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August 2024

"THE 'GREEN MIST' FROM HEAVEN"



Dear *Friends & Family*,

[7/24] I returned home late last Friday night from my 2nd of 3 camps this summer, vis, hsc Jr. Hi. Camp. As with our Sr. Hi. Camp in June, once again, the Holy Spirit flowed through the camp. It was as if He was upon the floor in a sense, each night at evening chapel. In the 1956 movie, "**The Ten Commandments**", the **Angel of Death** came from the sky in an eerie green mist & proceeded to move along the ground throughout Egypt. When this "Divine Mist" would move across the feet of a firstborn Egyptian, said victim would drop to the floor-& die. In a very strange way, this image from this movie came to my mind as I both observed & moved about in both our Sr. & Jr. High evening chapels. The Word of God was clearly preached by a plethora of competent brothers, well-versed in the Word. The same Spirit Who enabled them to proclaim the whole counsel of God was the Same One Who moved upon both campers & staff to respond. Often, this response to the divine promptings was expressed by "adoring on the floor". Like the Angel of Death in the movie, He "brought them down", although in this context, He only slew self & pride & laid them low before their glorious, gracious Lord. I know it sounds strange, but I really felt as if the Spirit of God was "on the floor", not only moving the campers to the floor in adoration, but then *moving upon* their hearts as He did. Forgive me, Beloved, but I truly do not know how to better explain it.

“HORMONES”



Yes. As I said, this was “Jr. Hi. Camp”, & yes, as you might expect, hormones were understandably present. And yet, not in a detracting way. This age group is often mocked, ridiculed, & teased about said hormones, but, if you ponder it, it is one of the most beautiful stages in a human being’s life. Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself created hormones. And, our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, being truly human, had hormones race through His adolescent body when He was on Earth. He created them to prepare & enable young men & women’s bodies to obey & fulfill the divine mandate in Gen.1:28- “Be fruitful & multiply”. So, while we were immersed for 5 full days in the Word & presence of God, we had the high privilege, & most precious honor, to be able to pour into these precious young people at such a highly-pivotal time of their development. And, I wouldn’t trade it for anything.

"HEARTACHE"



Here we were, all together in this wonderful setting & context, getting “intense-God” for several days, & yet, because we’re human, the world, the flesh, & the **Devil** are ever-present [per God’s permission only!]. They attempt to undo what the **Holy Spirit of God** was so powerfully & manifestly doing at the camp. At this particular camp, we had an atypical number of rookie campers, & unchurched campers. And, yes-we sent one home. One of these rookie campers was one of the tallest boys in camp. He was also lanky, & very shy. I didn’t speak to him the entire camp (we did have 124 campers!), *until the very last session*. I only learned on Friday, the last day of camp, that a number of the boys during the week were calling this obviously introverted camper by a name other than the one his parents gave him at birth. When he asked them to stop, they kept doing it. I learned that some of them would go out of their way to do so.

“WE SHOOT OUR WOUNDED (Ducks)”



[This tragic event brought to mind a personal experience of mine when I was 18 years old-not that much older than these Jr. Hi. boys. I was staying with my maternal grandparents at their lake house in the woods in Missouri for the summer. And, Pop had *a gun!* Having grown up in the suburbs of South Jersey I rarely had access to one (& for good reason!). And, there were lots of *ducks* at the lake! I wanted to “shoot something”! I took the .22 rifle & shot one of the ducks-just for the thrill of it. Not only did I feel sick inside after doing so, but to my amazement the other ducks encircled the wounded one & started attacking it with their bills! Now, decades later, this same bizarre behavior was being demonstrated by my boy campers!] Re: this “bullying”, I couldn’t believe what I was hearing-especially at *our* camp, as I’ve striven for decades to ensure that our camp is squeaky-clean-& safe! We have never tolerated bullying. Never. I have striven for decades to make our camps a setting where both campers & staff can become children again. And, that is one of the major reasons both campers & staff keep returning! Hence, when I learned of this happening not only to a camper, but to a *rookie* camper, &, a *very shy* rookie camper, I was crushed.

"SCHOOLED AT THE POOL"



At the boys' pool time on Friday, which is a highlight of the week for the guys, I interrupted their "marvelous mayhem" & whistled loudly & called all of the boys down to the shallow part of the pool. I related to them what I had recently learned about this issue. I also had heard a number of the boys were exuding disrespect to their counselors, & some to our Tel Hai Staff family! To my amazement & ire, when I told some boys in the gym who were playing carpetball that they needed to get in the pool for the Friday pool time special events, one of them even displayed a smart-aleck remark to *me!* (I have no doubt this was one of those rookie campers, as our Lord has given me such sweet relationships with our veteran boys for many years. How so, Michael? By their sitting under my preaching for years, coupled with me loving on them like I do my own two sons, **Matthew & Caleb.**) Yes. It made my blood boil a bit! At poolside, when I finally got their attention, I told them I was privy to their prank. I told them that if this was going to be their behavior in the future, "Don't come back." Yes-the pastoral director of the camp told the campers this. I also told them, "We don't need you here." I wasn't harsh at all. I wasn't scolding them. I was deeply hurt & disappointed, trying not to cry, as I *entreated them*. After telling them this, I was quick to say, "We want you here!". I asked my counselors, "Counselors? We want them back, don't we?", to which they all retorted, "Yes."

"A HORSEFLY-FROM HEAVEN??"



While pouring my heart out in entreaty to these campers, all of the sudden a horsefly started flying around me & repeatedly landing on me! You may ask, "Michael? So what. What's the big deal about a horsefly?" If you were one of my guy campers or counselors, you would know. I have been a horsefly "assassin" since I was 16 years old. My **cousin Jackie** told me how to "take them out". My horsefly routine has been a Hopewell Summer Camp guys' pool-time tradition for decades. The week is not complete with-out at least one horsefly "heading to Heaven". Typically through the years, said horseflies hover around the pool & bite my boys. If I catch them, they never do so again. That is all I will say. When I give them my "treatment", the boys go crazy & cheer. I actually have two videos of their extermination on my YouTube channel. Nuff' said. "Michael? Why would you refer to a horsefly as coming from 'Heaven'?" Well, up to this very unusual & atypical last-day crisis at camp, I had not gotten a horsefly victim. And, I did not get a single one the whole week at Sr. Hi. Camp! Believe it or not, I have prayed many times through the years asking the Lord to send me at least one before the week of camp ends, because I know how very much my boys love to see a horsefly's, well, "demise", if you will. They love seeing horseflies get their "just desserts". Because this moment at the pool was unexpected, emotional, somewhat intense, & definitely out of the usual, I want to believe our Lord, in His grace & humor (?), sent one to me to "lighten the moment"-to provide "comedic relief", if you will? And, it did.

“WILL THE CIRCLE BE-‘BROKEN’?”



After pool time that day, I learned it was more boys than I had thought who had treated this rookie camper so unkindly. I was sick at heart to think of this very shy first-timer going home after his first time with us-*hurting*. If something wasn't done, he would surely never return, & he, inadvertently or not, would understandably tell his parents & others, which would surely hurt the camp! My two assistants, **Martin Kolb & Danny Larson** pulled up on their golf cart. I told them what happened. We felt in unison we could not let this go & not address it-but when? And, where? At our Friday evening goodbye & sendoff ceremony? We thought not. I told Martin & Danny (who had to go retrieve that day's mail) I'd gather the boys around while they were waiting for dinner, which I did. Once again, at my beckoning, they came around me in a tightly-knit circle. I poured out my heart to them again, but even more fervently & brokenly than I did at the pool. I asked them how could something like this happen after spending so many days & nights in the presence of our Lord? I left the affected camper unnamed, to spare him further pain &/or embarrassment. I told them that the only action of those who were guilty that could possibly heal this boy was to go to him & ask his forgiveness. I told them if it was them who it happened to, that is what they would want. I quoted our Lord Jesus' words re: The Golden Rule, which were so applicable in this situation. I wept as I entreated them. I couldn't help it. I entreated them to pray about it. I was hoping that *this "circle" (of boys), would be broken.*

“THE MAGNIFICENT 7?”



Yes, that is the caption that just came to mind as I pondered the rest of the story. [Daniel Zimmerman](#), one of the finest young men I have ever met & a camper at this camp, came up to me not long after I delivered my entreaty to the boys. By the way, Daniel himself was one of the boys calling this rookie camper by the wrong name, BUT, he actually thought that *was* his name. When he learned that it wasn't he was the first to go to him & apologize. Well, Daniel told me that at least 7 of the boys went to this rookie camper & apologized. Beloved? Now THAT is true revival. If this didn't happen on the last day, then as far as I'm concerned, all of the moving of the Spirit of God in our chapels throughout the rest of the week means very little. True, authentic, God-sent revival, always includes repentance. If it doesn't, I suspect & question it. Doubt me? Ask Samson's parents, Job, Isaiah, Peter, John, etc. When they had personal encounters with the Living God they became undone-as dead men.

“EPILOGUE”



We have many traditions at our camp, one of which is how we say our final goodbye to each other for the week, until, Lord-willing, we see each other again the following year. I have one of my assistant directors pray a blessing on the campers & staff. While doing so, the entire camp holds both of their hands high in the air. When the director says “Amen”, he then shouts “Go!”. Upon doing so, campers & staff begin to hug each other. Every time they hug someone, they put

a finger down. After they've hugged 10 people & have 2 closed fists, they go find & hug their counselor. This is one of my favorite times of the entire week, just standing up front watching these young people smile, laugh, & cry as they embrace each other, filled with the blessing of the Lord from all of the encounters they had with Him throughout the week. While I was doing so, this "shy, introverted, rookie boy" camper, you know-the "victim"?, came up to me for a hug. I held him tightly. I wept. I held him for a longer-than-usual time. I then whispered in his ear, "Come back." He said he would. Yes, Beloved, God really did move at this camp. Now, I will whisper in God's ear for Kids Camp next month & for all of the others for years to come, "Come back." May it be so. 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: **"Two of the greatest ways a young man can reveal Who Christ is to others: 1. Preach the gospel 2. Marry a woman."** (Eph.5:25) {excerpt from "How Christ Loves His Bride" sermon given at camps this summer}

"Caboose! On the Loose!"



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

July 8: Woodbury, NJ: hsc directors' meeting

July 25: Converge Church, Moorestown, NJ: area pastors' mtg.

Aug. 3: Cornerstone Christian Church, Broomall, PA: men's breakfast speaker

Aug.6: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//Hopewell pastors' mtg.

Aug.10-16: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: hsc Kids Camp: pastoral director

***Caboose!* - A Live-By-Faith Ministry**



*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/missionary/michael-guerty-guertin> *Thank you!*

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