

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

September 2017

Dear *Friends & Family*,

“CAMP VICTORY’S VICTORIES”



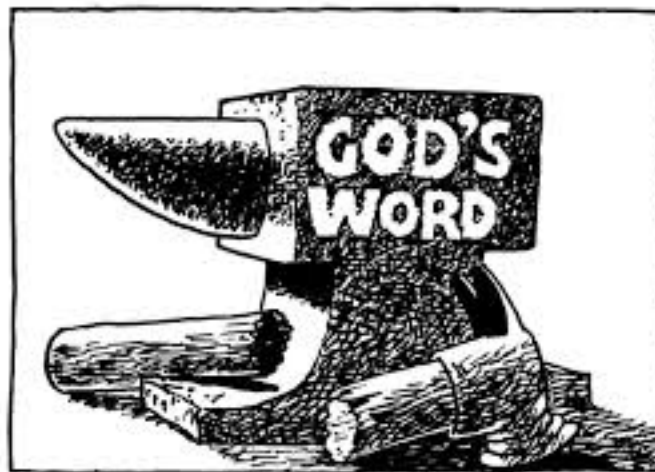
[8/1] I arrived home today from an 8-day ministry trip to three different locations in NY State. These locales entailed a church-sponsored day camp for children ages 6-13 in Corning, two Sunday services at a local church outside of Poughkeepsie, & a morning chapel at an addictions-recovery ministry in West Park. I preached **7X in 8 days & drove 950 miles** to do it all. **“CORNING CAMP QUARTERS”** The camp in Corning was once again bustling with almost **200 little ones**. This was my 7th year doing this camp. It was started via a word from the Lord to a former Elim Bible Institute colleague & best man in my wedding, who happens to pastor the church where it is held. The Lord spoke to his heart when he was 60: “I want you to dedicate the next 20 years of your life to children.” And that is exactly what **Pastor Pete Miller** has done with ***The Friends of the Cross Church*** grounds. He has morphed his church property into a “kid-friendly” one. When I arrived with my ministry rig, as always there was an army to help me unload it. I then set up my “quarters” where I spend the week: a Sunday School classroom. My own private “bath” is a utility room adjacent to it. I hook up a hose to the utility tub faucet & it becomes a makeshift shower. I need this setup as every moment is precious to me during this week, re: recuperating from my own Jr Hi camp in PA the week before, while at the same time trying to prepare for a full-day’s ministry here at the NY camp. To stay at someone’s home would entail commuting time, not to mention the unavoidable task of fellowshiping with your hosts, which is always sweet but it consumes valuable time & energy-every drop of it priceless to me. Hence, my “semi-roughing-it” quarters. Speaking of which, when I got out of my elevated air mattress [on a table] one morning my feet landed in water! Flash-flooding. This was a first in my 7 years of staying in that room!

“THE EXTREMES OF THE AUDIENCE”



As is typical for this camp, given the age-range, I had several children in the front rows who were learning to read, while in the back rows, I had campers who, given their ages [12 & 13], & the hormones that begin to flow by then, were curious about sex! And it was my responsibility to give them all the Word of the Lord! Despite decades of experience doing this, it never gets easy. Each year, every service, it's a falling on God experience for me. If He doesn't come, & rise up in me by the enabling power & gifting of His Spirit, I am undone. To add to all of this, the resistance & warfare I faced all week was some of the most intense of my entire Christian life. Each time I was preparing to preach, I had to spend probably 75% of my prayer time & energy re: the warfare, & 25% for the task at hand. I was "mad" about this. I deeply entreated our Father to help me—sometimes with tears. Each time, the "boulder" on top of me would "move", I'd preach & minister, then it would return. At least I wasn't stoned, flogged, shipwrecked, etc. like the Apostle Paul. Yes—I have some growing up to do.

“THE NOT-SO-MINI MESSAGES FOR THE MINI”



As has always been the case for me since I started in children's ministries in 1986, I've preached to children basically as I do to adults. This week was no different. Opening day they were taught re: **The Value of the Soul**, based on a sermon outline by Charles Hodge, the 19th century Princeton theologian, which he penned on Feb. 7, 1864. I edited & added much to his basic outline. 2nd Day: **The Gospel Elaborated**—this message

encompasses Creation, The Fall, Depravity, God's free decision to have mercy on the human race or not, Jesus' Person & Incarnation, Imputation, Propitiation, & the glory of Christ's righteousness covering believers all the days of their life, no matter how dark & sin-filled they might be. 3rd Day: **The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit**-after giving a survey of Who He is, What He does, etc., I invited the children to come up to be prayed for, to seek be filled with Him daily, & not just at a special event like camp. 4th Day-**John 15:1-8**: this entailed my Time Machine & a drama re: a **1st Century Vineyard** at harvest time.



The message covered the absolute necessity of remaining in, abiding in, staying connected to the Lord Jesus in order to bear fruit that remains which is essential for salvation. Now, after four glorious services in His holy presence, this preacher's ache is that *his* fruit will remain with these precious little ones. Each afternoon I would assist with the afternoon chapel via puppets, my M5 ["The Master's Multi-Media Monitor Man"] Robot, whom I use to monitor & critique biblically kids' media they're into, Bible games to review the morning lesson, & even my trademark superhero, "Captain Caboose!". He flies around the country protecting children's camps & services. Ahem.

"KIDDY QUARTERS"

[*actual picture!]



After I finished ministering one morning & the kids were being dismissed for their skill classes, one of Peter Miller's [the pastor mentioned above] grandsons, *Elijah* came up to me & held out four quarters. I asked him, "What are these, bud?" He replied, "I want you to have them." Fewer things in my life with kids has touched my heart. I would image 4 quarters to him [he's 9] were like the widow's mite! **"A TIMID TOT'S TESTIMONY"** Speaking of Elijah, his little brother *Ezra* [age 6] was sitting next to me during altar time one afternoon. He looks like a mini-version of Elijah. 😊 I had my arm around him & also around Jon Stauffer's [the youth pastor/director of the camp] son, Judah-another one of my "little buddies". Jon asked the kids to come forward. Ezra did. Jon told them it was time to share their testimony re: what God had done for them. Ezra came right back down & sat next to me. I said, "Why aren't you staying up there, little buddy?" He replied, "I don't have a testimony." One of the cutest & most tender things I have heard come from the lips of a child. I told him, "Sure you do, Bud. You love Jesus."

"FROM THE PEN OF PRINCESSES"

Dear Paster Gurty,
Thank you for helping
me come to Jesus.
Thank you for teaching
me about Jesus and God.
Thank you for doing
chapel every year.
Thank you for helping
me get rid of the red,
the sin. Thank you for
helping me have all
yellow. Also you took
sartin out thank you.
You are an amazing
Paster For chapel.
I love your talkings



I begin to really wear out during the afternoon. I was sitting on the floor next to the boys' chairs with my back against the wall. When chapel was dismissed, two lil' angels came up to me, one 8 & the other 9. They each handed me a note. Here they are exactly as they wrote them: **"Dear Paster Gurty, Thank you for helping me come to Jesus. Thank you for teaching me about Jesus and God. Thank you for doing chapel every year. Thank you for helping me get rid of the red, the sin. [Note: I use a red & yellow lava lamp to illustrate the two natures inside of a Christian]. Thank you for helping me have all yellow. [Actually, I told the kids they would be "all yellow" when they die or if**

Jesus comes first! :0)]. Also, you took saitin out thank you. You are an amazing Paster For chapel. I love your talking when you talk about god. I feel something. I feel he opened my heart and poured his love in. Thank you. Thank you so much for doing chapel in the morning and afternoon. Thank you Paster Gurter. God has filled me! Love Lily Amen.” After she walked away the 9 year-old girl came up to me & handed me her note. It read: “Dear Paster Gurty thank you for teaching me about God. I learned so much, so I want to thank you even thou it wasn’t the hole week yet. And first remember God loves you and can comphert you when you are hurt! From: Nevaeh to: Paster Gurty 😊”. Things such as this make the stress, warfare, drain & pain of ministry so very worth it.

“BACK IN TIME-11 YEARS”



While in the midst of the hustle & bustle of this week, I noticed a young adult sitting by himself in the back of the chapel. I went & sat down beside him. Yes-I was on the hunt-for my Time Machine drama actors for Friday a.m.! I heard he was a “rover” on staff. Translate? He & asst. counselors may be used for my dramas but not head counselors. He was open game! 😊 He quickly consented to being one of my “blacksmiths” in the drama. After the drama that Friday, he [his name is Jonathan-he’s to the left of my ministry trailer], was helping me pack up my object lessons & bins, & also my ministry trailer. While viewing my object lesson table, he paused & said something to the effect of, “I’ve seen you before. You came to my church years ago.” When I found out where he church was I quickly recollected that ministry event. It was in 2006-in September. How so? It was the 5th anniversary of 9/11 & I did my F.D.N.Y. World Trade Center Disaster

Time Machine drama [with accompanying message re: The Fire of God]. Jonathan was 11 then. What an unexpected honor & blessing it was to minister to this young man once again in his young adulthood.

“FROM LITTLE ONES TO LATIN KINGS”



When this camp, vis, “Camp Victory” was over, I headed to the Poughkeepsie, NY area. I ministered twice on Sunday a.m. at a local church, where I have been many times before. I gave the same message to these seasoned saints as I did to the little ones in Corning, i.e., John 15:1-8: Jesus, The True Vine & Eternal Fruit-Bearing. Despite my deep fatigue & continued warfare I was in, our Father graced me to stand before His people & proclaim His Son & His word. The first thing the following morning I headed to West Park, NY to TLC, vis, “**Transformation Life Center**”. It is a ministry center for men seeking to recover from various addictions. My older sister Kate is the cook there. They got “**The Gospel Elaborated**”, spread out over two tables of object lessons. Object lessons? For recovering addicts? You know it! Inside, many of them are still little boys, & to a man I’d assume struggling with attention-span! This was confirmed. After the message, the oldest one of them, a.k.a., “Chas”, came up to me & said, as so many seniors-citizens have in my travels, “Thanks for all of this. I’m a visual learner. If you had read from a book you would have lost $\frac{3}{4}$ of us in 10 minutes!” My sister Kate texted me a bit ago re: Chas & said, “I was really hoping he would hear. He was religious, a church-goer, & thought that was enough. He told me days ago how much your presentation opened his eyes.” Precious Father, thank You for reaching this older soul, closer to eternity than many in the natural, with Your precious gospel. After I preached, one young man, whom

I will leave nameless for safety's sake, sat & talked with me at length on the steps of the platform. He showed me sketches he had drawn of his "girl", as he referred to her, & of his infant son. He told me he had once been a member of the notorious gang in NYC, the "Latin Kings". He had been stabbed & shot at. He told me he first went to prison when he was 14. He related the tactics they used to rob houses & stealing cars. The most precious & impressive thing he shared with me though, was that he was now ashamed that he was once a Latin King & that how much he hungered for God's Word. This, dear reader, is true fruit of repentance & the working of the Holy Spirit in someone's life. This is why I do what I do. I wouldn't trade my calling for anything-bringing the Word of God to the very young up to the very old. My deepest ache is that it is our Father's will for me to continue to do so, as long as He lends me breath. May it be so.

"CAMP #4 AT THE DOOR"

By the time you read this, I will have completed my 4th & final camp. It's a children's camp, & it's the 3rd of three I do in PA each year. I'm presently preparing: from preparing to preach to preparing puppet shows & numerous dramas. Of the three camps I do in PA each year, this is the most precious to me. I love them all, but there's something "magical" [forgive the expression] re: this one. I try to make it a wonderland for the kids-kind of a Christian "Chuck-E-Cheese", if you will. The staff become children again & it is all enshrouded in the Word, Spirit, power, & presence of God. Heaven on Earth, if you will! I wouldn't trade it for the world. Amen. Yours, Michael

****PS-on a practical note, Kim & I were wondering if you would pray re: possibly helping us to continue this work that we do? Kim keeps the books-& I am NOT a fund-raiser. Perhaps your church might be open to taking us on as one of their missionaries? We have been full-time missionaries to young & old in the U.S., since 2000, living totally by faith. Even \$25, 15, or \$10/month would make a difference. We'd be grateful if you'd prayerfully consider this. Thank you so much!***

****Caboose! Commentary Corner:***

[My 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 various Bibles I have studied from.] * "Lucifer & Solomon were the epitome of wisdom in the angelic & human realms respectively & both fell!" (1/22/'15)// * "The reason for weak, shallow conversions is weak, shallow preaching." (1/30/'15)// * "Unlike the holy angels who said, 'Don't do that!' when humans went to worship them, the Devil will never say that!" Lk.4:7 (2/9/'15)// * "re: preaching: if you soften the message, you cheapen the grace." (3/5/'07)



Caboose! On the Loose:

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

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

Aug. 6: Hopewell Christian Fellowship, Telford, PA: Heid Kolb Memorial Service

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

Sept. 10: Maranatha Christian Fellowship, Berlin Campus, West Berlin, NJ: leading worship & preaching

Sept. 15: Springfield, VA: Alvin Nick Deck [father-in-law] memorial service

Sept. 20: New Covenant Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area pastors' mtg.

Sept. 20-28: Liberia, Costa Rica: visiting daughter & family, missionaries there; Ministering in local church

**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 you may click on the link below to give directly.*

<https://www.denarionline.com/DONORSERVICES/>

[TEMPLATEPAGE.ASPXCOMP_REF= ELIMFEL&SID=vjywxzcot0d5c5pnrq1f0rnl&CONTENT=MISSIONARY&MISSION_REF=E8668ABEC7](https://www.denarionline.com/TEMPLATEPAGE.ASPXCOMP_REF=_ELIMFEL&SID=vjywxzcot0d5c5pnrq1f0rnl&CONTENT=MISSIONARY&MISSION_REF=E8668ABEC7)