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POST-CAMPS' 1 & 2 QUOTES:



Dear ***Friends & Family,***

[7/21] I returned home very late this past Friday night from the 2nd of my 4 camps this summer, vis, Hopewell Summer Camps' ***Jr. Hi. Camp***. We had exactly 100 campers, the girls being in the majority this time. This month the enrollment for kids camp is the other way around! As always, I like to send feedback from campers' parents re: what God did in them during the week. Note: I kept entreating God to move powerfully this year to "compensate for Covid". In 30 years of serving the Hopewell Network Camps, Sr. Hi. Camp in June was one of the most powerful I ever remember. He is faithful. Here are their comments:

"Thank you again for a wonderful week at [Sr. Hi. Camp in June] camp. [My daughter] loved it, as always. But it was my niece [her name], who cried as she left chapel on Friday night & whose life was so impacted for God. I saw her worshipping with such passion & love for Jesus at church the following Sunday, & both [my husband] & I held back tears. Yes, this is good. Love and blessings" [Mom & Aunt, who herself was a former camper & counselor]

"They both [her 2 daughters] had a very wonderful time & grew in the Lord. It's definitely a spiritual & emotional shot in the arm for the kids. [My oldest daughter] also made some nice new friends. [My youngest daughter] con-nected with her old friends & said she had a great time too...Thanks so much, & may the Lord bless you with junior high camp. Maybe next year I'll be able to send [my son] but I just didn't think I could physically ***drive all the way down to Pennsylvania*** [FROM CHICAGO! {emphasis mine}] yet again. God bless," [Their Mom] [Sr. Hi. Camp-June].

[Re: Sr. Hi. Camper who is now coming to all 3 camps!]: "Is there any question as to the Holy Spirit's nature? Interesting how God has moved this summer in [my son]-he had absolutely no interest in camp this summer, I kept asking as time approached. He kept saying no. You invited him & he went from not wanting to take the time for one week [Sr. Hi. Camp] to doing all three!!! Also just to realize the impact on his life, he is looking to join the Army & one of his

considerations was he wanted to be back from Basics in time for Senior camp next summer. As it turns out for other reasons he can't go into [the Army] on the timing but he's still working around Senior camp in his plans. Thanks for speaking into his life." [His Mom]

"She [her daughter] said it was the best year ever...He met her for sure...thank you!" [Her Mom]. [Jr. Hi. Camp]

"Thank you, Guerty [& of course the rest of the camp staff personnel!], for pouring into our girl! She is pumped & was so touched by Jesus! Thank you for leading her to HIM! We are so grateful!! She is talking non-stop about all Jesus did!!" [Her Mom, who was a former camper & counselor] [Jr. Hi. Camp]

"[My daughter] had such a wonderful time at camp! On the ride home I loved hearing how she wants to dig into Romans 1 because of the truths you instilled in her. That is a gift a parent cannot be more grateful for! Love ya buddy!" [Her Mom-a former camper & counselor] [Jr. Hi. Camp]



"It's deep in here." [spoken to a counselor by a camper when they were in an evening chapel @ Jr. Hi.]



"If I had enough clothes, I'd stay here for a month." [spoken by a boy camper to his mother re: Jr. Hi. Camp]

"Excited for the world to know my Jr-Highers we're not only enthralled by the presence of Yahweh but idols were torn down, miracles, healings took place AND songs of worship to our Lord led my boys into the presence of God. Thank you, thank you, to all whom prayed into this week for my boys @ Tel Hai Camp & Retreat...My boys have told me they feel, they see the presence of God at work & that that's the camp my boys tell me they want to keep going back

to then u can bet your bottom dollar I'll keep sending em"! Thanks for feeding them ALL of Gods word!!! [Mother of 1 Sr. Hi. Camper & 2 Jr. Hi. Campers]

"I have such great memories of camp and it's where I met the Lord for the first time. I learned to recognize his presence there when I was 10 years old." [former camper & counselor who is now 35, the age I was when I started serving at Tel Hai.]



From a former little boy in kids church in DE who also was a former camper [His older sister gave the quote above]. He was noticing all of the posts on Facebook during camp & this is what he commented: "Seeing all these posts about camp brought back some memories. I've been showing [my wife] all these pics & telling her about the **Time Machine** & your object lessons & the "**Master's Multi-Media Monitor Man**" [my Robot, a.k.a., "**M5**"] & your Roman helmet with the broom on it, & she's like, 'This guy had a big impact on your childhood, huh?' And I was like, 'Yeah he did'. So, all that to say, I appreciate everything you did for me & keep doing for these kids." [Aaron]

From An Outside Visitor to Camp chapel



Every Wednesday night of each camp is “my” night, i.e., it’s my night to perform my annual *Time Machine* drama & preach right after it. This year’s drama, as I have written about previously, is “**Abraham & The 3 Visitors**”, followed by a message re: **Romans 1:16ff**. Most of my actors have been my “staples”, i.e., the ones I run to for such dramas, vis, Derek Forsberg, Kenny Swann, Jim DiBiasco, & Julia Capaldi. I also used an “understudy” at Sr. Hi. Camp, vis, Sem Landis. For the July Jr. Hi. Camp performance, Becky Swann, the wife of Kenny Swann who portrayed the Lord in the drama, sat in to view the drama & some of the worship service following. This is what she emailed to me about it later:

“I get some gut feelings but I am not prophetic, though I occasionally hear words from the Lord. With that said, here are some things I scribbled Wednesday during the worship: I was next to the sound guy behind the boys. They were seriously [&] boldly getting into the worship; some [were] on their faces, others praying for each other-no waiting for a counselor, they just did it. This is what came to me: There was a time when kids went to camp to focus on themselves, to grow, some to pray for unsaved family members or get a break from a home with alcoholics or drug addicts. I felt that God was pouring out [an] anointing in their worship way beyond that. There were, of course, several things going on in the world this week, Haiti, the hotel, etc. Yet, what came to me was that their worship was so intense that the walls were pushing back & the ceiling lifting as God was watching & loving these kids & was using their praise as intercession also. I don't know what may change & I might be wrong but that was what I felt very strongly. Also, that there were many that would pass a ‘Gideon test’ for worship (did not get a definition). There would be larger groups passing at each level. Eg.: 1/3 stopped for water; others went on. In this test very few would do the equivalent of stopping for water & it would not be a hardship. With the roof seemingly gone, I felt that God was pouring down discernment into them. There would be times to wait on the Lord but often, He would just tell them what to do & they would have no trouble hearing, understanding & being obedient-girls included in that. Lastly, I thought the Lord said the girls looked timid but He was building them into bold, strong women of God. That might have been confirmed because shortly after that they started singing a different worship song, [which] got louder than the band & guys & all started singing it. The tone of the service then went from a warfare time to a soaking for all...”.

“OVERDOSING IS ESSENTIAL ON VITAMIN ‘B3’”



For the past number of years I have been closing each Friday a.m. chapel camper testimony time with my “Vitamin B3” exhortation. I first hold up a ginormous red & white capsule as my vitamin B3 object les-son. Inside of it are the 3 B essential vitamins to ensure continual spiritual health after camp for the rest of the year. **Vitamin B1:** The **Book**. = The **Bible**. Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God, Mt.4:4. **Vitamin B2:** The **Bird**, = The Holy Spirit [dove]. The Holy Spirit is our inner Life Source for all spiritual health & strength. His “fruits” nourish us. **Vitamin B3:** The **Body**, = The **Body of Christ**. I tell the campers Jesus has ordained it that we will not & cannot make it without His Body, His people. If an arm separates itself from a body, it dies. I tell the campers Jesus *wants them to fall & fail* if they avoid His people & hang out only with the unsaved. If He blessed their lives apart from His people they would think it was healthy to live in that manner. You can be sure whenever a camper falls away from where he or she once was in God it is almost always because of the company they keep. Take your “**B3**”!

[“THE NOT-SO-GREAT EXCHANGE”](#)



As is always the case during camp season, one of my most important tasks as pastoral director is to recruit qualified staff. This is no easy task & is always the biggest drain & stress-producer for me every sum-mer. I’m texting potential counselors constantly, putting out feelers, throwing the net, if you will-hoping for a catch-or two! Two of the most well-known “great exchanges” in Scripture are II Cor.5:21 where Christ exchanges His perfect righteousness for the sin of all who put their trust in Him. Another great exchange is the disastrous exchange pagans make in Romans 1. They exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image made in the likeness of corruptible man...”. When one does this exchange the “exchange rate” is always disastrous & devastating & the pagan comes way up on the losing end. The third great exchange in Scripture

that comes to mind is the exchange of pagans' invitation to the King's Son's banquet for routine, mundane, every day activities. They all forfeited the high honor & privilege of sitting with the Supreme Monarch's Son for things trivial. It is no wonder that the King is insulted & offended. I felt this to a degree recently when I gave invitations to help me with my upcoming children's camp, re: counseling at it. They would be given the high calling of being an integral part of "intense God" being poured into a child for five days during the most impressionable time of the child's life. They turned down the opportunity to be immersed for five days in rich times of Scripture & systematic theology coupled with heavy moves of the Holy Spirit. "For what?", you may ask? à To run up & down a field chasing a ball. Yes. That's what I said. To run up & down a field chasing a ball. They turn down all of the above of things eternal to chase a ball. Do you know why, Beloved? *They lack eternity in their vision.*



My heart cries out within me, "Where are the *Eric Liddells* of our day?", vis, the 1924 Olympic hero from Scotland who refused to run his heat on the Sabbath & God honored him for doing so with spectacular victories on the track-not to mention **the gold medal**. I, along with countless other shepherds of God, have competed with sports & for decades. When they stand before their Lord [I'm talking about Christians here] to give explanation for their life-choices, they will feel deep regret that they chose to forfeit laboring in God's vineyards & the rich rewards thereof for the temporal, trivial things of the world. They will lose said rewards. Thoughts like these sober & drive me to Him for myself as I too am prone to "the trivial".

"THE 'LOST' MINE"



[7/28] In between my second & third camps of four this summer, I was asked by a dear brother in the Lord to minister at the memorial service of his 41-year-old brother who had overdosed. I was humbled & honored he & his mother would ask. Although I was buried in camp work this was a very important “God-interruption” to that also very important work with the young. This family was in shock, & of course, deeply grieving. When I arrived the family was busy preparing food for their guests to eat afterwards. I spoke with the mother & then my friend re: details. It was held in their backyard. Chairs were scarce. As the family members came up & shared memories one after another, the whole time while I was sitting on the grass with my back up against a garden fence, I was scared-very scared. In my 35+ years of preaching most of my audiences by far have been *churched people*. Most of these were not. I saw many tattoos & stern looks. To make matters worse, one of the family members had been playing songs that the deceased was very partial to. Unfortunately, many of these songs & albums were those I owned as a teenager & immediately upon hearing them my mind & heart raced back to those days. I was naming said bands & songs to Kim who was with me. Since I was about to preach the gospel to many who either had not heard it or at the very least had not received it, I saw this as the enemy’s tactic to distract me from my family-invited, God-ordained task for that day. I had to entreat the Lord. I was frustrated I was so afraid, but I was also reminded of my own words to the staff & campers of my two previous camps. In myself, I am as crumply as aluminum foil. How then could I preach so forcibly & with such conviction? I told them by the power of Another Person-the Holy Spirit. I kept casting myself on Him for His power. I was still afraid as I went up to the podium. Yet, as soon as I began to speak a power not my own came upon me & you would have thought I was preaching to campers. I wasn’t afraid of these people anymore nor of their possible hostile reactions. Here sitting before me attentively was a host of lost people-a “lost mine” if you will. And Jesus sent me here to “mine” some of them. I was dumbfounded as I preached as you could hear a pin drop. Even when I was done I just stood there & paused for several moments like I do at camp-& they still sat there-in the Lord’s manifest presence. I gave them the gospel-& an invitation. And do you know what? After I was done I felt afraid again! I believe our Lord was doing that to once again remind me Whose ministry this is. I pray He never lets me forget! Sincerely, **Michael**



***Caboose! Commentary Corner:** [Our 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 Bibles I have studied from: "Jesus' glorification began with a betrayal." [MRG]



[Caboose! On the Loose!](#)
[Looking Out for the Little Ones](#)

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

July 24: North Wilmington, DE: Memorial service for a dear friend: Eulogy

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Chip Sunday Show production posting

August 4, 18, 25: Cab!Talk production posting

August 7-13: 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 *Immanuel Church*, Wilmington, DE. *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 gift no matter how small would be greatly appreciated! Thank you! [click here](#)

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