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May 2016

Dear Friends & Family,

“TIME TRAVELING 1,500 YEARS IN A MONTH & A DAY”



[4/17] Just a little while ago I came in from the garage & backyard shed. I had been work-ing on & compiling Time Machine drama props & costumes for an upcoming event this month. I trust to bring out *Martin Luther*, the Augustinian monk, who defied the Catholic authorities & risked his life to protect & preserve The Word of God from papal corruptions. The date for Martin's "arrival" at his trial is April 26th. Well, it was March 25th when I did my last of 90+ episodes as *Pontius Pilate*, the Roman prefect of Judea, for our church's annual *Via Dolorosa* event. Due to the "magic" of my Time Machine, I will have traversed 1 & ½ millennia in a month & a day. Then, about 2 months to the day from the 26th of this month, I trust to come out again of said Time Machine as the captain of the Magi's bodyguard. Speaking of *Pilate* & *Via Dolorosa*, below is an anonymous {Though I'm pretty sure I know who it is! :0)} comment that was mailed to me after last month's newsletter was sent out that I think is very noteworthy to quote: "Dear Michael- In reading the responses to you about your presentation of "The Walk To The Crucifixion", it is apparent that many people were affected by it, (and still are). From the welcome by the lady on the streets of Jerusalem to the Crucifixion, the realism was awesome! The sternness of the guards created the atmosphere of the "fear of the common people" of the rulers in the city at that time.

Each character was so authentic, in demeanor and dress, that it was 'eerie'. Over my 80 years, it was the one event that brought me close to the presence of Christ. (His love and His suffering). For you and all the other participants-it is probably the most important "Labor of Love", of your lives. (I can't imagine the work involved.) From "one of the nameless faces in the groups, traveling through your streets of Jerusalem to the Crucifixion."(With Love, Thanks, and Appreciation") [Anonymous]

[5/2] "SPEAKING OF MARTIN LUTHER"



My "Luther's Trial" time machine drama is taken virtually verbatim from the 2003 version of the movie, "Luther", starring *Joseph Fiennes*, who, by the way, was the lead star of the recently released "Risen" movie, which I saw & loved. I have watched "Luther" many times & each time I have cried while doing so. I so relate to this giant, yet, flawed-like the rest of us (!), of the Reformation. I too was formerly Catholic. I considered the priesthood more than once. But the Lord had other plans & apprehended me when I was 18-in a convent of all places! Yes-Luther was a giant of the Reformation. He was a bull in a china closet spiritually, but that was what was needed, given the corrupted religious hierarchy that he was to oppose. Yet, as with all of us, God used him in his weaknesses & flaws. That's how He uses me. Luther despairingly weeps in the movie for a "God Whom he can love". Prior to his conversion he was terrified of Him-terrified in the wrong way. There is a biblical "terror of the Lord" that is an indescribable gift to His people. It is the beginning of knowing Him, it is a major motivation to serve Him, it is a major stimulus to witness to the lost, it is a driving incentive to seek Him. Believe it or not, while Luther battled the ominous powers-that-be of the Roman Catholic Church of his time, he also instructed children, as do I. He also wrote a catechism for them. The movie sweetly depicts him giving some children a Bible lesson in the woods. Re: the educating of the young, he once wrote: *"I am much afraid that schools will prove to be great gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of*

youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not increasingly occupied with The Word of God must become corrupt."

"SPEAKING OF YOUTH"



I arose at 4:45 yesterday a.m. to prepare to preach at a church in PA. Leaving the house at 6:46 with my truck loaded up, I drove about 65 miles & began the hour or so long process of setting up my object lessons. I preached my heart out re: "Adoration Versus Idolatry". A young man came to hear me preach. I had not seen him prior to this Spring for many, many years. He was a little boy decades ago in one of the 3 churches I served re: children's ministry in Reading, PA 20+ years ago. He is now a grown man-much stronger than me, & his voice is deeper than mine too! :0) He helped me pack up after the service. He said something to me while doing so that I will never forget: "I was so glad to hear you again & to see that you haven't changed." As too many of us do, he had had a lapse in his walk with the Lord in his younger years. He likened himself to the Prodigal. Hence, it blessed him to see when the Lord brought him back that I was still preaching what & how I preached to him as a youngster-with the fire of God's Spirit & remaining true to the Scriptures. With the natural bent of the flesh being to "go liberal" with all institutions, especially religious institutions, I can only attribute this in me to the grace of God. It is one of the delights of my life to see so many of these "little boys" who sat under me come along side me & help serve the Lord together.

"A DAY OF 'LAY & PRAY'"



Prior to the service, after I had completed my setup, the 1st thing I looked for was a place to be alone & pray. I had done so many & various times during the week at my home in preparing but one can never pray enough. I found a chair storage room-a bit hot [it must have been adjacent to the boiler room] but dark & secluded. Though not always afforded before I minister, due to a zillion details to cover plus the training of Time Machine actors & sound/tech personnel, my ache & longing is always to be *on my face before God before I'm on my feet before men*. After the service, I talked &/or ministered to a number of people, then immediately proceeded to pack up & load up the truck. I was also preaching at my own church that evening to our youth group. Another 65 miles to home & unloading had to occur before once again I “headed to the floor” to lay & pray once more-to refresh my body & soul, & gather my thoughts for a completely different message that night. I went to our youngest son's bedroom. My “lay & pray” turned into a brief catnap! When I came to, different object lessons needed to be loaded for that evening's service. Kim & headed to church, whereupon I setup. Next? I went to find another place to “lay & pray”. It was the classroom that is *The Dungeon* during *Via Dolorosa*. It was there that the Lord put my thoughts together as I meditated on His Word & heaved myself upon Him for the power of His Spirit. When it came time to preach to the youth, as exhausted as I was, I felt so invig-orated by His Spirit & inflamed with zeal again for His truth. Once again, the strategy of “lay & pray” took the day. May it always be so that my total dependence is on Another! Now? It is full-speed ahead into the very busy **4-camp** summer season. O God-by grace & grace alone.

"Caboose! On The Loose!"



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

April 10: IC, Wilmington, DE: Warehouse youth group: worship leader

April 13: IC, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David: worship leader

April 17: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: camp fund-raiser & promotion event//p.m.: prayer at tel hai camp

April 19: Christiana, DE: counseling appt.

May 1: a.m.: Hopewell Christian Fellowship, Elverson, PA: Sunday a.m. service preaching//camp fund-raiser

May 1: p.m.: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: Warehouse youth group: preaching

May 3: a.m.: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//camp speakers' mtg.//visitation re: sick friend

May 3: p.m.: IC, Wilmington, DE: Via Dolorosa Room Captains' mtg.

May 9-15: Bay Village, OH: visiting oldest son & family

May 9-11: Parkside Church, Chagrin Falls, OH: Preachers' Conference

*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" or https://www.denarionline.com/DONORSERVICES/TEMPLATEPAGE.ASPXCOMP_REF=_ELIMFEL&SID=vjywxzcot0d5c5pnrq1f0rnl&CONTENT=MISSIONARY&MISSION_REF=E8668ABEC7

If your church would be interested in ministry by Michael, please feel free to contact us. www.cabooseministries.org

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