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October 1, 2015

Dear Friends & Family,

**"FROM SHEEP TO SHEEP-HERDER"**



[9/28] One of the most satisfying delights of ministry for me through the almost 3 decades that I've done it, is seeing little boys & girls who sat under me in kids church now by my side serving the Lord in various ministry venues. One might not be surprised by this phenomenon if these particular former

sheep I'm referring to were youth or young adults. But-to have *children* grow up & come along-side you to do so is quite another thing. The two ministry outlets that immediately come to mind are *Via Dolorosa & Hopewell Summer Camps*, the two largest, longest, & most intense ministry events for me each year. Year after year, these "little kids" now grown up would join my ranks, either as actors or camp counselors. I have been charged more than once through the years by an elder/mentor/father in the faith, a.k.a., Paul Johansson, to reduplicate myself. If I have done so, it definitely has been through these ministry vehicles. Few things in my life bring more joy or fulfillment. One such little boy was *Jeremy Hall*. He was a very quiet, reserved kid in my "*Diamond [State] Mine*" children's ministry here in DE. I still re-member where he sat. For years now he has counseled at camp for me. In fact, this past summer, which was the most stressful of the *25* I've served at *Tel Hai Camp* due to losing 4 of my assistants in one year, Jeremy was there, by my side, as my assistant director of operations. We roomed together for 3 weeks during those 3 camps. I mentioned to him more than once while doing so, "Who would have guessed some 19 years ago when you were sitting in Diamond Mine with me as your kids' pastor, that we'd be rooming & directing camps together?!" In fact, one of the most memorable moments of the many this past camp season was when Jeremy felt to correct me about an attitude I had which was less than noble. I'm sure it was hard for him [though I strive to be approachable], but I was Oh!, so very glad he did! "Give honor to whom honor is due". Jeremy deserves it for this past camp season. \*{In the pics above, that's Jeremy on the left. His older brother Jonathan is on the left. He was also in kids' church with me as well, & also was a great help at camp years ago.}

### "COOTIES & BARBIES"



[9/3] My September newsletter just went out 3 days ago, but having returned from my most recent camp not that long ago, the memories are fresh. That particular camp was kids' camp-*children's* camp. And yet, as with the older two camps earlier in the summer, given the horrific immoral times we live in,

we had to have a sexual purity talk at this one as well [note: only to the 2 upper grades]. This course of action was precipitated by a boy who called in to a ministry associated with [Focus On The Family](#). The guest on this particular episode said a boy called their ministry & inquired, "Can you help me? I'm addicted to **porn**. I got hooked on it via [YouTube](#). I'm **12 years old**." I was in my garage at the time when I heard this on the radio. I was stopped in my tracks. I told the Lord in my heart, "O Father, we have to go younger [re: purity talks]". Prior to this time we had only given them to the sr. & jr. high camps. Given how delicate a subject it is, of course, I proceeded with caution. I firmly believe it is the parents' responsibility before the Lord to teach their children the facts of life. Sadly, for various reasons, many neglect or put this off, until it's too late. I strove to teach our 3 children these things when they were quite young, before anyone else "got to them". I even deliberately did so on the same day of the year for all 3 of them [albeit different years, of course, so that they would remember; [Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>](#)]. How deeply grieved & "violated" I felt—"robbed", if you will, that "others" got to them 1<sup>st</sup>! In each case, with all 3 of our kids, it was through another kid! Well, my goal was not to teach the children of camp "the facts of life", but to discuss God's intention for sex [again-I said nothing re: the "How To"!]. I enlisted some faithful sisters to come teach the older girls that day & I took the older boys. I began by holding up a "[Cootie](#)" toy. Most of the boys knew what it was. I told them that when they were younger, for the most part, girls had these. But I related that very soon [& for some of them it may have already begun!], that a wonderful thing was going to happen in their bodies. I repeatedly stressed that this was a GOD-ordained process. [Hormones](#) would begin to be secreted. Their voices would deepen. Hair would begin to grow in new places. I told them it was how God was preparing them to have children. In the light of this, they would no longer view girls as having "cooties", but instead they would see some of them as "[Barbies](#)"! My next object lesson was a dual lava lamp. One side is [yellow](#) [= The Holy Spirit/the new man] & the other side is a [reddish-orange](#) [= the flesh]. [Note: Christians only! Sinners only have the orange side!]. I then would display a pitchfork. Why? Though I stressed repeatedly that these changes in the boys were God-ordained & normal, [the devil](#) is well-aware of them too! Hence, when attractions/desires for the opposite sex begin to surface [& if this doesn't happen in the boys, something is wrong!], the devil strives to entice, lure, & pervert these God-given desires. I told the boys it is a life-long battle. The goal is to submit their eyes & wills to the "yellow side", i.e., [God's Holy Spirit](#) within them, asking Him to put to death the evil, perverted desires of the "orange side".

### "KEN ' GONE AWRY"



Speaking of Barbie, I had the incredible privilege of working with a spiritual "Ken doll" at my NY camp in Corning, NY last July. He was an amazing young man—handsome, a gentleman, sincere, [Christ-loving](#), a real servant. I loved watching him care for & minister to his campers. He was one of a group of young men who assisted us at the camp. All of them were from an addictions' recovery ministry in Elmira, NY called "[Renovation House](#)". Yes—an addictions' recovery ministry. In each of my 5 years of ministering at this camp, [RH](#) has sent a team of men. Each year, they have been amazing. How does this Christian "Ken" relate to the article above? He told me he got addicted to porn—through magazines *his father*

would bring into the house-when he was 5 or 6 years old! I didn't think this was possible! He assured me it was! O God. He said it devastated his life for years. As with the Midianites of old ravaging God's people Israel, so the evil one today seeks to ravage the young. I've often likened children's workers as God's people's "rear guard", as they proceed through life's "wilderness". I can think of no higher honor than to be part of that guard. Sincerely,

Michael & Kim

PS-Kim & I thank you for those who responded to our recent appeal for more financial undergirding to continue this ministry. We're not where we need to be yet if God so moves you to help.



**Caboose! On The Loose:**

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

Sept. 9: IC, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David: worship leader

Sept. 16: New Covenant Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area pastors' mtg.

Oct. 6: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.

Oct. 9: IC, Wilmington, DE: Warehouse youth group "Lock-In": giving message

Oct. 10: Cedar Run AG Church, West Creek, NJ: Dana [Guertin] Zerbe/Campo wedding

Oct. 11: New Life Church, Egg Harbor, NJ: Sunday a.m. service

Oct. 16: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: Hopewell Network "Jubilee!" children's service

Oct. 18: Wilmington Evangelical Comm. Chinese Church, Hockessin, DE: Sun. a.m. service

Oct. 16, 23, 24: my birthday, our 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Kim's birthday (respectively)

\*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 via [https://www.denarionline.com/DONORSERVICES/TEMPLATEPAGE.ASPX?](https://www.denarionline.com/DONORSERVICES/TEMPLATEPAGE.ASPX?COMP_REF=_ELIMFEL&SID=vjywxzcot0d5c5pnrq1f0rnl&CONTENT=MISSIONARY&MISSION_REF=E8668ABEC7)

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If your church would be interested in ministry by Michael, please feel free to contact us. [www.cabooseministries.org](http://www.cabooseministries.org)

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