

**Audio sermons:** <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministriesaudiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>

YouTube Channel for Time Machine Dramas & Sermons: "Michael Robert Guertin"

## November 2019

Dear **Friends & Family**,



[10/5] Some of you may recall last month's newsletter where I wrote about our beloved new grand-daughter "Eva Elizabeth" going to Heaven 5 weeks before she was due, right into Jesus' arms. Her mother, Elizabeth Emily Guertin, today posted on Facebook & Instagram from her heart her thoughts & feelings re: going through this. For those of you who may not have seen it on social media, here it is: ***"Most of you know (& have cared so deeply & lovingly for us), but for those who do not, Eva Elizabeth Guertin was born straight to Heaven on September 14, 2019. She was perfect, with a nose like Finley's & above her nose looked just like Elliot. It has been a difficult & sad (that's such a short word for such deep feelings) few weeks. And we will grieve her life for the rest of ours, in so many big & little ways. Losing your child is surely not something that you get through or get over, & that is ok. We aren't supposed to bury our children, it is just not...right. We miss her every single day, & ask questions & feel so heartbroken, but we are not without hope. We know without any doubt that we will see her again. She left the comfort of my body & went straight into the arms of Jesus when He called her name. That is why we named her Eva, it means full of life, & she is right now, just not an earthly one. There is so much that I do not understand, & much of it I will not, but I do know that God is still good. He did not change because Eva died. The things we do know are what we think on right now. God is sovereign, He knows everything, He is love itself. While I would never have chosen this, & wouldn't still if given the chance, I do know that Heaven is infinitely better than this earth, that she has only & will only ever know complete Love. This life, even when lived into old age, will be a breath in comparison to all eternity with Jesus & our beautiful Eva. That's what we cling to right now. I'm so thank-ful for the 34.5 weeks I got to carry you, for every kick & move that I & your brothers & Daddy got to feel. We love you so much Eva, I ask Jesus every day to tell you."***

“Out of the heat and out of the rain,  
Never to know or sin or pain,  
Never to fall and never to fear—  
Could we wish better for one so dear?  
What has she seen and what has she heard,  
She who has flown away like a bird?  
Eye has not seen, nor dream can show—  
All she has seen, all she may know.  
For the pure powers of Calvary  
Bathe the little souls in innocence.  
Tender, tender Thy loving words be—  
“Dear little child, come home to me.”

- Amy Carmichael

### “PREPARING TO ENTER THE ARENA AGAIN”



[10/8] I can tell I’m on the precipice of entering the arena of ministry again, which is always an arena of warfare. It has to be if it is genuine ministry. [The 2 pics of me above as a gladiator in 2000 was a drama I used from PA to NY to CA that year to introduce the ***Parable of the Sower***. Why? Every time a person hears the Word of God they are immediately thrust into the arena whether they are aware of it or not. It is an arena of eternal survival, as so many forces are seeking to deter that Word from bearing eternal fruit: men trample it, birds devour it, the sun scorches it, & thorns strangle it. We must fend them all off to survive.



The Arabian sheik who owned the 4 white stallions which **Judah Ben Hur** rode in the infamous chariot race from the movie of the same name {1959 version} told his young Jewish charioteer, "There is no law in the arena-many are killed." We have an enemy who is thoroughly disposed to preventing the preaching of the gospel. His wild birds of the air are everywhere, ready & waiting to snatch & devour the eternal life-giving seed of the Word of God from the hearts of men. God, Who gives the evil one every billisecond of his existence & every drop of his power for His Own glory & purposes, gives Satan permission to steal the Word so that they cannot be saved [Lk.8:12] based on men's "dissing" of God [Lk.8:5]. God is not mocked. How can I tell lots of intense minis-try is near? My multi-faceted present weaknesses. I received more injections in my spine today as we try to decipher the source of my knee feeling sprained all of the time. I still have residual **GBS** [Guillain-Barre] symptoms contracted from a flu shot 3 years ago this month. In addition, shortly after the shot I had a big fibroma appear on the bottom of each of my feet-something my very experienced podiatrist had never seen in all of his years of practice. He told me, "This is probably GBS". My peripheral neuropathy in my feet also is a constant menace. And I still have considerable pain in my hip on my bursa, even 8 months out from surgery. My surgeon told me despite that I'll forget I even had a replacement within a year from the operation. I'm trying to trust him. And, about 2 weeks ago, I was doing my regular strength-training regimen in my garage. I attempted to do 15 pull-ups & succeeded. However, I seriously injured my left upper arm. On top of all of this, I'm having a bout with yet another round of sinusitis. **Delaware** is famous for it. It feels like a "cloudy brick" is in my head. All I want to do is sleep & yet there is so much Sacred Scripture to pour over-& that is what I have done in preparation. These teens coming this weekend desperately need huge doses of the Word of God imparted into them & I aim to do just that.



In addition, I have so many costumes & props for this particular retreat that I'm even bringing my ministry trailer, which typically I only use during the summer camp season [And, do you know what? I'm still praying for another ministry truck as the **fire** still burns in me to do this itinerant work! And until the weather recently changed I had been riding my bike & doing my football workout on the field across the street, & using my elliptical when biking wasn't convenient!]. And yet, what I am to do with all of these encumbrances? Embrace them. God is preparing me for His arena. "Michael? Wouldn't you want to be at your best for that?!" In myself, Yes. But in God's economy & dealings, NO. It would be the worst possible scenario. He's weakening me-for the display of His gracious strength. It happens every time-though I must admit I'd rather go in with all of *my* pistons firing. **Paul Johansson**, a father, mentor, & friend to me, once said, "It isn't your weaknesses that get in God's way-it's your strengths". I quote that to virtually every one of my camp staffs every summer. He giveth more grace. Bless His Name. **Albert Mohler**, president of Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary & author of the daily weekday podcast "The Briefing", once said at a conference that he has been sick many times before going up to preach & even after he was finished. And yet, he has never been sick in the pulpit. I know because of Who He is & what He has promised, I shall come back with gracious glowing reports-& all will know WHO did it. Amen.



## **“DOWN IN THE ARENA”**



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**[10/20]** Speaking of the arena above, I've been back for a week now from that youth retreat & it was just as I expected-an arena-but worth the effort & fight. I entered the arena quite sick as I also said above. And yet, once more, our gracious Lord kept supplying His strength. During the opening session Friday night I preached re: The Sower. A number of the kids were new to me & I to them, despite the fact that this was my 5<sup>th</sup> time doing this particular youth retreat. As I poured my heart out as to Jesus' explanation as to why the 1<sup>st</sup> three soils in the Sower "didn't make it" to Heaven, some of the kids were chatty & distracting. Interestingly enough, when I mentioned this to the youth pastor after the meeting, he was thinking quite the opposite-he thought they were noticeably attentive! Well, about ½ way through the message it was as if the hand of the Lord came down & powerfully gripped the kids. You could hear a pin drop. This led into a significant time of response ministry at the end.

## “A STROKE-BUT NOT OF LUCK OR GENIUS!”



I mentioned about “down in the arena”. This happened Saturday afternoon. I preached Saturday late a.m. re: *The Gospel Elaborated*. I preached long & hard. When the meeting was over, the kids headed to lunch. I stayed in the chapel. Why? Because of “what I do & how I do it”, there was *much* work to be done before the afternoon session at 3:30. I had to tear down my a.m. chapel Time Machine costumes & object lessons & reset the afternoon object lesson table plus lay out various & numerous outfits for my afternoon “time travelers”, who were arriving to help me from my church in Wilmington. I had no

lunch, or break or rest. Before I knew it I was coming out of the Time Machine followed by another long & hard message re: idolatry. The Lord graced me with His Spirit's fervor & jealous heart for His people's affections as I preached. When I was finished, I laid down up front on my back. I did so for three reasons: 1. I was exhausted. 2. I often want to lay before the Lord after I preach & adore Him. 3. I had to take my "King Josiah" sandals off. Well, one of the youth workers, who was new to the retreat, told me later at dinner, "Michael? I'm an EMT? I look for heart rates, pulses, symptoms, etc? When you were laying down on the floor up front, I thought you were having a stroke." 😊 Well, despite my exhaustion, after grabbing some dinner that the home church came & cooked for us & spending some time with the group I immediately headed back to the chapel to continue tearing down & packing up from the afternoon & also setting up for Sunday a.m.'s chapel.

### "LUTHER APPEARS IN MARYLAND"



I preached for the 1<sup>st</sup> time this a.m. in a *United Methodist Church* in MD. Given this month [*October* at the time of this writing] is **Reformation** month, I thought it pertinent to portray **Martin Luther**, whom I have played on & off since 2007. I preached re: Protecting the Gospel, which the Lord used Luther & many other Reformers to do in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The pastor, a godly man, whom I had never met, in his care for his sheep, emailed me the day before to make sure I would not do any "Catholic bashing" with the drama & message. This hit me in the gut to be honest. Luther was a "bull in a China closet" spiritually, to be sure! But I believe the Lord sovereignly ordained it so, using Luther's weaknesses, given how corrupt the Catholic Church had become-& how

powerful too! The pre-drama narration mentions the corruption that had taken over much of the Church-even its hierarchy-to the popes themselves. I gave the pastor my “Catholic credentials”: named after a priest, my dad a graduate of **Catholic University**, Catholic school, altar boy, numerous aspirations of being a priest, saved in a convent, etc. The pastor was relieved but I was still now “on edge” somewhat, fearing I might “cross the line” either with my drama or message in something I might say. I was very relieved after the service to have so many of the parishioners tell me how blessed, touched, & inspired they were by it all as I greeted them at the back of the church after the service-something I *never* do [I typically just start packing up my object lessons] but was exhorted to do by one of the hosts-& rightly so. 😊

Kim & I are grateful that you have taken the time to read this. I pray it has informed, blessed, & inspired.

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]:“Christ knows a crowd when He sows a crowd.” [10/7/'19]

**\*Based on the parable of the Sower. Massive crowds came to Him, & yet His 1<sup>st</sup> teaching was the Sower which reveals the hearts of men & how they treat the Word of God. Remember-3 of the 4 soils *didn't* make it. “He didn't entrust Himself to man, because He knew what was in a man.” [Jn.2:24,25]**





### Caboose! On the Loose:

**\*Lookin' out for the little guys...**

#### Ministry/Events for **NOVEMBER** & those not listed in last month's newsletter:

Nov. 2: Strasburg, PA: Sight And Sound Christmas show

Nov. 4: Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, PA: Elim Fellowship Regional Conference

Nov. 5: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//Network pastors' mtg.

Nov. 8,9: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: Immanuel Church men's retreat

Nov. 18: New Covenant Community Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim Fellowship area mtg.

Nov. 24: Family Life Center, Lagrangeville, NY: 2 Sun. a.m. services

Nov. 25: Transformation Life Center, West Park, NY: addiction recovery chapel

Nov. 26: Upton Lake Christian School, Clinton Corners, NY: 2 school chapels: High School & Elementary

Nov. 28, 29: Herndon, VA: Mine & Kim's family gatherings for Thanksgiving



**\*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 [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. Any gift no matter how small would be greatly appreciated! Thank you! [click here](#)

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