

Caboose! Podcast link: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministries/audiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>

Website: www.cabooseministries.org /YouTube channel: **Michael Robert Guertin**
/Facebook: **Michael Robert Guertin**

November 2023

“3rd ANNUAL ‘TRIANGLE TRIP’ COMPLETED”



Dear Friends & Family,

[10/30] Kim & I are presently on our 3rd annual (?) **“Triangle Trip”**. I call it that because in essence we basically travel a path that is a huge **2,500+** mile triangle. We go from **DE, to AL, to OH**, then back home to **DE**. Each of the past 3 Octobers, including last month’s, we have followed the exact same game plan. We take 2 days to get to AL, stay 5 full days with our daughter Laura & family. From there, we take 2 days to drive to Cleveland, OH, where our oldest son Matthew & family reside. Again, we stay 5 full days there, then head home to DE in 1 day.

“AND, YET ANOTHER ‘BOOT CAMP’ TO BOOT!”



A major event that has determined our calendar schedule for our *Triangle Trip* is that of **Converge Church's** annual "**Boot Camp**" youth retreat. I was humbled, privileged, & yes, once again surprised in a way that they asked me back to minister. How so, Michael? Well, it's a very common practice for churches to have different speakers each year to annual events that they host. This is certainly the case with youth ministry; & yet, our Lord has given me such blessing & favor with Converge Church & their youth that I have been invited back several times through the years. Below is some feedback I received after I got home from this 3-day event:

"Hey! I just wanted to say thank you so much because Boot Camp was so fun & I had a really good time. I'm just sad I have to wait a whole year to have it again." (Luke; a youth)

"To add to Luke's message, there were two parents at men's group tonight who said their kids had life-changing experiences this weekend - they came home

talking about God like never before. All glory to God, & thanks all for being vessels for Him!” (Skylar-one of the youth retreat leaders)

“Especially in the Chapels!! We heard more about them so far than (our big game) ‘Freedom Village’! Goes for you too birthday boy {this text sent to me on my birthday, the day after the retreat}!” (Ezio-a youth retreat leader)

“UNTIL YOU UNDERSTAND THE WRATH OF GOD IN HISTORY,
YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE LOVE OF GOD AT CALVARY”



Why are these comments so special to me? Well, the youth & staff had sat under my numerous & various teachings re: the wrath of God! I covered “Outbursts of the Wrath of God in the Old Testament”, which entailed the global flood of **Noah**, where the Lord took personal responsibility for drowning millions-perhaps billions of people, including teenagers & children! [Gen.6 & 7]. I then proceeded to Gen.18 & 19, where the Lord Jesus in His preincarnate state appeared in human form to Abraham. In 19:24, the Sacred Text states, “Then the Lord [Jesus on earth] rained down brimstone & fire from Heaven, from the Lord [God the Father], upon the cities of **Sodom & Gomorrah...**”. II Pet.2:6 says He “reduced them to ashes”. From there I took the retreaters to Ex.9:23ff, where the Lord rained down hail mixed with fire. The Word declares that the fire “ran along the ground” & also the “fire took hold of itself”. Everyone & everything that was out in the fields perished. From there, I covered the **Passover**. Ex.11:4 & 12:29 are some of the most sobering verses in the entire Bible. “About midnight, I will go out into the midst of Egypt...”. And, we all know the firstborn of both man & beast perished that night, except those whose doorposts & lintels were covered in animal blood.

On & on I went with the youth & their leaders, hoping to immerse them deeply into the dreadful severity of God, that they might more appreciate His tender mercies. If you don't, one's love for God will be shallow, flippant, taken for granted, etc.-even irreverent. In Numbers 16, the Lord had the earth open its mouth & swallow whole the families of **Dathan & Abiram**, including their "little ones". In that same chapter fire from the Lord burst forth [most likely from the Tabernacle, given the context], & consumed the 250 rebels who followed **Korah**. In chapter 21 of that same book, the Lord sent **fiery serpents**, perhaps flying snakes, called "Hydri", whose venom was so lethal one ancient historian wrote that the victim died before they felt the pain of the bite! And, again, THE LORD sent them-upon His people! In II Sam. 24:24 the Lord sent a destroying angel to strike down 70,000 Israelites due to the anger **David** incurred from God for numbering Israel's fighting men. Examples of God's fierce wrath are abundant in the Scriptures, from Gen. 3 [Remember, there was no sin in Gen. 1 & 2] to Rev. 22.

"FROM DEATH TO LIFE"



My retreat host informed me before **Boot Camp**, that the theme this year would be “From Death to Life”,based on Eph.2:1-10. Hence, after recounting several instances of God inflicting death upon innumerable numbers of people in the Bible, I would then point out & highlight in each case where the Lord at the same time provided “a way of escape”. For Adam & Eve, it was the **animal skin covering**; for antediluvian populace, it was **the Ark of Noah**; for refuge from the downpour of hail & fire, it was either one’s house, or the **Land of Goshen** where the Israelites dwelt. To escape the Angel of Death at the Exodus, it was the **blood of a lamb** or goat. To avoid being swallowed up alive into Sheol with Dathan & Abiram & their followers, your only hope was to **get away from** them & touch nothing that belonged to them. For those bitten by the deadly fiery serpents, it was **gazing at the brass serpent** lifted high on a pole [Jn.3:15] that the Lord instructed Moses to make. For the plague brought on Israel by King David, an altar was built & **sacrifices offered**. In each case, the Lord was under no obligation to have mercy on anyone-yet, He was under obligation to Himself to punish sin. This is what makes His mercy so tender-& great.

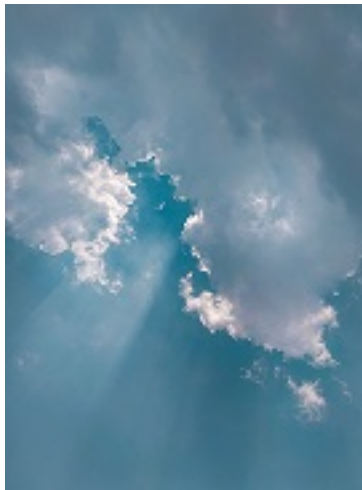
“I’M STILL NOT SATISFIED!”



My ultimate destination in this very heavy, sobering message was Romans 3:25. Why so? Romans 3:25 is a Divine powerhouse of nuclear truth, once one “gets it”.

It basically states that God the Father placed the Lord Jesus “out in the open”, He publicly displayed Him, He set Him forth. Where? In Jerusalem, the center of the world, in the fullness of time [Gal.4:4]. For what? As a **propitiation**—a sacrificial offering to remove, pacify, & appease His holy & just wrath. Why? The passage continues to declare that He left the sins committed beforehand [i.e., the sins from Adam & Eve’s first sin, up to the sins committed at Calvary] UNPUNISHED. Huh?? But, but, but He drowned, burned, buried alive, etc. countless human beings! Yet, yet, given His infinite holiness, those drastic & dreadful punishments did not satisfy His just demands for His Person & Law being violated. He held back. He held back. From this realization, I took the retreaters to **the cross of Christ**. It was there, & only there, that the full measure, the full undiluted mixture-of the fierce fury of the wrath of God was fully appeased & pacified. The proof of this? Jesus’ solemn yet victorious utterance from the cross just before He yielded up His infinitely spotless spirit-“It is finished”. The Lord Jesus accomplished in six hours what a lost soul in the **Lake of Fire** for all of eternity could never do-satisfy the exacting, just, holy wrath of God.

“HIS PRESENCE FOLLOWED HIS PRECEPTS”



When the youth & their leaders left the meeting room, my host & I just stood there on opposite sides of the room & looked at each other. I told him that I hated to leave. I wanted just to lay on my face before the Lord for a very long period of time. He told me that he hated “transitioning” from our chapel time to the “next event”, as he too loves being immersed in the Lord’s presence. The next morning, I

arrived at the chapel area early as I usually do, to setup my object lessons for the lesson that would precede our Bible marking & quizzing session. I began to play my soft background music while doing so. I immediately sensed that the Lord's presence was still strong & sweet in the room, the same presence I had sensed the day before after our chapel. He was there-He was there-again. He hadn't "left". Yes, I'm very aware of His omnipresence, His ubiquity. Yet, I'm also very aware that He "unleashes" more of His Spirit's presence in locations where His people focus on Him, as we did so intently the day & night before. Some of you may recall last month's newsletter where I recounted my time ministering over 20 years ago near **Princeton Seminary**. I shared that there are those who say the presence of the Lord can still be sensed in a special way in the office of **Charles Hodge**, Princeton's premier theologian for **56** years. Though I personally did not visit his office at that time, I have no problem believing that tale is true. I recounted His lingering presence at **Elim Bible Institute**, at **Hemlock Hall at Tel Hai Camp**, upon my **2000 Nissan Frontier ministry vehicle** of 15 years [according to the mechanic who recently worked on it], & now, I sensed this priceless phenomenon in the basement of the chapel at **Camp Haluwasa**. Yes-I believe it.

"REVERENCING THE PRESENCE"



Speaking of the manifest presence of the Lord, I recounted last month re: Kim & mine's visit to **Sight And Sound** theater near Lancaster, PA. It is a spectacular sight to see & experience. Even as one pulls into the long driveway leading up to the impressively-sized theater, you begin to feel excitement. Everything at S&S is big, majestic, full of grandeur, etc., as it should be! If it were my venue, I would do the same. I've often said in my striving to bring realism to my **Time Machine & camp equestrian dramas**, that my middle name is "Epic". You walk into the S&S theater & you're met with grandeur & spectacle. That is the only way I know how to describe it. The décor, the atmosphere, etc. bespeaks 1st class quality & professionalism. It is a personal honor to me that two of my former campers [one also served as a "gopher" & worship leader] are on staff there. One of them happens to be S&S's soundman. He has the impressive & I'm sure stressful responsibility of overseeing several dozen microphones for the actors & the music score. When Kim & I saw S&S's production "**David**", he told me back then that he had seen the production **90X** by the time we had viewed it for the very first time! I envied him in a way, to be "lost" in that "biblical world" full-time, immersed & secluded from the outside world & all of its wickedness & resultant depression for a Christian. Yet, there was a part of me that recoiled from the idea of working at S&S. How so? I know from personal experience being at a Bible school for **4** years, having served on church staffs for **14** years, & having now produced "**Via Dolorosa**" in some form for **19** years, that being at such places for extended periods of time is both a very high privilege but also a very high *peril*. How so? The human heart is deceitful & desperately wicked [Jer.17:9] & it loathes "all things Divine". This is the case, of course, with the unregenerate hearts of pagans, but, still, it is also true of the "residual fallen human nature", vis, the flesh, still very present in God's people. It is very, very easy for Christians who are immersed & surrounded by "the things of God" on a regular basis, to become "familiar" with them, to treat them "lightly", even to treat them irreverently. It happens all of the time. I see it on big church staffs; I see it often with worship teams. And-it scares me to death. How so? When this attitude of irreverence is upon one of God's people, they don't realize that it is. "Familiarity breeds contempt", i.e., treating things lightly. It is repeatedly evidenced in the Scripture, often by Levites, priests, prophets, religious leaders, & those who were constantly "close to the holy things". And, so it is today. This is one of the many reasons I immerse myself in the "severity" of God, so that I might keep that cold, wet, sobering "blanket" on me of the fear of the Lord. And, as I said above, so that I might know, appreciate, & revel

in His tender mercies by doing so. I pray it will always be the case with me-& you, dear reader.



Kim & I wish you a blessed **Thanksgiving** season with a heart full of gratitude to the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits. 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: "If we treat Him lightly, He shows up lightly." {M.R.G.]



Caboose! On The Loose!

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

Oct. 17: Converge Church, Moorestown, NJ: local EF credential holders & pastors' mtg.

Oct. 17: Woodbury, NJ: hsc camp directors' mtg.

Nov. 1: Returning home from 3rd annual "Triangle Trip", vis, DE to AL to OH to DE

Nov. 4: Springfield, VA: arrive at Kim's mother's

Nov. 5: Restoration Church, Gaithersburg, MD: Sun. a.m. family service

Nov. 5: Aldie, VA: Michael's sister Colette's wedding

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

Nov. 8: Converge Church, Moorestown, NJ: Elim area credential holders/pastors mtg.

Nov. 11 : Camp Andrews, Holtwood, PA: Camp Renew Feet On The Street Youth retreat: chapel speaker

Nov. 17-19: Full Gospel Center, Lagrangeville, NY: 2 family services

Nov. 20: Transformation Life Center, West Park, NY: addictions recovery meeting chapel

Nov. 21: Upton Lake Christian School, Clinton Corners, NY: chapels & classes w/ the student body



*Michael is an ordained *Elim Fellowship* itinerant Stateside missionary & *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 this link to give directly: <https://elimfellowship.org/give/4100-GUEMC> Thank you!

Michael Robert "Guerty" Guertin

3 Windsor Road

Wilmington, DE 19809-2144

www.cabooseministries.org

YouTube: Michael Robert Guertin

FaceBook: Michael Robert Guertin

www.hopewellsummercamps.org

