

August 1, 2013

"THE GLASS ON ITS SIDE"

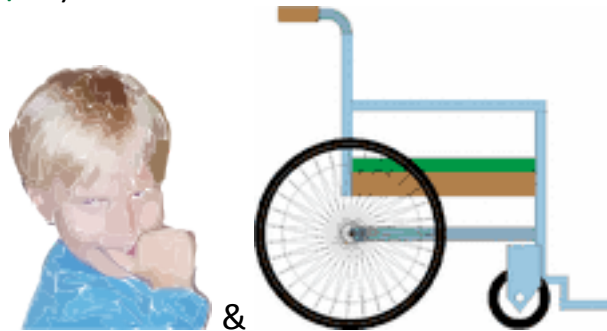


Dear **Friends & Family**,

(7/20) When I was “coming to” this a.m. after being at my 2<sup>nd</sup> of four camps this summer, a.k.a. Jr. Hi. Camp, I saw a waterglass lying on its side. All of the water had spilled out. The glass was me. I had prepared, prayed, studied, meditated, sorted, packed, loaded, administrated, drove, unloaded, unpacked, moved what seemed like tons of equipment, setup, preached, taught, counseled, acted in dramas, rode a horse, roughoused in the pool everyday with staff & campers, & had very little sleep. Of my 48 camps I have served at **Tel Hai Camp**, I cannot recall one **hotter** nor more physically grueling than this past one. My assistant director agreed. I got dehydrated on Thursday evening in my **Revolutionary War** costume, when I portrayed **Caesar Rodney** on horseback in my annual director’s “field drama”. The temperature that day was a realfeel of **107 degrees**. I felt dizzy & almost faint. People were bringing me lots of fluids. When I took off my Colonial officer’s coat, my shirt underneath it was drenched in sweat, as were my pants. It was a little scary. But I’d do it again in a second. I had given all I had. Not only was my glass empty, but it was lying on its side. Today, my truck & trailer had to be reloaded with more equipment for my 3<sup>rd</sup> camp in NY which I leave for Monday morning. I also had to cut two lawns in this sweltering heat & humidity. I’m so spent. I have no strength. But, these conditions make me a prime candidate for His. I have great confidence that He will do so. Why? Because the work is not mine. The Person Who must be proclaimed is not my Son. The gospel message of the cross is not my message. The Kingdom to be expanded by its preaching is not my Kingdom. I just show up. Even the ability to do that is a gift. There are so many maladies that can take a man down & render him ineffective, both physical & spiritual. Andó the Father has chosen not to use holy angels to preach this message, though they could do a far more superior jobàno weakness of the flesh nor sin to deal with; no physical limitations; lightningquick speed & strength beyond measure compared to humans; immediately obedient to their Lord, etc. Yet, in His vast wisdom, God was pleased to use weak, feeble,

frail human beings. Why? Because in doing so it more clearly reveals His glorious perfections, it more severely humiliates & infuriates His enemies who tower over His servantmessengers, like the Twin Towers versus an ant walking between them, yet God uses the “ant” to bring them down, & it causes His vessels that He uses to love & worship Him more, to name a few! I need Him not only to refill this glass, but to stand it back up erect. Here is a response I got from a dear sister/friend/mother in the Lord re: my ministry fatigue: “Hey Michael, Thanks for reporting in. You are one busy Saint. But as I remind Don [her husband] after a long day of mowing, etc. We could be sitting in a nursing home, in a wheelchair, in the hallway, drooling on our bibs, waiting for someone to notice us. When the Lord calls me home I hope I am doing something useful for His Kingdom and not just taking up space and time. I know you feel the same way.”

(7/30) “VARIOUS AGE RANGES ONE GOSPEL”\_



I returned home yesterday evening from an 8day 900+ mile of driving, 6sermon ministry trip, which included a camp for 513 year olds, a Sun. morning worship service for all ages, & a men’s addictions’ recovery chapel. I preached the same gospel & in the same manner to all of them, & in all fruit was manifest. Get it? Some of the children couldn’t read yet, & the men were struggling to combat vicious addictions, yet, the same gospel applies to all. If it doesn’t, it’s not the gospel. I marveled how Jesus would very graciously fill me & anoint me to preach when I was so very exhausted from the heat, physical rigor, constant outpouring of His Word via preaching & emotion being with kids all week, etc., with poor sleep. He does His work. The Father ensures that His Son is glorified. If He doesn’t fill His servants with His Holy Spirit to do so, then the only other alternative is for the said servant to pour out himselfó which profits nothing. As always, when our Father does this, He makes me love & want to serve Him more. “It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace” (Heb.13).

“PLEASANTLY SURPRISED”



The first two days after preaching I was really feeling that my messages were way too hard & intense for such a tender age group, re: “Spurious Conversions” & “Cain’s Character’s Downward Spiral” since his **early childhood**. I was thinking to myself, “I’m not coming back next year if they invite me. They’re just too young for meÖ “. Not long after the message, as I was ascending the basement stairs & the boys were descending them to get a snack, a number of them said to me, “Good message, Pastor Michael”; “I loved your preaching”; “Your message really touched me”; one of the youngest & most tender**hearted** boys there, whose name was Owen, came up at Friday testimony time, & said, “Pastor Michael’s messages really touched my heartÖ “. Then, he stopped. He couldn’t talk anymore. He started to break down & cry. He came to the back of the room where I was. I got down on my knees & hugged him closely & kissed his cheek. Then, just yesterday morning I got this email from one of the leaders:

Dear Pastor Michael,

Thank YOU for coming again. I was particularly encouraged with your teachings comparing our enemy with God . . . that he's not even a close 2nd place . . . his limitations in dealing with people (Job & Mk. 5) and God's triumph over him in Rev. 20, etc. I'm a visual learner so your illustrations regarding Satan & Jesus on Sun. morning with the bobble head were particularly striking & memorable.

This past year has been rather difficult on various fronts...Too many times I've felt discouraged & doubted God's power & mercy. As the song "Be Magnified" that Randy Rothwell made popular in the '90's says: "I have made you too small in my eyes, O Lord, forgive me. And I have believed in a lie that you were unable to help me. But now, O Lord, I see my wrong. Heal my heart & show yourself strong . . ." I echo those lyrics in my heart.

I appreciate so much that when you preach we all (young & old) gain so much. You give us meat, something to sink our teeth into good sound theology. I also appreciate how you exalt & magnify the Lord motivate us to worship more. You are a treasure.

Thank YOU for coming & ministering again :)

Blessings...

Boyl have a lot to learn. **God's Spirit** is so able to make His message "ageappropriate", even when the preacher isn't realizing it.

"GOT NODOZ?"



There is a popular stimulant that has been around for decades, often used by truckers, called "**NoDoz**". It is designed to keep one awake. O, if only there were such an antidote for hearers of the gospel. As glorious as our Lord was in graciously & powerfully enabling this very weak servant of His to proclaim His Son's gospel, to both young & old, to children & to grown men, yet, alas, in both audiences & meetings there were one or two men & children sleeping through it! Others were awed by the lavished undeserved grace of the Sovereign Lord to His hostile enemies, while there were those who slept. I was saddened & dumbfounded & sobered. O God. I told my sister Kate who serves at the recovery ministry I preached at yesterday: "Everyone will hear every sermon they've ever heard twice on the occasion they first hear it, then on **Judgment Day**. The preacher will hear it to give an account re: how sound doctrinally it was & how pure his motives were in giving it, & the audience will hear it again to see what they did with it". God help us. God help us. It sobers & shatters me to the core.

"WHAT I LEARNED FROM A DEMON"



On Day 3 of my NY kids' camp, I had tentatively planned for weeks to preach re: Col.1:1221 re: the magnificence of Christ in this highly concentrated Christological

portion of the Word of God. However, as I pondered the very young age of some portions of my audience, I felt hesitant re: its subject matter. I felt to preach re: "The Gadarene Demoniac" from Mk. 5. I had never done so, except that I shared a few insights from it to our Jr. Hi. Camp staff the week before in PA. As with the demoniac in Mk.3:11,12, as soon as the demon(s) recognized Jesus, as soon as they "beheld" Him, including seeing Him from a distance, they ran up to Him. And so many Christians in services throughout the U.S. sip on lattes & play with their laptops in the socalled presence of the Lord. O God. O God. So many preachers & evangelists have to coax, repeatedly persuade, & even manipulate humans to "come forward" to receive Christ. Demons would "fall down before Him" upon recognizing Him. We tell audiences "every head bowed, every eye closed" so that the "repentant" won't be seen or embarrassed. O God. O God. Demons would cry out to Him in a loud voice. We have men whisper little prayers beginning with "Repeat after me", or anonymously fill out little cards. Demons would quickly declare, with emotion "You are The Son of God!". Liberal churches who deny the deity of Christ O God. O God. They could learn much from demons. But, they're way too smart to believe God's witness re: His Son. Funny demons are so much more intelligent, powerful, & swift than minuscule humans, but we seem to deny what they so quickly & unreservedly assert. Hell will be filled with socalled "smart" people. Demons would earnestly entreat Jesus. We, His chosen, often treat Him so flippantly, so lightly, so irreverently. Demons had to be told by Jesus not to tell others Who He was. [Jesus didn't want any "references" from those who were so utterly wicked & hostile to Him]. We have to be constantly encouraged & challenged to do so. O the wisdom, mercy, & patience of God. Who has been His counselor? Who can tell Him how to do things? He doeth all things well. Is it any wonder why our camp theme this summer has been "Marvel"? Kim & I thank you for reading this. I pray it has helped, blessed, & challenged you. We look to our gracious Lord once again as I head out for camp #4 a week from Saturday. I feel in doing them I'm doing what I was made for. Jesus be praised,  
Sincerely,

Michael

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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 fulltime. 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 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 taxdeductible gifts payable to: Elim Fellowship, 1703 Dalton Rd, Lima, NY 14485], denoting it for the mission work of Michael Robert Guertin.



Ministry/events for AUGUST & those not listed in July: Caboose! on the loose:

July 5, 12: Concordville, PA: hsc jr. hi. Camp directors’ mtg.

July 7, Aug. 3: IC, Wilmington, DE: The Father’s House Children’s Church:  
worship leader

July 28: Friends of the Cross Christian Church, Corning, NY: Sun. a.m. service

July 29: Transformation Life Center, West Park, NY: TLC 911 Recovery  
Ministry chapel

July 31: IC, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David worship leader

Aug. 2: Sikes’//Springer wedding

Aug. 5: Petra Christian Fellowship, New Holland, PA: Network Jubilee!  
Planning mtg.///hsc pastors’ mtg.

Aug. 9-15: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: hsc kids’ camp: pastoral director