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YouTube Channel [for dramas, sermons, & puppet shows for kids]: Michael Robert Guertin

Website: [www.cabooseministries.org](http://www.cabooseministries.org)

Facebook: "Michael Robert Guertin"

September 2022  
"Rendezvous"

"Vision for the Young"-HSC Season 2022



Dear *Friends & Family*,

[8/28] A week ago this past Friday night late I returned home from my 4<sup>th</sup> & final camp of *the 2022* Summer season. It was *hsc* Kids Camp-my favorite of the four, though I love them all. This particular Friday also completed my *40<sup>th</sup> year in camp work/ministry* in some form. Yes, I am in awe about it too-often. I told Kim & others recently, "What else would I do? I was made for this. To go anywhere else or to do anything else would be a demotion-a step down. What is better or higher than leading children into the presence of the Lord for long periods of time after preaching the whole counsel of God to them??", et al. This last camp of the summer is also the most bittersweet. How so? I will not be with the children in this precious setting & stage of their lives for another year-another year! ☺ Not only that, but every one of them will be another year older-& for some, many (?), *harder*. In my *Vision for the Young* message I have given for decades now, including all 3 *hsc* camps, I tell the staff, "*The older you get, the harder you get* [if left to yourself]." It is an ache I cannot convey. I told all 3 *hsc* camp staffs that we have been given a "window of opportunity" at camp that is seldom afforded to others. It has been said for decades that **85%** of all people who get saved do so between the ages of **5 & 14**. After **14**, your chances of getting saved statistically is **15%**. Solomon said of his father David, "...when I was *young & tender*, my father taught me..." et al [Prov.4:3,4]. I have often felt with our own 3 children the deep desire to keep them all elementary-aged so I could protect them all the days of their lives. Yes, I know-this is irrational-but it is very deep in me. I feel the same way about the *hsc* Kids Camp campers. I have often described myself as *a little boy trapped in a man's body who very much wants to remain a little boy*. Is it any wonder our Father has had me working with kids for decades? Of course, with youth & adults as well, but there is something very tender, very

innocent, very “magical” [forgive the expression] about working with children. Jesus thought so too.

### HSC “RENDEZVOUS” 2022 TESTIMONIES



I like to share what staff & campers have commented on their experiences at camp when camps are over. Speaking of ***Vision for the Young*** [this message is available both on my ***YouTube channel & iTunes account***], a former counselor from many years ago who also attended Bible school with our two oldest children, said after watching that message,

**\*“Thanks for posting the YouTube video of teaching your camp staff this year about the ministry to children [“Vision for the Young”]. It’s good to hear your teaching again. It’s even better to hear the Truth of the Scriptures come out about this. It pricked my heart about my own children’s upbringing. Keep speaking the Truth my friend. “ [Matt]**

This one is from a young Jr. Hi. Camp camper from July, {just as he typed it too},

**“Hey Gurt, thank you for giving me [mailing them to him] my [cargo] shorts back the note made my spirit cry everytime I think of camp I get emotional can’t wait to come back next year I’m praying for you I’m following Jesus just like you said Thinking of you brings a tear to my eye God bless Brother Levi- 😊**

**\*This was another email I received from a former camper/counselor: “Praying for a great week! Still some of the very best of my life!!...working my way to becoming the children’s pastor at the church we’ve been attending the past year and half!” [Natalie]**

This is from a mother of a Kids Camp camper: ***“When I tucked Bryce in last night he told me at camp Jesus gave him the Holy Spirit and He didn’t really understand but now He does & wants to get baptized”.***

One of our rookie counselors shared this after experiencing his 1<sup>st</sup> camp last week: **“Thank you so much Guerty for sending this [video clip of him testifying to the camp] to me. I couldn’t stop talking about camp with Connor [a counselor at Jr Hi camp in July] today at the BBQ (at his church). It was an incredible day & I’m still carrying that flame from camp with me! Can’t wait for next year! Love you bro!” [Ezio]**

This was shared with me by a rookie counselor who counseled twice this summer re: my Bible Study & Quizzing skill class at Kids Camp: **“BTW Guerty, I spent that small amount of time in your Bible quiz class & your highlighting method has already become a game changer! Sooooo good! Bless you...I have never felt so much like a team. God bless you! You & the others make me happy!!!”** [Sherry]

This one is particularly humbling as it was shared with me by a former pastor/boss/ brother/friend/father-in-the-faith re: his great grandson who came to kids camp for the 1<sup>st</sup> time last week: **“So Jared (his grandson) reminded me that Jase (his great grandson) going to camp is 4 generations of Michael impact on our family. Amazing”** [Calvin]

This is from a mother [former counselor] of 2 Kids Camp campers last week: **“Our first time kiddos had such a great week. ‘THANK YOU’ just doesn’t seem enough!”** [Emily] Her husband [former camper & counselor] shared this with me just yesterday: **“I appreciate how you guys treat the kids with kid gloves but also with an understanding that the world won’t wait until they’re mature enough to attack them with all sorts of vices, fears, confusion, etc... Thanks again for how you’ve invested in my life over the years & I’m thrilled that some of my kids finally got to camp. Next time I’m just making Liam (my oldest who’s 12) just go. Sometimes you don’t know what you’re missing until you experience it. Thanks again!”** [Chris]

This was sent by a mother of former campers/counselors who is also a grandmother to campers as well: **“I got first-hand info of kids that were touched deeply by GOD's sweet spirit! We love you! Thank you SO much, Guerty, & staff for allowing God to use you! Hopewell Tel Hai Camps are holy ground!!!”** [Nancy]

One of our rookie counselors for Kids Camp, who was 18 years old & who had been a camper several years prior, drove by herself **14 hours** one-way from Chicago to counsel at camp!

This next testimony is precious & priceless to Kim & me as it was from our youngest son’s [grew up in camp: camper, counselor, worship leader] oldest son who attended last week for the 1<sup>st</sup> time: **“I felt a flow of warmth & joy flowing down me [from the Holy Spirit] when somebody prayed for me”** [Elliot]

### **“BOTTOMS UP!?”**



Speaking of **our grandson Elliot**, he not only had his first experience of camp, but also his first “taste” of our annual camp “**Candy Drop**”! Very regrettably, however, said drop got canceled at Kids Camp, which in my thinking is the most important to have the Candy Drop occur at! Why? The president was in Wilmington. When that happens, **all airspace within a 30 mile radius is restricted to all other aircraft**. Hence, our **Candy Drop** pilot a.k.a. **Dino Medori** [former camper] was unable to drop it! To compensate, we had our camp “gophers” drive a pickup truck down the middle of the playing field & toss candy out! Needless to say, Elliot surely got his fair share & consumed much of it right before he went to bed! Well, “El” slept with his bum sticking up in the air with his feet crossed! Hysterical. I’ve never seen such a thing in my decades of camp ministry. 😊 Of course, there were many, many more testimonies shared by both staff & campers re: all that the Lord did in & through them this summer. I shall attach the mp3 of hsc Kids Camp camper/staff testimonies below to my email format of this newsletter. For those of you who are hard-copy only, if you go to my iTunes account link at the top of the newsletter you may listen to it there.

### **“SIBLING RIVALRY? NO! REVELRY!”**



The DAY AFTER Kids Camp, which is always a very heavy work day for me re: post-camp administrative work plus unloading my truck & trailer & putting countless bins & suitcases back in the basement, backyard shed, & garage, etc. my 5 siblings planned a sibling reunion! And, it was in Virginia!

Somehow, given I was buried in camps all summer, I had missed the date they had all settled upon. If I had noticed it, I would have surely entreated them to consider a later date! As busy & exhausted as I was, I knew if I missed this RARE gathering/reunion, I would regret it the rest of my life. I have been driven for decades to live that way, i.e., not to be sitting in a nursing home one day “wishing I would have”, etc. Hence, despite getting in very late Friday night after having had **preached/taught about 15X, performed in 3 dramas, pastored a camp of 120 children**, etc., I first cut the grass, then packed up & along with Kim drove 4 & ½ hours to VA! Despite my horrendous fatigue, the trip & time together was so worth it, reminiscing with my sibs, playing games, singing songs, going out to eat, etc. Historical!

Speaking of historical, I cannot convey my gratitude to our Heavenly Father for granting me-yes, *granting* me another camp season. Each one is priceless. May He be pleased to grant me more. Amen.

PS-if you would like to hear the actual Kid camper testimonies they gave the last day of camp, email me & I'll send you the mp3 of them.

Thank you.



**\**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]: **"The depravity tyrants sin with, is the depravity they were *born with.*"** {Vision for the Young} [M.R.G. July 2022]



***Caboose! On The Loose!***

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

**Aug. 20-22: Lake Anna, VA: sibling reunion**

**Aug. 30: Converge Church, Moorestown, NJ: camp consultant meeting//hsc camp staff meeting**

**Sept. 6: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//Network pastors' mtg.**

**Sept. 9: Wilmington, DE: Beau Herndon wedding [former camper & longtime counselor]**

**Sept.10: Wilmington, DE: Beau Herndon [ibid.] brunch reception**

**Sept. 13: *Fet on the Street* Young Adults' Ministry, Reading, PA: teaching**

Sept.19: Hopewell Community Church, Pottstown, PA: Kolb/Avilez wedding [former campers & counselors]

Sept. 23: City Light Fortress, Reading, PA: "**Worship & Wait**" meeting: worship leader



\*Michael is an ordained [Elim Fellowship](#) itinerant Stateside missionary & is also licensed to preach the gospel by [Immanuel Church](#), Wilmington, DE. [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. Thank you! [click here](#)

**Michael Robert "Guerty" **Guertin****

3 Windsor Road

Wilmington, DE 19809-2144

(302) 764-0490

[www.cabooseministries.org](http://www.cabooseministries.org)

**YouTube:** Michael Robert **Guertin**

**FaceBook:** Michael Robert **Guertin**

[www.hopewellsummercamps.org](http://www.hopewellsummercamps.org)

