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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](http://www.cabooseministries.org)

**Facebook:** “Michael Robert Guertin”

**March** 2023

**“KRIS KRINGLE’-& GUERTY?”**



**Dear Friends & Family,**

**[2/27]** Our family grew up watching children’s Christmas specials, especially the stop-motion animation type. I’m sure many of you have too-as in “Rudolph The Red-nosed Reindeer”, for example? 😊 Rudolph is the gold-standard of this genre of animation ever since. Another special in the many **Rankin/Bass** produced was “Santa Claus Is Coming To Town”, narrated by **Fred Astaire** & starring **Mickey Rooney**. By the way, our family grew up loving Mickey Rooney movies too. In fact, one of the contributing factors to our daughter Laura’s desire to adopt when she was quite young was Rooney’s Oscar-winning movie from 1938, “Boys Town”. “Michael? Why in the world are you talking about *Christmas* specials during the *Lenten* season??” Well, last month my itinerant ministry took me once again to quite diverse expressions of the vast human “conglomerate” called **The Body of Christ**.



My first stop was a **United Methodist** Church in Maryland. Some of you might be taken aback by that revelation, given the tragic & very sad downgrade that denomination has experienced the past several decades in our country. But, no worries, friends. Why? Its pastor is a conservative Air Force veteran who also happens to be 6' 8" tall! 😊 In the past **23 years** of itinerant ministry, I have been to just about every kind of church/denomination you can think of. However, this particular service was unique to me. The host pastor was not present. I not only was the guest preacher, but also the guest "service moderator". The elder who was present, who I'd surmise was in his eighties, was baptized in this church as an infant (!). Well, he informed me when I got there I'd be doing basically everything: welcome, prayer, announcements, prayer requests, leading congregational prayer, preach, close the service, give a benediction, & lastly, to make sure I stood at the back as the people left the building [On the rare occasions when I'm in a church where I'm requested to do this I always feel embarrassed doing so. I just do, for whatever reason. When people kept chatting in the sanctuary I went back to my object lesson table to start tearing down & packing up. And yet, this elder brother would come & get me & ask me to go back as some more people were exiting. I think this happened 2X? after my initial greeting time. Ha! 😊]. Speaking of the building, its original edifice was constructed in the early 1800's. The congregation was filled mostly with senior citizens, many of whom, relatively speaking, were not far from the precipice of eternity. The service was very traditional: all hymns & a very defined order of service. I loved them all. I had no idea where these people were-& where they weren't! Yet, if they continually sat under the preaching of my host pastor friend, there had to be some kind of solid congregational base here. PTL! I preached some very sober, hard doctrines, re: what Jesus saved us from by saving us from our sin: death, the Law, the curse of the Law, the wrath of God, judgment & condemnation, the dominion of Satan, & Hell. Of course, one can't preach like that & not wonder re: the reaction of the people sitting under you. There were a few children & youth there but again, by far, the vast majority of the congregation were seniors. Well, no one seemed offended or angry when I left. Later that week, the pastor's wife sent me an email: **"I had Women's Bible study today & all the ladies said it was a wonderful sermon - everyone was riveted & they are looking forward to your return! God bless. Ranelle"** Whew. Father be praised. This was such an especial gift that day, again, given how liberal this denomination has become. I told Kim when I got home that it is soooooo easy to write-off entire groups of God's people collectively because of the particular group they're a part of, but-He has His people *everywhere!*

### "FROM METHODISTS TO 'MENNONITES'???"



The very next Sunday I headed to **Manheim, PA** to preach. This time I had the blessing of having Kim by my side. This church is part of the **Hopewell Network of Churches**, whose original roots were Mennonite. Decades ago the Hopewell District formed via **Holy Spirit** outpourings & charismatic gifts & orientation sweeping throughout its constituents. The Hopewell District pulled out of its mother denomination & became the Hopewell Network.



Well, this church in Manheim, a.k.a., "**Pursuit Church**", formerly known as "Immanuel Christian Fellowship", was accurate in changing their name. "Pursuit" is exactly what they do. They are comprised of demographics of all ages. There were small children everywhere; young adults, & some teenagers. Unlike the week before, where the program was formatted throughout {& that is not a fault-just an observation comparing the two different churches on two consecutive Sundays}, **Pursuit** sang, waited on the Lord, sang some more, & waited for the Lord to speak as they "pursued" Him.



I received this email recently from a father of 7 whose family attends the church, 4 of which were present in the service: **"...if you're ever in the area please let us know as the kids just love you & God had truly blessed you with gift of sharing in a simple but deep way that reach all! Blessings brother! Scott"** Two very different churches, two very different sectors of the Body of Christ, two different ways of meeting with God-& yet, & yet, His Spirit's presence was at each.



This is where "**Kris Kingle**" & **Guerty**" comes in in the head title above. When Kris was forbidden by the evil "Burghermeister Meisterburgher's" edict from bringing any more gifts to the children in Somber Town via their front doors, he came up with an alternative idea via his penguin friend, "**Topper**". Go down the chimney! After another successful delivery of Christmas gifts via this new "entrance", Kris chuckled & said, "Boy, what a great job I've got!". Believe it or not, after having been given the privilege once again by our Heavenly Father to bring His gifts to such a vast array of His people, both denominational & age-wise, that's exactly what I thought & later told Kim! I pray He keeps "filling my sleigh" to deliver gifts for Him for years to come. May it be so. Amen. **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]: "**I would rather be diagnosed as having stage 4 cancer than to be diagnosed as 'without Christ'**". (Eph. 2:12) MRG 2/6/'23



***Caboose! On The Loose!***

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

March 7: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//Network pastors' mtg.//hsc directors meeting

March 11: Hopewell Christian Fellowship, Elverson, PA: hsc Kids Camp reunion service

March 12: Hopewell Christian Fellowship, Elverson, PA: hsc Youth Camp reunion service

March 15: Hope Community Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area pastors' mtg.

March 13-31: "*The Procurator*" mini Via Dolorosa production preparation



\*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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