

* www.hopewellsummercamps.org camper & counselor applications are available via the links below.

Camper: [Camper_Brochure.pdf](#)

Counselor: [Counselor_Application_1.pdf](#)

April 1, 2013

Dear Friends & Family,

VIA DOLOROSA 10 IN THE HISTORY BOOKS

After months of prep & planning, weeks of setting up, & 4 nights entailing approximately 100 episodes for me, my 10th year of our own local church's "Via Dolorosa" production, acting [as Pontius Pilate], directing, costuming, & stage crew is over. [see the first 3 attached pics] Setup went right into those performances. Immediately after the last one, we began tearing down & packing up, as the rooms my Fortress Antonia occupied were needed Easter Sunday morning. We broke records this year, both for attendance [1,200+] & cast & crew personnel rosters. My only regret each year re: Via is how terribly fast it goes. Its workload is huge, long, & very draining for me, perhaps equal to my summer campsí but compacted into a more concentrated time frame. Yet-it is a labor of love. It is also a huge outlet for me re: creativity & my love of acting out the Roman & biblical epic movies, that have very deeply influenced me since I was 16. The first of which was *The 10 Commandments*, while sitting in a movie theater in South Jersey in 1972 as an unsaved youth with my 5 siblings & 7 of my cousins, I was stunned & absolutely in awe as I watched *The Scriptures* come alive. Little did I know years later I would be striving to imitate such epics both in churches & out in the open air on horseback!



IRE OVER FIRE

(2/24) It's only February & the March newsletter has yet to go out, but I just had to write today, prompted & stirred by a popular radio broadcast that I

listened to today. My anger was stirred listening to this particular worldwide program, as once again, as I have heard the host say too many times in the past, re: the fires of **Hell**, that they are metaphorical. Each time he says it, it only starts **fires** in me! I can't believe he is so quick to jump to that conclusion, when Jesus, The Creator of Hell, gives no such indication that He is speaking metaphorically. This radio host said Hell would be the loss of the image of God [I can't recall anywhere in Scripture where even that is taught. **John Murray**, one of the most astute & precise theologians I've ever read, who taught at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia decades ago, wrote in one of his Collected Writings Volumes that that is the great tragedy of the Fall—that those who rebelled against God were the only ones made in His image! Granted—the lost image of God is greatly marred, but I don't recollect that it is totally eradicated in Hell; otherwise, they would cease to be human]. This radio personality also stated that Hell would (merely) be just the torment of the forfeiture of being in His presence for eternity. This dumbfounds me. I've written in the past that if one tones down the severity of **hell**, one inescapably at the same time tones down the magnificence of **Jesus**. They are proportionate. [see the 4th attached picture above]. You might ask, But Michael, how can one's intangible soul burn with literal **fire**? The Scriptures say there will be a resurrection of both the wicked & the righteous in a bodily state [I Cor.15; Jn. 5:22, 28; Dan. 12:2]. Jesus, in His glorified body after His resurrection, ate & drank, & had flesh & bones that could be handled & felt. Granted—the resurrected wicked will not have a glorified body by any means, but they will certainly have a body. If Jesus' body, & hence ours, can eat, drink, & be comprised of flesh & bone, what difficulty is there in the resurrected bodies of the wicked dead being subjected to literal fire? Moses saw a real, literal, physical bush in the wilderness burning, but not being consumed, or annihilated, if you will. **Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego** were thrown into a literal fire in their physical bodies. They nor their clothes were burned, but only their bonds [Dan.3]. Hence, it is no small thing for God to give His just punishment to those who hated Him while on earth. We cringe, & understandably so, at the thought. We do so, however, often because we don't understand His holiness—pure & simple. And we don't understand the unfathomable dignity & inestimable sufferings of the Son of God. God help us. A major reason I go out whenever, wherever, & to whosoever I can to preach the gospel, not uncommonly paying to do so, is because I believe in the eternal horror of a literal Hell. If it's only a state of mind, then Jesus just wasn't that magnificent. God forbid!

YOU LOOK SO OLD, FOR ONE SO YOUNG



While we're on the topic of hotly debated issues among Christians, another one that has had much controversy surrounding it is the age of the earth, vis a vis, Old Earth versus Young Earth Christians. For the record, I have many reasons, why I embrace the latter view, despite so-called science. God will never let us figure Him out ultimately empirically or in a scientific way. Yes, Romans 1 & Ps. 19 declare He has left much knowledge & evidence of Himself in the wonders of creation, observable & learnable via natural revelation. My love & pursuit before heading to Bible college was Physics! But we arrogant, presumptuous, drowning-in-our-own-darkened-understanding humans take way too much upon ourselves in coming to certain conclusions re: many things re: the cosmos, via our pipsqueak microscopes & telescopes so-called data. I love what John MacArthur says re: this debate: We weren't there! [at Creation]. I could cite many reasons why I'm a Young Earth Christian: The plain-sense reading of Scripture; the genealogies [even if you allow for gaps in them, you're still left with thousands of years, not millions or billions]; the speed of light, often used as evidence against a young earth, re: the several thousand years it would take for the nearest star's light to reach the earth, et al, has been proven by an Australian scientist to have considerably slowed down in the past few centuries, making the adjusted measurements align with an earth that is thousands of years old; etc. Why does the Earth then, appear to be so old? Two reasons that must be taken into consideration: The Flood--we have absolutely no idea the divine power that was released in those horrific days, when the Earth itself was disheveled & the great floodgates of the deep burst forth. And--the curse of God. After the Fall the Lord God cursed the ground. Romans 8 further describes the effects of this curse. Since sin had already entered the universe via **Lucifer** before the Fall of man, who knows what the Lord did to the universe! Remember, Belovedó when Jesus Christ cursed the **fig tree** it was dead from the roots the next day. Think of the unimaginable divine power exerted in the creation of the vast universe. You've seen the Hubble Telescope pictures. Now think-that same One Who created all of that, cursed the

microscopic smaller-than-a-pin-point-in the-universe planet called Earth. When GOD curses something-it's devastating! The Lord's curse on the ground surely has something to do with its ancient appearance.



ON WITH THE SHOW!

shutterstock · 74582794

However, if none of the above reasons cited above were true, the major reason by far I believe the Earth & Universe are thousands, & not billions of years old is because of the reason God created them in the first place. God's ultimate purpose re: Creation was to set the stage, if you will, for the highest possible display of His glory, that is, His perfections & attributes, in His plan of redemption through Jesus Christ. He was a lamb slain before the foundation of the world [Rev. 13:8;17:8]. In all of the manifold ways God has displayed His glory since Creation, none comes close to the Show He put on of Himself at **Calvary**. It was the highest possible manifestation of His love [Jn. 3:16], His justice [Rom.3:25, 26], His wisdom [I Cor.1] etc. God was anxious, if you will, to get on with the show. Given His ultimate purpose in creating was the plan of redemption, there would be no purpose in Him waiting around for billions of years to show off His **Darling of Heaven**. Given this last reason I cited, it would take much for me to relinquish my young-Earth view. It's one of those many convictions I hold that I'll be happy to learn I was wrong when I stand before the Lord & give an account of my life & my doctrine. I picture myself saying, Oh, Lord. I'm so sorry. I just took Your Word for what I believe it plainly said. I would rather err doctrinally taking the simple, plain sense of His Word, than intellectualizing, toning-down, or modifying it, via the theoretical embellishments of so-called science. Yes, I'm aware when the Church blew it in Church history re: the Earth not being the center of the solar system, though it's debatable who the Church in question was at the time. And, I'm also aware of the various literary forms in which The Scriptures were written & accordingly must be read. Please forgive my ire in this article. I'm still fuming inside re: the IRE article. Ugh. I can't stand it when I feel our Lord's glory is diminished, in any way, even if unintentionally! I'm humbled that you've read

this. Rich blessings. I'm trying to catch my breath after Via [fighting a pretty bad sinus/cold issue] & before my summer camp whirlwind begins. May the Lord refill & refresh me. Amen.

Michael & Kim

Michael & Kim Guertin 3 Windsor Rd., Wilmington, DE 19809 (302) 764-0490
guerty@juno.com

Name: _____ Address: _____
_____ Email: _____

*[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, no retirement to speak of, or health insurance-yet this is their calling at this season of their lives. Michael preaches God's 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].

Ministry/events for APRIL & those not in last month's newsletter:

March 22: IC home fellowship group, Hockessin, DE

March 23: Horning Wedding, Elverson, PA: attendee & reception blessing

April 2: Petra Christian Fellowship, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//HN
pastors' mtg.

April 6-13: Bay Village, OH: visit our oldest son & family

April 14: Metro Alliance Church, Cleveland, OH: Sun. a.m. service

April 22: Shady Maple Restaurant, East Earl, PA: Tel Hai Camp banquet:
Time Machine drama/vision