

Audio Sermons: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministries/audiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>

YouTube Channel [for dramas, sermons, & puppet shows for kids]: @MichaelRobertGuertin

Website: www.cabooseministries.org Facebook: "Michael Robert Guertin"

December 2024

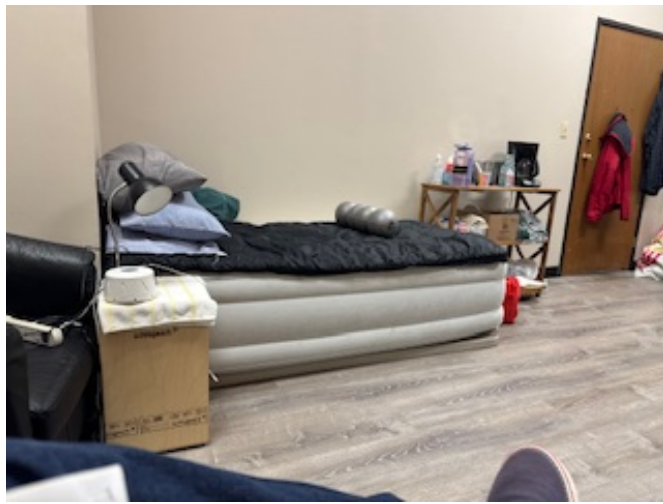
"48 HOURS"



Dear *Friends & Family*,

[11/27] Yesterday afternoon I returned home from an annual ministry trip to NY I have taken for many years now. From start to finish it always comprises a Friday morning to a Tuesday afternoon. I have this particular ministry sortie down to a science you could say. When I arrive at my basic destination, which is **Full Gospel Center** in Lagrangeville, NY, just east of Poughkeepsie, I immediately begin to set up my dorm. This "dorm" is actually the worship team office of the church, per my request. This helps me focus given the rapidity & intensity of the ministry I will soon conduct within the next few days. I also prefer this as it helps save the host church some money. I will bring an air mattress, sleeping bag, pillows, coffee & some minor food stuffs, etc., for the next 4 mornings. I must have my "home base" intact & ready, as once said ministry begins, it is a non-stop whirlwind for approximately the next 48 hours. Years ago, one of the major TV stations had a news show called "**48-Hours**". Well, every November, I have my own version of that same "show". Within that very brief time frame, I will **preach 5X & perform 2 Time Machine dramas**. An additional challenge is that these preaching events will occur overall in **3 different locations**, each about a half hour apart from each other. This annual ministry trip is not as long as a week of summer camp for me, but it easily carries the workload & intensity of one-plus, it has become virtually as dear to my heart each year as my summer camps.

"IT'S A 'SETUP'!"



Object lesson table, Time Machine setup, & my worship office “dorm”

After my home base is set up, the next item on my agenda is to unload my truck of the **Time Machine**, bins of costumes, props, & object lessons. These will all be used for the 2 Sunday morning services at **FGC**. Once the Time Machine is outfitted & put in place, it is covered & the actors’ costumes, props, & accessories are all put in place. Next, the object lesson table(s) is set up & is soon filled & covered with a plethora of object lessons & visual aids, all of which pertain to the numerous & various Scripture texts I will read or quote in the sermon. The tech & sound personnel at FGC are so very critical & crucial to help me do “what I do & how I do it”. Without them, it would not happen. Once the 9 o’clock service begins at FGC, so does my “48-hour timer”, so to speak. It is a virtual non-stop activity whirlwind of praying, preaching, tearing down my ministry supplies & equipment & packing them in bins, only to unpack & set them up again after transporting them to the next ministry site.

“AN IMMORTAL SOUL IN EVERY CHAIR”



Full Gospel Center center aisle of chairs

When I am finally set up at the church for the 2 Sunday morning services, I always walk among every chair in every row & aisle, laying my hand on each one. As I do, I pray for the immortal soul who will be sitting in that chair listening to the Word of God the next day. This soul will spend eternity in one of two places, all determined on the human side by how they listen to His Word! The call to preach is a heavy, weighty, & sober call-not to mention dangerous. It is

dangerous for the hearers if they reject God’s “Indescribable Gift”, & it is dangerous for the preacher if in any way he fails in his duty. By the time all of this is done on Sunday afternoon after the 2 services, I am sweaty, hungry, & exhausted. One of the church staff typically takes me to lunch. When we return to the church, I shower, catch my breath, & before falling asleep sometime around 7 p.m.(!), try to prepare for the next morning’s chapel at **Transformation Life Center** in West Park, NY, about a half hour to the west across the Hudson River. **TLC** is a men’s addictions-recovery ministry.

“LITTLE BOYS IN MEN’S BODIES”



The men are basically little boys in men's bodies-all of them burned by the ravages of sin, & they know it. Feeding them God's Word is very similar to feeding children. Their minds having been "fried" by various sinful indulgences, they very much relate to my object lessons & visual aids. It is always a precious time with them every time I go. As soon as my ministry time at TLC is completed, yet, once again, I pack up & load up my bins & head to **Upton Lake Christian School** in Clinton Corners, NY-again, about a half hour away. Upon my arrival, I then set up for two student body chapels there early the next morning. Setting up for these chapels the day before is an absolute must as it is quite time-consuming & ULCS is about 20 minutes from FGC where my home-base is located. In addition, when my chapels at the school are completed, I must head home to DE a.s.a.p. not only to beat the Philadelphia area rush-hour traffic, but also to get ahead of early Thanksgiving holiday commuters! Hence, this means that Tuesday morning I typically get up at 4-something, & immediately whirl around my worship office "dorm room" & start rapidly packing & getting my things out to the truck. This is after having had preached 3X already, & it's been said & rightly so, that preaching a sermon is physically equivalent to working 8 hours in a manual job-& I believe it! Let me quickly add, *preaching* a sermon-not teaching, chatting, "having a conversation", a "Ted Talk", etc. I mean *preaching*. **Martyn Lloyd Jones** once likened preaching to "theology on fire", & I would wholeheartedly agree.

"SWEET & SOUR"



After my two chapels at ULCS yesterday morning, while I was driving home, I thanked the Lord that He has it so arranged that at the end of my "48 hours", that my 5th & final sermon in this ministry whirlwind is with the youngest age group of the gamut of ages I will have ministered to in that time frame, vis, Kindergarteners to 4th graders. The first 4 sermons' audiences were comprised of mostly older children, teens, young adults, middle aged, & senior citizens, not to mention the men at TLC struggling with addictions. I love it that the icing on the cake of this ministry trip, so to speak, are the little children. Oh, I can just see them sitting there in their chairs yesterday as I type! I preached to them from Hebrews 1:1-3, about the deity of Christ & His supreme magnificence being the Unique Son of God, the Most High. And, I told them how,

all of the sudden, He “fell from Space” to Earth-& why. He must needs be incarnated & have *blood* to be able to die for His people. I told the children after explaining this, “And that’s what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.” Once again I marveled at our Lord, how He “pulled these kids in”, re: grabbing their attention as I told them about Him. His sweet Spirit’s presence was there. Speaking of “sweet”, that is very definitely one of the sweetest things each year about this particular ministry trip. To be sure, there were other sweet spots with the other groups of His people that weekend Jesus graced me to be with. But when you see God move upon little ones after hearing some very heavy truths, there is nothing like it in all His Kingdom to this preacher’s mind. “From whence comes the ‘sour’ part, Michael?” Oh, that’s easy. It’s when I have to leave these precious little ones, knowing I most likely won’t see them for another year. It’s an ache I can’t describe, Beloved. And, as with every ministry trip I take to be with the young, I entreat the Lord that He might give me many years more to “do what I do how I do it”. May it be so.

“JOHN 3:16? WHAT’S THAT?”



Some of you may recall that I wrote quite a bit in last month’s newsletter re: my mourning over how very many of my high school classmates had passed from this life so very long ago & long before “their time”. I both marveled & was crushed re: the mercy of our Lord that I too was not one of those casualties, particularly of those who apparently died in their sin. I cited many examples of dangerous or near-death experiences in my teen years where I could have very easily slipped into eternity without Christ, & hence, without hope! I thought of something pertinent to this after last month’s newsletter was sent out. In the Fall of 1973, our high school in Missouri had its annual homecoming parade, as most high schools do. I played snare for our high school marching band. Well, each class for this event would construct a float on a flatbed trailer to be towed down Main Street for the parade. Our senior class float was being built in a warehouse down at the end of Main Street. I’ll never forget it. John Denver was very popular at that time. Well, in the building I saw our float & helped work on it. It was a big book. The book

was opened. In big letters on the two pages it said, “**For God So Loved**”. That was it. I had never seen nor heard those words before. I liked it. It sounded kind of nice. But, here, around the time of my 18th birthday, I had never heard nor read John 3:16! And, as I’ve written before in a previous newsletter, it would be well over another year or so before I would ever hear the song, “**Jesus Loves Me**”. My father-in-law would sing it to me for the first time as we sat in his living room together. While Dad sat in his chair & sang it to me, he began to weep, as he couldn’t believe that I, now a 19-year-old, had never heard it before! Well, here I am, looking at our Senior Class of ’74 Arcadia Valley High School homecoming parade float which had the most popular verse in the entire Bible inscribed across it in very large letters, & I had no idea what the rest of the verse said, much less where the quote was from! And, thanks be to God, as I’ve written before, about half a year after this “Bible-ignorance”, the Lord apprehended me in a convent in a nearby town about 2 miles from where this parade occurred & called me to Himself-&, to the ministry!



Kim & I pray your **Thanksgiving Holiday** was blessed. The longer we live & the more we learn of the Scriptures, the more we learn how very deeply indebted we are to the Lord for *everything*. As I’ve often said, “If Jesus doesn’t give it-I don’t get it!”. In the same vein, Kim & I pray this blessed season of celebrating the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ will be full, rich, & deep for you & yours.

Sincerely,

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: **"The more undeserving, the more unworthy, the more unattractive, the more repulsive the bride-to-be is, the more it magnifies the love, grace, & mercy of the groom in selecting her."** [M.R.G. Nov. 2024, re: a quote from sermon notes of "God Picks & Buys His Bride"]

"Caboose! On the Loose!"



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

Nov. 14: Converge Church, Moorestown, NJ: area pastors' mtg.

Nov. 17: Hopewell UMC Church, Port Deposit, MD: post-ministry follow-up visit

Nov. 26: Upton Lake Christian School, Clinton Corners, NY: elementary school chapel

Dec. 1: Hopewell Telford Church, Telford, PA: Children's ministry "Super Sunday" service (attending) & children's ministry drama team luncheon meeting following

Dec. 1: (p.m.) Hopewell Community Church, Pottstown, PA: Via Dolorosa explor. mtg.

Dec. 3: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board meeting

Dec. 3: Shady Maple Banquet Center, East Earl, PA: Hopewell Network lunch mtg.

Dec. 18: Bob Evans, Cherry Hill, NJ: Elim area pastors' Christmas breakfast meeting

Dec. 10-13: Springfield, VA: honoring Kim's mother on her 90th birthday

Dec. 20: Feet On The Street Ministries, Reading, PA: youth meeting

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, 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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