

October 31, 2012 Happy Reformation Day!

November 1, 2012 All Saints' Day

Dear Friends & Family,

BOMBS? AWAY

(10/7) It's early **October** as I type this & that month's newsletters were sent out less than a week ago, but I wanted to finish reporting in re: the last of my three youth retreats in a row I ministered at in the month of September. Given my very busy schedule, I have had to write weeks ahead of the scheduled publication of the given newsletter month. This last youth retreat I did was a combined Jr./Sr. High group from a **Presbyterian** church in the **Philadelphia** area. I had never been with this particular group before, so I couldn't help but wonder how our two "DNA's" in the Lord would mesh, if at all. I was immediately blessed by their love, zeal, unity, & servants' hearts for the Lord. Two of the retreaters had been former campers of mine, hence my connection with their church. As with the two previous retreats the two weekends before, I gave this group what I believed the Lord had given me. For many years now, I have believed a major purpose of this itinerant work the Lord called me to in 2000, was to bring "the basics", i.e., the foundations of the faith, to God's people, both old & young, who are not well-versed in, nor familiar with them. After preaching on the value of the human soul, the cost of discipleship, the relatively minuscule number of those who will be in Heaven compared to the total number of human souls from **Adam** until the last human being is conceived, the gospel highly-elaborated, & Judgment Day, I received some "feedback" from these kids. One of them semi-jokingly entreated me not to drop another "bomb" on him. He said he didn't have any more clothes to wear as he cried on all of the ones he had! One of the girls testified at the post-Saturday night service bonfire [I had just preached on **Judgment Day**], that "Guerty doesn't preach **Peaches n' Cream**", but insinuated that what she heard was needful & good for her. I reassured the "newly-wardrobeless" young man that I always endeavored to give a "balm" after I dropped a doctrinal bomb. I was hum-bled, blessed, & grateful, that, despite the fact that these kids were a bit "shell-shocked" by what they heard, they were grateful to hear it. This confirmed what I had shared in my monthly Elim Fellowship pastors' gathering just two days before re: today's youth culture & attempting to be "relevant" to them. I shared with the other brothers there that I have read &/or heard a couple of times in the past few years that young people today want the hard-core truth. That's good,

because that's all I have given children & teenagers for decades now! I wouldn't know what else to do! And the beautiful thing is, they respond to it!

CAMP CRAMPS

This brings to mind one of the most painful, distressing, & discouraging ministry moments I have ever had. I was at a camp as a guest speaker years ago. I did with this camp what I had always done the previous 20 years of ministry to the youngó I gave them the basics. Well, after a message or two, the leaders took me aside & started to "adjust & tweak" my messages, even to the point of telling me what not to preach! I was heartsick & dumbstruck. I had been ministering to kids & teens probably much longer than this head pastor had been a head pastor, & yet, he was telling me how to do what I was invited in good faith to do! In essence, this leader was acting as a "bomb squad" , trying to defuse my doctrinal "bombs" I have dropped [w/balm!] on God's people for years. Of course, I never want to be above correction, for sure. But something was terribly wrong. How did I know? From years of experience, but also from how the rest of the camp was responding to the messages! Both staff & campers loved them. One of the female leaders was in the front row crying & thanked me in tears after the service. A number of kids came up to me & thanked me & told me how blessed they were by them. After I was "tweaked" by this leadership, I was so distraught & too heartsick to eat, that when the rest of the camp went to lunch, I cuddled up in a fetal position on the stage under the piano [a quick make-shift prayer closetó I just had to be alone for this one & my living quarters for the week was shared by other people] to pour it out before the Lord. Oh, how very much I wanted to pack up my stuff & get out of there! I can't convey the duress of soul I felt from "not being trusted". I called George Bowen, a dear pastor/brother/mentor friend of mine for counsel. His words were a balm for my distraught soul. My sole endeavor now was to finish the week & get out, & somehow manage to minister to the group despite my very deep pain & discouragement. I can tell as I type I'm still not "healed" from this incident. It just hurts so deeply when children & youth are kept from blessing via the error [sometimes "well-intended" error] of adults, they might have otherwise had. To add to my pain, just before I went to leave after packing up all of my equipment after my last night chapel, where I had endeavored to impart to the kids more choice meat from God's Word, they capped the evening with a talent show. Bellowing loudly through the sound system was a very popular "oldie", a.k.a., "Y.M.C.A.", which tragically, was

recorded & made famous by a group of homosexual men! And this was happening not that long after a chapel service! Sometime later, as I was trying to “process” this whole experience, I believe the answer came to me via a whisper from the Lord’s Spirit to my heart: “Michael? You had a head-on collision with a seeker-sensitive church?”.

(10/9) “MY DAILY ě TRIPOD”

At the first of the three youth retreats I did in September, one of my concluding statements the night I preached on Judgment Day was: “#1: The whole world is going to hell [based on Jesus’ words in Mt. 7:14]. #2: Judgment Day is coming [Acts 17:31]. #3: The gospel must be preached [Acts 4:12]. I told them that these three truths guide, govern, & motivate how I live on a daily basisó that they were a “tripod” my life was supported by. My host got up after I finished & told the teens that this statement really impacted him. It should. It should impact all of us-not because it’s mine, but because it’s true. I very often think about departed souls who once lived upon the surface of the earth like we do now. I think of famous souls, celebrity souls, souls I’m ashamed to say I’ve envied from time to time, who had everything, but, who most likely died in their sin, who have been screaming ever sinceó screaming every waking & sleeping moment of ours wishing they could warn those of us up on top of the earth re: their plight & place of non-stop torment underneath. JESUS taught these truths not me. And, I believe them. I believe Him. I want to be a “Jesus lip-reader”. I want to so closely pay attention to the things that came out of His lips, that, in a very real sense, I want to read His lips, so to speak. We ignore them at our own peril. O, the foolish, wasteful, & vain pursuits we humans, we Christians (!) engross ourselves in, in the light of the sobering “Truth-Tripod” mentioned above. Lord, help us to daily remember “Therefore, we make it our goal to please Him, because we all must stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, to give an explanation for everything we have done while we have lived down here on the earth” [II Cor. 5:9,10; paraphrase mine]. As always, I am humbled & grateful if you’ve read this far, & it’s my deepest desire & ache that you are blessed, challenged, & fed as you have done so, for Jesus’ glory & gospel’s sake alone.

Sincerely,

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*[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, or health insurance-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].

***Ministry/events for NOVEMBER & those not listed in last month’s newsletter:**

- Oct. 5: a.m.: Dimidio viewing; p.m.: home fellowship group, Hockessin, DE
- Oct. 7, 14: p.m.: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: “Warehouse” youth group: worship leader
- Oct. 10: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: “Tabernacle of David” worship leader
- Oct. 14, 28: a.m.: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: “The Father’s House” kids’ church worship leader
- Oct. 16: NCC prayer breakfast, New Castle, DE
- Oct. 18: Hockessin Baptist Church, Hockessin, DE: local EMF pastors’ mtg.
- Oct. 21: Sunday Breakfast Mission, Wilmington, DE: evening service speaker
- Oct. 31: at home handing out candy & gospel tracts to Trick Or Treaters! :0)
- Nov. 1: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: “Kids Kandy Karnival” game booth operator
- Nov. 2: Schorn Household, Hockessin, DE: home fellowship group
- Nov. 4: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: “The Father's House “ children's service worship leader
- Nov. 5: Lancaster Christ.Sch., Leola, PA: Jr./Sr. Hi chapel; p.m.-Petra Christ. Flshp.: Edge Jr. Hi. Youth group
- Nov. 6: Petra Christian Fellowship, New Holland, PA: hnc board mtg.//network pastors’ mtg.//camp directors’ mtg
- Nov. 9-11: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: Immanuel Church Mens’ Retreat: attendee
- Nov. 11: Brandywine Grace Church, Downingtown, PA: Sun. a.m. service Time Machine drama

Nov. 16, 17: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: Immanuel Church "Warehouse" Jr./Sr. Hi retreat

Nov. 18: First Baptist Church of Holloway Terrace, New Castle, DE: Sun. a.m. adult service

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