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August 1, 2016

Dear Friends & Family,



[7/25] I arrived home last night from a 7-day ministry trip to Corning & Canandaigua, N.Y. ministering 6X in 6 days, traveling almost 800 miles to do so. The event in Corning was my annual "Camp Victory" event-my 3rd camp of the 4 I do each summer. The host pastor, a.k.a. Peter Miller, whom I attended Elim Bible Institute with 40 years ago this month, & who was also the best man in my wedding, received a mandate from God in

2011: “Dedicate the next 20 years of your life to children.” And, Peter did, & thus founded Camp Victory. [I couldn't help but think in the light of this of the great 19th century evangelist *Dwight L. Moody*. He's reported as having led 1 million souls to Jesus. It was said by him that if he could live his life all over again he would have dedicated it entirely to children's ministry. This smacks of something Aristotle once said: “I'm very much convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth.”] Camp Victory is a local community day camp for *children ages 6-13*. That is quite an age-range. Kids who can't read coupled with ones thinking about sex! On opening day we had 198 of them!

“DON'T BE FOOLED BY APPEARANCES”



As I always do at my kids' camps, I strive to make it a visual wonderland for them-I describe it as a “Christian Chuck E. Cheese”. A big “Caboose!” puppet stage, a “Wheel-Of-Fortune” looking-like Bible game, a “robot” who comes waddling in & processes & critiques biblically kids' media venues they're into, a “Time Machine”, puppets, costumed-characters [we had 2 at this camp: The Big Bad Wolf disguised as Chip's {he's my trademark puppet-a “chip”munk} grandmother. She was hoping to eat him but my superhero a.k.a. “Captain Caboose!” came “flying” in to save the day, A Bible game timer complete with “found-off-the-highways” vehicle tail & head-lights stuffed with Christmas lights, complete with an ear-bursting high school scoreboard buzzer that goes off when the timer does, 1 green & 1 red police light, which signals the beginning & the end of our Bible games respectively, w/the entire set engulfed in all kinds of

movie music. At the beginning of the popular Disney movie “Aladdin” from 1992, an Arabian street vendor tries to interest the viewer in a dusty, unpolished, average-looking lamp. The viewer proceeds to move on, not interested. However, the vendor stops them & interrupts & says, “Do not be fooled by its commonplace appearance.” How true this is of children's ministry-IF it is done “right”! Yes-there are children's ministries that are shallow, weak doctrinally, even overboard with entertainment. We workers with children must ever keep in mind as we try to minister to them that our ultimate goal is to inculcate the Word of God into them. We play with them-because-we like to-&, because it's so crucial to relate with them before we minister to them. This is why at my 3 camps I do in PA each summer I risk my life in the camp pool in the afternoon with the boys. I've seen few things in my 30+ years of working with the young that causes such a quick & powerful bonding. The boys are much more receptive to my teaching if they see I can become one of them. Truly, the pool is one of the most spiritual places at the camp-at least for the men & boys' side of things.

“LITTLE KIDS-BIG DOCTRINES”



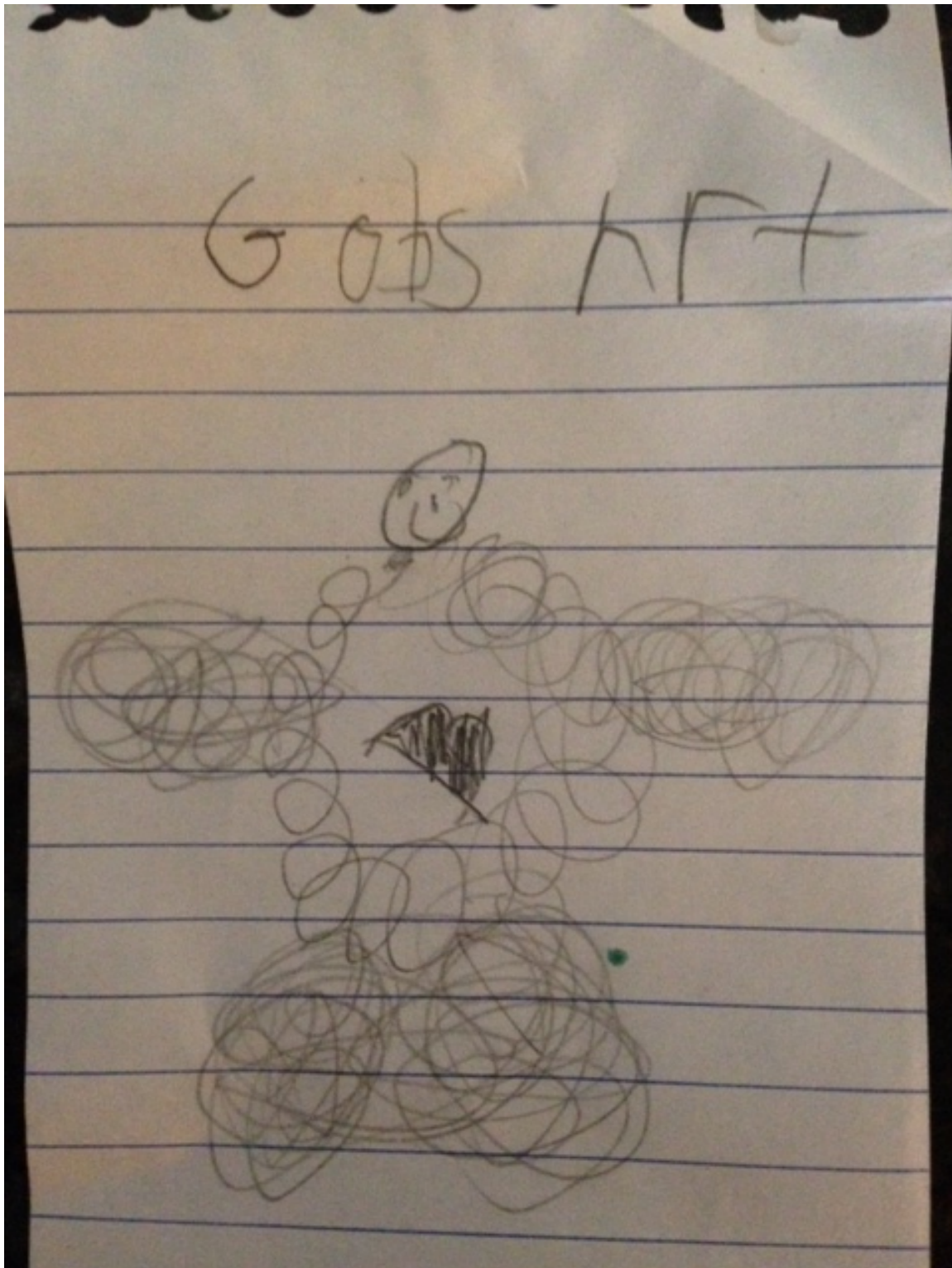
I've always preached to children basically how I preach to youth, young adults, & adults-I pull no punches. Truth is truth. Children need it. [*Remember-a person's response to the Lord is only as genuine as the doctrine of Him they are given to respond to! And this applies to all ages!*] Of course, I'm sensitive to their age & tenderness. Solomon said of his father David, “When I was a son to my father young, a tender only child before my mother, my father taught me.” [Pr.4:3,4]. And teach them we did. The 1st day they received a teaching on the “4 'Glories' of God”, viz, His radiant

glory, the glory of His power, the praise of His glory, ie, ascribing glory to Him, & the glory of His perfections. **Day 2: How God Conveys Himself to Men**-the children were given a crash course in Who God is, re: His Self-sufficiency, Self-existence, Eternality, Omniscience, Omnipresence, Omnipotence, Love, etc. Then, I shared the major way God “conveys” Who He is to men is by wrapping His thoughts, beliefs, convictions, emotions, etc. in words. When a person reads or hears God's Word, & then receives it via heartfelt belief, they are in a very real sense allowing God Himself to come inside of them. His Word bears fruit of Itself. **The Holy Spirit** through the imparted Word reproduces the character of God in His people. **Day 3: “Two Tabernacles”**: I gave a detailed description of the dangers of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, given its holiness, via God's manifest presence abiding there, of *all other places in the universe!* Violating the smallest instruction or detail could mean death to the high priest, Levites, & any foreigner who “got too close”. I then proceeded to tell the children that this place of intense danger was only a copy of the **true Tabernacle in Heaven**, which Revelation says had angels with plagues & sharp sickles coming out of it! When it was opened & John saw the ark of the testimony in it, there were lightnings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, & a hail-storm! [Rev. 11:19, 14:17,18, 15:5ff]. And yet, Heb. 8:1,2 says Jesus *works* in there! He is a “Minister” in the true sanctuary! I then conveyed to them how very priceless & precious is the privilege we Christians [& even unbelievers!] have to be in the presence of God today in church services & still *live!* Christ's blood has done this. **Day 4: Adoration Versus Idolatry**: the children were given several instances of people holding idols in their hearts even in the presence of God Incarnate. Then, they were shown the origin of idolatry in the universe [**Satan's** rebellion], then in the human heart [via fallen human nature, Gal.5:17], & then how *the process* of idolatry happens in Christians' hearts. Yes-children can be horrendously guilty of this “God-substituting” sin. I invited them to repent & forsake whatever idol the Holy Spirit was bringing to their heart & mind. I reassured them that by doing so they would have more room in the hearts for a greater infilling of God's Spirit.

“THE LITTLE BIG PICTURE”

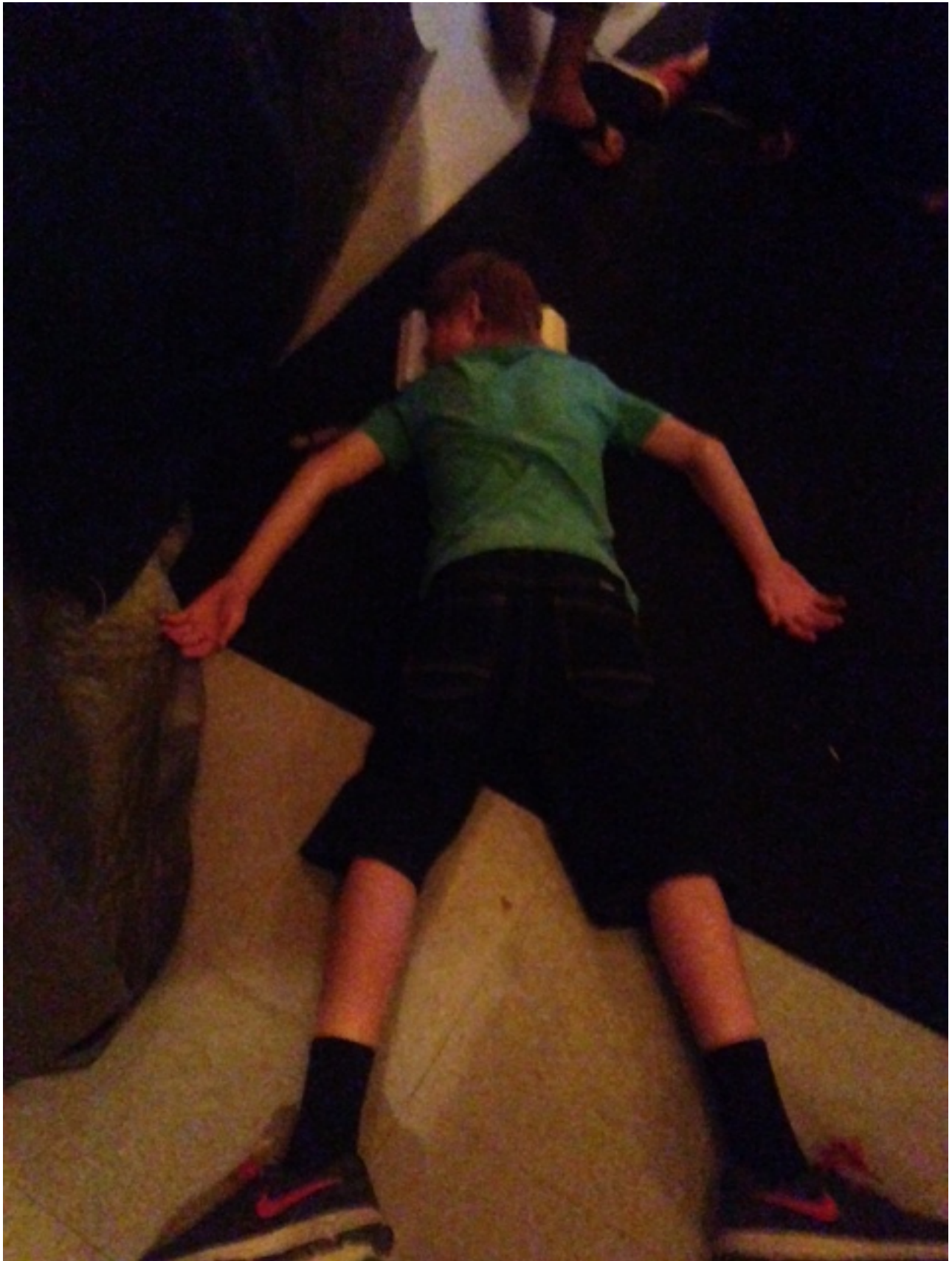






Given how very young these children were, I was amazed they “got” anything from the teaching. And yet-how preciously they responded. One little boy, certainly on the younger side of the age gamut at this camp, kept drawing me little pictures of “God”. One was “God with muscles”.

Another was “God with power”. The 3rd was “God with love”. [I'm sure he was “inspired” by the 2nd day's message when I began by elaborating on the nature & attributes of God] Then, a little girl made me a card which read, & I quote exactly as she wrote it: *“thank you for teaching me about God. I can't believe I asked god to come in to my Heart, thanks to you I now have god in my heart so I just want to say thank you so much PS YOUR AWESOME love Haylie...”* In the same way at my camp in PA the week before, scores of junior-high campers each night would come up front & lie on their faces before the Lord. Some of the boys, like me in my first “weekend of prayer” at Bible school my fresh-man year, fell asleep while doing so! That's OK. I'd rather have them fall asleep in the Lord's presence than not!



Another precious, priceless camp memory that will forever be indelible in my mind occurred at our jr. high camper registration. In came this rather

large family-a mother with a bunch of kids. The oldest was staying for the week. The rest of her "ducklings" just went through the line staying with the mom. One of the camper's little brothers just stopped & stared at my Time Machine, which he had obviously never seen before. I usually have it running for registration for the parents to see a little of "what we do" with their kids. This little boy just stood there for several minutes staring at it-mesmerized. One of my assistant directors took his picture from behind. Priceless!



["FROM LITTLE TOTS TO SENIOR TOP"](#)



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I preached the next day at another church to an audience comprised mostly of young children & aged seniors. When I was done, I went among the chairs, laying my hand on top of the kids' heads & also the seniors. One frail, aged woman took hold of my hand & kept it there. She was hungry for the touch of God. It was one of the most precious ministry-memories of my life. Old & young need His touch. May He continue to grace & enable me to bring it to His people of all ages.

"CABOOSE! ON THE LOOSE" Well, you've just read re: my "exploits" in God for the summer, but did you know I do similar ministry like this the rest of the year? That is, I present the Word of God to all age groups, either separately or combined in a visual/dramatic way. It'd be a blessing to come to your church to minister. Let us know!



Caboose! on the Loose:

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

July 6: IC, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David-worship leader

Aug. 2: Petra Church. New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//Hopewell Network pastors' mtg.

Aug. 6-12: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: hsc Kids' Camp: pastoral director

*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, 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. [https://www.denarionline.com/DONORSERVICES/TEMPLATEPAGE.ASPXCOMP_REF= ELIMFEL&SID=vjywxzcot0d5c5pnrq1f0rnl&CONTENT=MISSIONAR Y&MISSION_REF=E8668ABEC7](https://www.denarionline.com/DONORSERVICES/TEMPLATEPAGE.ASPXCOMP_REF=_ELIMFEL&SID=vjywxzcot0d5c5pnrq1f0rnl&CONTENT=MISSIONAR_Y&MISSION_REF=E8668ABEC7)

If your church would be interested in ministry by Michael, please feel free to contact us. www.cabooseministries.org

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