

**Audio sermons:** <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministriesaudiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>

**April 2018**

**Happy Easter! He is Risen!**

Dear Friends & Family,

[3/1] I only sent out the March newsletter today but given that Via Dolorosa performances & teardown/packup runs right into the beginning of this month, I thought I should begin April's now as after Via I am one exhausted Roman procurator! 😊 You may recollect the testimonies of the staff & children I shared in last month's newsletter re: my time at Westside Christian Academy in Ohio. Well, the weekend after that Kim & I then headed to N.Y. where I conducted a Caboose! ministry "1st" in 32 years of ministry: I incorporated two Time Machine dramas into the same message! The message was entitled "Luther & The Gospel". I had 3rd graders up to senior citizens in this Sunday a.m. "whole-church family" service. As I always do, I used both drama via my Time Machine & plenty of object lessons & visual aids.

### **"THE ODD-BALL"**



A daughter of one of the elders & daughter-in-law of the pastor of the church & her 4 children were in the service. She texted me later that day as I was driving home the following which is one of the most encouraging things I've ever received, but also helps to perhaps "explain" me a little? [Note: I've been called "unique" by more than one pastor! Gulp-I take that as a compliment-I hope!]. She wrote: **"...Thanks for coming to our church & sharing your heart with us. I enjoy the way you go about sharing the Word of God. It's easy to connect & digest.**

**Not because your content is simple, but because you take what is complex & simplify it. It's obvious you put a lot of work into crafting the skills & talents inside of you. I like that you stick out, that you're an 'odd ball'. I know it's usually meant in a derogatory way. For me, it means that you have not conformed to being a cookie-cutter. It was incredibly encouraging to me to see you up there being exactly who you are & using methods that are unusual. Especially this month when I miss my dad a ton. He was like you in that he certainly stuck out. It wasn't smooth for him, but he chose every day to be himself, to give without restraint & without shame from the resources God had blessed him with. After 7 years, people still come up to me & tell me how much his life impacted them. Seeing you up there today was a breath of fresh air. It renewed my resolve. I'm certain you have touched & are touching many, many lives. Your passion & dedication are outstanding. Thank you for being genuine. Much love from our family!"** A mother in the faith for decades to me [her husband is in his mid-80's & still pastoring] recently shared with me: "Would that each one of us could have the intensity you describe in your ministry. It is so easy to become "comfortable" in what & how we share. So easy to become an irrelevant social club, entering church, singing songs to each other, enjoying our time together, praying for miracles for each other, & never having the desire to share the gospel with the unsaved. Missing the point all together. God forbid! So easy to get to that place. So glad your traveling went well finally. An answer to the prayers we lift for your safety & for the seeds you sow to make an impact. Do get a little bit of rest though! Much love, Ma" {Yes, I've often told others re: my "intensity" she mentions above, that "If Jesus doesn't give it-I don't get it."}

### "THE RARE BIRD(s)"



Given where I grew up & have lived most of my life, vis, outside of Philadelphia, I would be remiss not to comment re: the Philadelphia Eagles' recent Super Bowl win. As an infant, child, & teenager I lived in South Jersey. My Dad all of that time commuted to Philly every day as he worked for the University of Pennsylvania's computer center. Hence, naturally, I was a Philly sports' fan. For decades I have longed & waited for the Eagles to win a Super Bowl. To be honest, I never expected them to do so in my lifetime. There are too many NFL teams, too many of them being "dynasties", re: Super Bowl appearances & wins. Just statistically speaking, Philly's chances were next to nil. You may be surprised to learn, despite my avid love of playing foot-ball [I played 5 years of organized ball & decades of sandlot tackle football, even into my 50's], I've never watched a Super Bowl-not in its entirety at least. Decades ago, I saw in myself such an avid identification with & loyalty to the Eagles [I have a satchel full of their paraphernalia in my basement] that their performance on any given Sunday hugely impacted, & even control-led my emotions. Their rivals became my rivals. I even hated their rivals-men whom I've never met. Obviously, I had an idolatry issue. I couldn't get it out of me-even after years of preaching my message "Adoration Versus Idolatry", where I go into great detail re: such issues & give my Eagles'-affinity as one of the idols in my life. While preaching re: this in my travels I still felt "compelled" to find out if they won that Sunday-especially if they beat the Dallas Cowboys. I'm ashamed to say it controlled me. And to be honest, I've been grieved for decades as I've observed the NFL come rolling in every Fall & swallowing so much of my fellow Christian brothers' eyes, ears, time, emotions, \$, etc.

**"I'M 'CARE-FREE'-& HAPPY ABOUT IT"**



I knew our Lord had finally delivered me from this decades'-long bondage when I heard fireworks going off around 10:30 p.m. while lying in bed the night of the Super Bowl. The Eagles had won. And I didn't care. This was a miracle. And-I can't stand the Patriots! Yes-cheaters do prosper! [An-other symptom! 😞]. Is it wrong to enjoy watching a football game? Of course not. But from what I've observed in myself & too many of my Christian bros, it often doesn't "stay there". It becomes much more than "enjoyable viewing". When I've observed the fervency of devotion to the NFL compared to such for our Lord, His gospel, His Kingdom, & His work, sadly, the latter has too often paled in comparison. That's all I'm saying & how our Lord dealt with it in me.

May He help us all to more fully devote our eyes & ears to Him. These are the gateways to our soul, from which spring the issues of life. Amen.

**\*Caboose! Commentary Corner: [My 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 various Bibles I have studied from. \* "One day God will pull back the curtain of His mystery & show the wonders of His sovereignty." [M.R.G. 6/10/'04]**



*Caboose! On the Loose:*  
*\*Lookin' out for the little guys...\_*

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

**April 2:** IC, Wilmington, DE: Via Dolorosa tear-down

**April 3:** Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//Network pastors' mtg.

**April 5:** Sonrise Tax Service, Fredericksburg, PA: annual tax-man trip

**April 18:** New Covenant Community Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim fellowship pastors' mtg.

**April 22:** Petra Christian Fellowship, New Holland, PA: hsc fund-raiser

**\*Michael is an ordained *Elim Fellowship* itinerant Stateside 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 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. Any sized amount would be greatly appreciated! Thank you! [click here](#)**

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