

February 1, 2014

Dear *Friends & Family*, "ROLL OUT THE [WHEEL] BARREL"?



(1/20) Kim & I returned around 1:30 a.m. from Cleveland, OH where we were since Jan. 11th. After a 9-hour road trip there to our oldest sons home, I got up early the next morning & headed out to the east side of Cleveland to preach a Sunday morning service. Our main reason for going, however, was to help our son & his family prepare their new/used house to move into. Actually, it was hard labor for me-like I hadnt done in years. My assigned tasks were to do demolition work to the *heavily-tiled* bathroom. The house was built-& may I say, *well-built*, in 1959. As a result, this entailed hundreds (?) of swings with a sledge hammer, a hand-held sledge hammer, & an old pick. I injured both arms doing so-one with tennis elbow, the other in the crease between the upper arm & forearm. The latter was excruciating as it popped out of place. I kept endeavoring to pop it back into place, however, as we were on a stringent time schedule, working around the crew installing & refinishing the hardwood floors. I also used a five foot steel pry-bar to bash up & pry up the metal lathing of the tile floor. When my arm went out, I used one arm & kept going. The only way to remove the bathtub was to bash it to smithereens, which I did. I broke both a sledgehammer & a pick handle in doing so! [Granted-they were both old]. The rubble then had to be wheel-barreled out of the house & deposited into a large dumpster in the driveway Id guess I made dozens of such trips. After three days of bathroom demolition, I then proceeded

to as-signment #2: prep & paint the basement. The former owner, who happened to be [Jewish](#) [of course, that doesnt matter, but it is somewhat relevant to both a future comment & article below J], was apparently a tech-guy, as the basement was riddled with both electrical conduit & circuits as well as an elaborate Ethernet cable system [now made obsolete by WIFI], both of which I had to remove &/or relocate & dispose of before I started painting. I paid a high price for these projects physically. Not only did I severely injure both my arms but my back went out like it hasnt in years, due to leaning over for hours roll-painting the basement floor! It was all very worth it, though, as its for family-& a big one at that! Our oldest son Matthew & his wife Devon have 5 children plus a youth ministry intern moving into their new house!

MODERN-DAY 'SLAVE LABOR'?



I had mentioned the previous owner being [Jewish](#). Speaking of which, as I was bashing the tile floor trying to unseat the [cast-iron](#) bathtub, caked in dust, sore & very tired, I mentioned to a co-worker who was helping me, Well-at least were not being whipped while were doing this like the [Israelites](#) were! I had fresh insight & empathy for the Hebrew slaves who did similar work for 400+ years under the tyranny of Pharaohs taskmasters & their whips! Perhaps it came to mind as Kim & I had listened to the audio of [The Ten Commandments](#) on cassette tape. Many years ago I had transferred the audio from my VHS movie so I could listen to it in my travels. The 3 & ½ hours or so also helped the long trip to OH go faster. J

IN WILMINGTON, IN JEWRY, THE BLESSED BABE WAS SCORDED



Any reader with even a limited knowledge of **Christmas carols** will recognize that the title of this article should read: In Bethlehem, in Jewry, the Blessed Babe was Born, a line from one of my all-time favorite carols, **God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen**. In early January, I attended a meeting of **Jewish & Christian Zionists** in support of Israel at a nearby synagogue [in Nov. I attended a mtg. in this same synagogue re: another Jewish issue of concern]. This is a controversial issue in Christendom & I wanted to attend & listen firsthand to enhance my own understanding of it & also to mingle with Jewish folk in my community. For many years I have felt both honor & sadness to be in the presence of a Jew. Often I have wanted to grab them by both arms & stare into their eyes & exclaim: Hey! Its your Messiah that I love, adore, & live for everyday of my life! I feel sadness, as it is a grim & sobering fact that most of Jesus own race & people *do not* believe in Him nor embrace them as their Messiah. I made it a point to reach out both with words, facial expression, & gesture to the [original {Amos 3:2}] Chosen People as I entered their synagogue. I sat in the section that flanked the main seating area. When I looked to my right I noticed a placard on the wall: **Women Seating**. Huh. Given this wasnt an official service, I assumed it was OK to do so. It was a relief that another man with a yarmulke was sitting in front of me! A young man & his wife entered with the host rabbi. He was introduced & when he took the podium it was immediately obvious he was intelligent & articulate. He said he has worked for the past eight years for a

very popular nationally-televised Christian ministry, which if I named most of you would immediately recognize. This being the case, I immediately assumed he was a [Messianic Jew](#), or, as some put it, a completed Jew. I was a bit taken aback when he unabashedly & emphatically told the audience at the outset that he was *not* a Messianic Jew-that he did *not* believe that Jesus was the Son of God. And yet-he worked for this huge Christian ministry. He said that the organization that he headed up, started by this ministry, had a policy that none of the Christians in this said ministry were allowed to proselytize any Jews working for it. He said, again, emphatically, that not once in his eight years of service there did one of his Christian co-workers ever try to convert him. In fact, he even went so far as to emphatically say that he & those who felt the same as him *did not want to be converted!* Wow! Talk about an all out flat rejection of the gospel! L He said their common goal was to establish support for Israel & her claim to the land. Wow. [It kind of relieved me to hear him say that the ministry Jews for Jesus did not like their organization! In the light of this policy, I can understand why! Thank God for ministries like JFJ who focus on reaching the Jew first with the gospel]. I was quite stunned, saddened, & grieved, that in its zeal to see Israel established in the Holy Land, this Christian organization placed that goal above preaching the gospel to their co-workers, despite The Messiah's command to preach forgiveness of sins, beginning at Jerusalem, & confirmed by the Apostle Paul, a Hebrew of Hebrews (Phil.3:5), to the Jew first (Rom.1:17). Oh God-something is wrong-something is *terribly wrong*, when Christians will seek to obtain some land rights & neglect the rescuing of these same Jews via the gospel from the [eternal wrath](#) of God for rejecting His Son. He also repeatedly & emphatically berated & blamed Christendom for the atrocities of the Crusades, the Inquisition, & to some degree the Holocaust. He attributed these atrocities to Replacement Theology embraced by certain branches of the Christian church [i.e., that all of the promises to Israel are replaced by The Church]. He repeatedly referred to Christians who embraced his cause, & only such Christians-as Righteous Gentiles. Wow. To some degree he was right-the above atrocities *were* effectuated by so-called Christians, but hardly genuine ones filled with the Spirit of Christ!

TOO HARD TO WATCH!



My dismay only increased at the Q & A time which followed his lecture. Many of the congregants there that night believed the only reason Christians were nice to them was for the purpose of converting them. [I'd like to believe, that, as with Paul, *the love of Christ constrains them!*] They complained that the only reason Christians appreciated them was for the fact that their Bible & Messiah came from them, & not just for the fact that they were *people!* Wow. This was profound. I took this one to heart! O Father, forgive us when we have only valued & appreciated people for what they can do for & bequeath to us, & not because they *are people* made in Your image! I was surprisingly dumbfounded to learn how much of the *New Testament* some of these precious people knew. One, quite perturbed, asked two piercing questions. The first was re: His *blood* be upon us & our children. The second was re: the evil things the Apostle Paul said re: the Jews. [Of course, believers in the inspiration of the Scriptures will affirm that if Paul said it, its because GOD said it! And, if it was evil, it was evil [i.e., re: judgments & calamities justly deserved!]. I just sat there stunned. I was quite relieved, however, when *the speaker himself* defused the gentleman by citing that even *their Torah* had evil things to say about the Jews. He further enlightened this very noticeably agitated man by stating that just as with the *Old Testament*, when the New Testament indicted the Jews of Jesus & Pauls day, it was not meaning *every single Jew*.

When I left the meeting, I felt both love for & a tragic sadness re: this group of people. I felt as if I was watching the hardening of Romans 9 being fulfilled & displayed right before my eyes. And O, how so very difficult it was to see & hear, watching their Messiah-MY Messiah-be so devalued & belittled before me. I could barely take it anymore. I can't imagine how the heart of Jesus must have felt in His day being rejected by His own.

AN UN-OBVIOUS NO-BRAINER?

I pondered much this unique event in my life. Thats why I had to write about it. If it werent for the fact that I will be out of town, I had planned to attend the next meeting this month at this same synagogue. I found myself later wishing so very

much I could have stood up in this meeting & just asked this simple question: Friends? Can you give me one *good* reason why Jesus is *not* your Messiah? He fulfilled hundreds of prophecies from your Scriptures, walked on water, raised the dead, healed & drove out demons from **Jews** to free them from **Satans** bondage, did nothing but good for His Own people, & rose from the dead Himself! His remains have never been found! Do you truly believe that someone else is coming who shall do more than this? Boy-if so, *hed better be pretty good*, because he will have some HUGE shoes to fill! To be honest, dear reader, I cant help but believe that every time a Jew [or a Gentile for that matter!] says they dont believe that Jesus is the Christ, Gods Own Son, & that theyre waiting for another,-each time they do theyre slapping God the Father in the face! The Apostle John, a Jew, who leaned on Jesus [THE Jew] chest, said that anyone who does so makes God out to be a liar, as He has given witness that Jesus *is* His Son [I Jn.5:10]. I shall continue to honor the Jew & as our God gives me opportunity, to reach them. I cannot convey the joy I feel when a Jew comes to believe that Jesus is their Messiah. Imagine how it makes GOD feel! I felt that night as if I shared in some very small degree Pauls deep sorrow & remorse for them in the beginning of Rom. 9. I was consoled by two things re: all of this: #1. O thank You, dearest Father, that a hardening in part *has* happened to Israel because of their rejection of Your Son, & that as a result, I, a Gentile, might be mercifully grafted in! #2: That despite this present hardening, one day God shall once again lavish His light & grace upon Israel, after the total number of Gentiles are gathered into His fold, & that they, the people of His Own race, *shall* look on Him Whom they pierced, & *recognize Him*, & mourn for Him, as for an only Son!

Kim & I thank you for reading this, praying for us, & should the Lord so lead you, helping us to continue His work.

Michael and **Kim**

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***[Michael is an ordained Elim Fellowship itinerant home 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 full-time. Since 2000, he & Kim have lived by faith, having no salary, retirement to speak of, or health insurance-yet this is their calling at this season of their lives. Michael preaches Gods Word & systematic theology, using both visual aids & drama, to all age groups either separately or combined, as the Lord opens doors. To help support this work, please make all tax-deductible gifts payable to: Elim Fellowship, 1703 Dalton Rd, Lima, NY 14485], denoting it for the home-mission work of Michael Robert Guertin. If your**

church would be interested in ministry or helping to support our missions work in the U.S. to both old & young please feel free to contact us. Thank you!

***Ministry/events for FEBRUARY & those not listed in last months newsletter: *Caboose! on the Loose*:**

Jan. 11-21: Bay Village, OH: visiting our oldest son & family, helping them get ready to move

Jan. 12: Christian Assembly, Richmond Heights, OH: Sun. a.m. service

Jan. 27: Petra Christian Fellowship, New Holland, PA: Hopewell Network Affiliate Ministries Presbytery

Jan. 30-Feb. 5: Herndon, VA & Merritt Island, FL: escorting my 88 year old Dad per his request to FL for a visit

Feb. 7: IC, Wilmington, DE: Senior Citizens Luncheon: speaker

Feb. 15: Friends of the Cross Christian Church, Corning, NY: Camp Victory Winter Reunion service [2 services]

Feb. 16: Door To Hope Church, Hopewell, NY: Sun. a.m. & p.m. services

Feb. 20: EMF pastors mtg., Wilmington, DE