't agree with-& wholeheartedly agreed with. I found myself getting so distressed, & so depressed re: the present state of things both in the U.S. & around the world, that, believe it or not, I began to “feel” that the gospel & God's Word was ir-relevant! Me! An evangelist & preacher for **36 years!** I began to notice in me a passion to “fix the country” first-& then we could get back to preaching God's Word! My feelings were screaming that people won't care about the gospel until the country is fixed! All it seems everyone is concerned about, talking about, focused upon, etc., is the debacle of the culture!

“AN EPIPHANY”



Well, Kim was on the other side of town the other day babysitting two of our grandsons. I was “alone-alone” now. Kim & I “pace & pray” around the house often together. But now, it was me & my Lord. I opened up to Him & told Him I didn’t want to preach anymore-that it didn’t matter until everything in our country was put back to “normal”. Yes-this is definitely **foolish, absurd, & insane thinking**, Beloved! But, it was where I was at. My “life verse” came to mind as I circled around the bottom floor of our house: “I was determined to know nothing while I was with you, but **Jesus Christ- & Him crucified.**” [1 Cor.2:2]. This one verse was what our Lord used to bring me out of my “political stupor”. I asked His forgiveness again & again. He showed me it was watching that podcast that did it. It led me & my affections & passions down a rabbit trail. And even though it was a noble & moral one-it was not the gospel trail. Again, I agreed with everything that the anchor/host of the podcast was saying. Yet, I noticed he was always angry. That hour every evening would focus on the horrendous & horrifically evil happenings in our country, & even though it mentioned Jesus much, it always ended every night on a note of how much wickedness is triumphing. When Kim got home, after hearing about her day, I shared with her my “epiphany” from the Lord. She understood & agreed. I thank You, Lord, for arresting & correcting me, & leading me in paths of righteousness for Your Name’s sake. Amen.

“THE SILENT VOLCANO”



[2/23] Speaking of anger, in a recent study of Psalm 50, the Lord indicts Israel, who despite constantly reciting His Law, had actually “thrown it

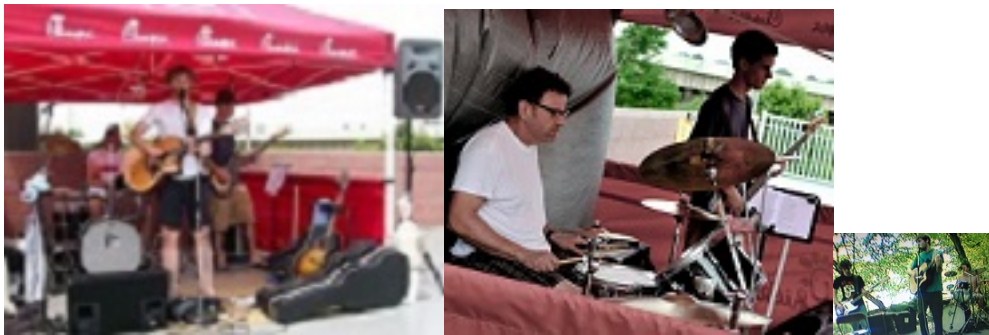
behind their backs” [vs.17]. They were guilty of thievery, profanity, adultery, & slander. They hated anyone who corrected or rebuked them. We see revelry & brazen abominations not only legalized but celebrated in our culture. And, one by one, religious institutions, organizations, denominations, & popular evangelical leaders are caving to it as well. It is spreading like wildfire with seemingly little or no resistance nor any indication of it slowing down. The wicked often take this as a sign or confirmation that the Lord is ok with it, or even worse, approves of it. Their evil hearts deceive them. They assume God’s silence is His approval. They don’t understand that His temporary reticence re: these things is actually His glorious attribute of slowness to anger. God’s anger is very much like a volcano. Most volcanos sit quietly dormant for years-even centuries. Yet, yet, deep beneath the surface the **fires**, the heat, & the pressure building up is intense enough to melt rock! The **molten lava** that would instantly kill, melt, & consume anything & anyone who happens to be in its path bubbles underneath. The Lord arraigns them & says, “When you did these things & I kept silent, you thought I was exactly like you” [vs.21]. The author of Ecclesiastes wrote, “Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of mankind among them are fully given to do evil” [Ecc.8:11]. Welcome to **America**. Yet, the “Volcano” simmers. The Volcano brews. The Volcano boils underneath the surface. And, when It erupts, it is absolutely devastating. Psalm 50 continues, “Consider this, you who forget God, or I will tear you to pieces, with no one to rescue you” [vs.22]. The prophet **Malachi** saw “The Volcano”: “...who may abide the day of His coming, & who can stand when He appears, for He is like a refiner’s fire...” [3:2]. One day God’s longsuffering will end. Yes, it is long. But it does have an end. And, The Volcano will finally erupt. This is why Christians should exult in being saved from “the wrath to come”, all due to our Lord Jesus.

“ENCOURAGED-& CORRECTED?- BY ‘A LITTLE GIRL’”



Some of you may recall from last month's newsletter how I was so very much discouraged re: a young man doing break dancing in a church while being filmed by a friend. I stated that this young man had a **YouTube** following of over 600,000 people! I expressed my despair that I strive so much to make my weekly **Cab!Talks** Christ-centered & Christ-filled, & yet, my subscribers are microscopic compared to this young man who just does breakdancing & everyday life-happenings about him. Well, a former little girl from **Caboose!** kids church days replied to my email newsletter article about that. Here is what she wrote: **"I hope you can get some followers but your story in your newsletter reminds me that...thousands of people saw this guy...but what did they get from it? Nothing. If even one person sees your message & comes to know the Lord or even has deeper insight into what God is saying & doing...that means everything. I pray God will open doors to the right platforms & bring the right viewers to your videos!!"** Wow. Here was a cute little girl from decades ago, vis, "**Frances Carr**", whom, along with many other children in **Caboose!**, I'd pour out the **Word of God** every Sunday to, & now, 30 years later, she is ministering to me. And, her words were so very much needed & appreciated.

"...& A LITTLE BOY"



[*playing music with Matty in **The Caleb Guertin Band**]

I was recently embroiled in some inner battles that left me so discouraged, filled with despair, at a loss, & feeling like a defeated failure. I should not be surprised, Beloved. One cannot read the Scriptures & not see God's people encountering these trials from time to time from Genesis to Revelation. And yet, here I was. While in the middle of this pit recently, God moved on the heart of a former "**Nugget Town**" kids church little boy from decades ago, "**Matty**" **Appleby**. He texted me: **"Hey Guert! Yesterday my pastor spoke on Psalm 139. I could not help but**

remember a series of sermons you did in *Nugget Town* covering God being omnipresent, omnipotent, & omniscient. I thought it may be encouraging to know that after close to 30 years your words & lessons have not been forgotten. Love you Guert & hope you & Kim are doing well.” Again, who would have guessed that decades later our Father would use “little boys & girls” to minister to their former kids pastor in one of my most difficult life-seasons?

“WHAT GOES AROUND-COMES AROUND”



[*with Jeremy in “**Villains of Via**” 2021]

Our Lord is too kind. As if this were not enough, another former little boy from kids church decades ago who has been by my side at camp for many years tells me on the phone the other day that I was his spiritual Dad & how grateful he was for me pouring into him for so many years. Thank you, *Jeremy Hall*.



As if all of this weren’t enough, I get another text yesterday from a former teenager in *Caboose!* & camps who did my “Blondie” puppet for me, who now has kids of her own, vis, *Jess Smither McCray*: “**These statistics**

[re: an article that highlighted how very few Christians regularly read their Bible] broke me to intercession recently & today as I prep for a women's conference I'm reminded of these new statistics. As of 2021 as low as 11% of Christians read their Bible weekly. 58% never pick it up or report 1-2 x per year. THANK YOU for pouring countless hours into my life to teach me & many others to LOVE Scripture. I can never get enough because they continually open up more & more & every time I re-read. THANK YOU for giving me keys to unlock the revelation & wisdom in these precious words of our precious Lord. I'm honored to continue to press in & teach anyone who allows me, how to dive into Scripture! Just felt the Holy Spirit prompt me to tell you how grateful I'm am for you in this specific area. I still highlight [my Bible] like a crazy woman." Forgive me, Beloved, for posting so much that "praises" me, but I'm trying to convey how very attentive & caring our Lord is, even in our deepest state & darkest hour, when you *feel* like He has left you. I not only got ONE contact from former "sheep", but FOUR in a short period of time.

"IT AIN'T OVAH"



[Caleb Joseph Guertin]

As if all of this weren't enough, our God extended His deep kindness to me even further, in one of the deepest ways He could have to me personally. How? I shared Matty Appleby's text above with our youngest son Caleb, as he & Matty have been friends since they were little boys. But, I also did because Caleb & Matt & I would play concerts together occasionally for *The Caleb Guertin Band*. Matty would play bass. Well, after sharing that text with [Caleb](#), he replies, "I remember it too-in Reading". Caleb remembers my teaching on the omnipresence,

omnipotence, & omniscience of God from Reading **Caboose!** days! And he was only 6 when we moved to Reading! I didn't know what to say. I was speechless but so very grateful. I've often said through decades of ministry to the young, "If I reach every kid in the world for Jesus but lose my own- I've failed." I've also said that if our Lord touches my family-those closest to me who know me with all of my weaknesses, sins, & flaws-I could ask for no greater accolade. That means more than all of the accolades of the world. Bless His Name.

"CHIP GOES TO THE MALL" or "CHIP CAME, HE SAW, & HE 'CONCORD'?"



Speaking of **Caboose!** days, during that time in Reading I eventually was serving three different churches with their children's ministries: Reading Hopewell Church's "**Caboose!**", Trinity U.C.C.'s "**Lighthouse**", & St. James' "**Fort St. James**". I loved this setup. By serving three different churches it not only spread my gifts Jesus gave me for the **Body of Christ** around, but it also lessened the financial burden for only one of these churches to support my family. When I was not at my home base, Hopewell, with my Caboose! kids because of my being at Trinity or St. James, I would often make them little "**Caboose! Commercials**". These short videos would enable my Caboose! kids to at least see me "virtually" since I couldn't be there "in the flesh". For some of my weekly **Chip Sunday Show** videos I've been creating & posting since April of 2020, I've taken my old Caboose! Commercials & interjected present-day Chip scenes into them. This method not only preserves Caboose! history but also provides entertainment & blessing for both young & old today. Yes- Chip has many adult fans too. Well, to do such a production recently, I needed some scenes where Chip called Guerty from a phone booth-much easier said than done! Phone booths are nowhere to be found! I had to settle for a payphone at our nearby **Concord Mall**.

Tom Dahlke, the Concord Mall manager, was more than accommodating to help me make it happen. In fact, Tom was my guest star & was an absolute natural in his scenes! Well, while trying to film said scenes in the “narthex” at the front of the Mall where the payphones are located, I had so much trouble trying to film them by myself. I struggled attaching the phone to Chip’s head & as well trying to film on my knees in order to have Chip at payphone level & not have me in the scene! Even while doing so, many people were coming in & out of the Mall & stopping to observe! One woman was filming our filming! She loved it. A young man came up to me & offered his services to film for me. He said he was a videographer! I was blown away. I saw this as our Lord’s gracious provision. The show went on! Here is the link for it should you desire to see it: <https://youtu.be/DtW-fo8APV8>

“VILLAINS of VIA” REPEAT PERFORMANCE



Well, after months-yes, months of praying, the decision was recently made to continue the offshoot production of **Immanuel Church’s 16-year** run of **Via Dolorosa**, vis, “**Villains of Via**”. This is a hugely scaled-down version of the original Via Dolorosa production. Although it runs 3 nights, unlike the traditional Via production, we’re only doing 3 of the 11 or so rooms Via Dolorosa had. In addition, whereas in the original production we actors would perform 11-13 episodes per night, at Villains of Via we will do only 1-& all in the same room. **Villains of Via will run Wednesday-Friday night, April 13-15, @ 7 p.m.** Admission is free, but attendants must register online as seating will be limited. As I went back & forth re: whether to do it or not, my heart kept longing to do it. Why? I absolutely love it, of course. But, there was an even bigger reason this year-**focus**. The dreadful happenings in our country & world presently can easily & quickly drag one down to depression & despair. It has done so to me many times when I’ve focused on it. I prayed, “Lord, should we do Via again?? Lord? It would help Your people in these decadent times to place their focus & attention on the Person & work of Your Son. Should we do it, Lord? Show me Your will

clearly, dear Lord. If YOU don't want us to do it, then no matter how much I love doing it, Lord, it would be wrong. Show me Your will, dear Lord!" Not long ago, after once more surrendering my will re: Via to the Lord, I got up from prayer & had this gut-feeling inside which said, "Let's do this!".

"TWO 'VIA KEYS'"



I believe it was that very evening after having this sense in my spirit to "go for it", the Lord gave me two major keys to Via's success-& these "keys" were *people!* The first key was **Jon Rigby**-my brother & friend in real life, but during Via he is my *sworn enemy*, as he plays **Caiaphas** & I portray **Pilate!** Jon wasn't sure if he should do Via again. I cannot imagine this production w/o him. He excels as Caiaphas. He told me he would serve in Via again. The 2nd key was **Julia Capaldi**-a sister in the Lord & good friend who has helped me with countless church, camp, & **Time Machine** dramas. She had an idea re: Via that never crossed my mind. I lost a major actress of Via this year to relocation. Julia offered to do both parts, vis, **Herodias & Claudia!** That was Jesus! My heart leapt inside of me when Julia suggested this strategy. May our Lord use Via again for His glory. Amen.

Sincerely, *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]: "Doubt His love? Remember His blood."



Caboose! On The Loose!_

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

Feb. 10: Concord Mall, Wilmington, DE: "Chip Show" on-location filming

Feb. 15-22: Springfield, VA: caring for Kim's Mother who had a fall recently

Feb. 17: Elim Fellowship area credential holders' Zoom mtg.

Feb. 20: Harvest Church, Alexandria, VA: potential future ministry site exploration visit

Feb. 23: Parkview AG Church, Newark, DE: "Villains of Via" production leaders' mtg.

Feb. 25-March 3: Norman family visiting from Alabama

March 1: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//Network pastors' mtg. [hopefully Zoomed]

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Cab!Talk verse-by-verse biblical exposition postings

March 6, 13, 20, 27: Chip Sunday Show postings



***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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