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YouTube Channel for Time Machine Dramas & Sermons: "Michael Robert Guertin"

DECEMBER 2019

Dear *Friends & Family*,

"LUCIA-JESUS' LIL' LIGHT"



[11/26] I returned home a couple of hours ago from a 3-day, 500+ mile, 5-meeting ministry trip to the *Poughkeepsie, NY* area. I preached two Sunday a.m. church services, 1 addictions' recovery ministry chapel, & 2 Christian school chapels, all within the span of 48 hours. As always, once again, I needed *Jesus, the Master Communicator*, to enable me to preach His Word to such a vast array of souls, both young & old, all of whom were made in His image. The ages ranged from kindergarteners to senior citizens, from teens & children well-versed in the Bible, to addicts trying to cling to Jesus as they sought to have Him break their bondages of addiction. Each time, I fell on the Lord Jesus for His enabling grace. There are so many things I could write about, but perhaps the most precious right now on my mind is a 12-year-old girl [whose birthday is today!] who was at the elementary aged chapel this a.m. Her name was "Lucia". I have never met a "Lucia". She was strikingly pretty. She was "doubly pretty", as I didn't sense an ounce of conceit in her about her God-given beauty. Conceit only makes beautiful women & handsome men less so. It mars the natural attractive features the Lord has given them. Joseph, son of Jacob, Saul, son of Kish & David son of Jesse were all handsome men. Sarah, wife of Abraham, Rebecca daughter of Laban, & Ruth were also beautiful in appearance. What made Lucia so especially beautiful in the Lord this a.m. when she came up to me after chapel was her humility of heart & tender, broken, hungry spirit before the Lord. I had strongly warned the children [& also the teenagers in the chapel hour before] that they were highly privileged above young people in public schools because of the biblical knowledge & nurture they were receiving at their Christian school. [By the way, I have done Christian school chapels for decades & this school was one of the most excellent re: inculcating the things of God into young people I have ever seen]. I warned them because Jesus said along with great privilege comes great

responsibility & accountability. "To whom much is given, much is required". When Lucia came up to me I could tell the Lord had deeply touched her during the chapel [I can think of few things more awesome of our God than that He condescends from His majestic glory to touch the soul of a young "child of Adam". I've often said & written that there is no other place I would rather be than at the altar with a broken kid or teen.] Her big beautiful eyes were trying to hold back tears. She seemed a bit nervous-even a bit shaky. She told me, "My heart is fluttering right now. I want to learn more & more. I am one of those public-school kids you talked about. This is only my 2nd year here", et al. There was such an innocence, such a tenderness, such a purity about her, that I see why our Lord gave the most severe & stern warning to anyone who offended one of these little ones-which was another Scripture text I shared during the message. After I packed up my truck & headed back home I found myself praying so fervently for her. She told me that her name "Lucia" means "light". How appropriate. If she stays as tenderhearted & broken before the Lord as she was this morning it will be impossible for her not to be a "light".

"TOMMY TOO!"



Given this is the Christmas season, that line from IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE quoted by Donna Reed re: her son in the movie just came to me as I attempted to write about another student whom our Lord so deeply touched this a.m. He was a very tall senior at this school whom I noticed helping to setup & tear-down the sound equipment. He wanted to talk with me after the chapel before the elementary kids came in for their service. He told me his name was "Tommy". He said he had been homeschooled for years but that his parents decided to send him & his 4 *adopted* siblings to this Christian school. He told me this particular school was so different from the other ones in the area. He said his parents would not have enrolled him & his siblings if not. He said the Lord touched him deeply. His aspiration in life is to serve the Lord in Africa. I prayed for him too. In my prayer for Tommy I was reminded of our oldest son Matthew. Matthew has been 6'4" since he was 15. I remember telling him as a teenager, "Honey? You can use your size to either hurt people or protect people." Praise the Lord, except for his big brother antics with his siblings, Matthew has always done the latter. In fact, he is a pastor in the Cleveland, OH area & has recently started a church plant. Yes-he is protecting people.

"KNOWING & SOWING"



For all 5 services the past 3 days I gave the **Parable of the Sower**. Each time before delivering it again I would pour over it as much as I could for more power & insight. In my 34 years of preaching no other passage of Scripture have I poured over more in study & meditation. And I never cease to be amazed, sobered, & stunned by it. Even in the last season of once more delving into it, I discovered even more treasures of insight re: it. "Before the Lord would sow a crowd, He would *know* a crowd." Despite massive crowds of people thronging to Jesus, He knew what was in a man, & hence did not entrust Himself to them [Jn.2:24,25]. The Parable of the Sower actually focuses primarily on the *soils*. Jesus compares the 1st three soils to people's hearts & explains why the roadside, rocky, & thorny-soiled people wind up in Hell. ☺ He even told His disciples why He spoke in parables to these other people to whom the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven had *not* been given. Basically, it was to *conceal* the truth from them. The roadside people wanted nothing to do with Him. The rocky-soiled people did not consider having Jesus worth the trials that came along with Him. The thorny-soiled people loved too many other things more than Him—deadly to the soul! Being primarily an evangelist, I want to understand why human beings die in their sin. The parable of the Sower [Soils] explains why. From the human side of things, it explains why & how men's souls go to their perdition—it all has

to do with how they treat the Word of God. Hence, it's crucial to a human's eternal welfare to handle the Word of God respectfully, reverently, etc. I fervently brought home this truth to every group I was with this past weekend-both old & young. May fruit remain.

"HE LOST HIS HEAD OVER IT"



The picture below is of a mannequin head I found years ago beside a dumpster at an area *Pep Boys*. I've used him on & off for years. However, I made a modification of him for this Parable of the Sower preaching tour. As you can see in the picture, I cut off his crown. I did this so as to be able to put a hinge on it to be able to open & close his head. Inside his head I placed a small toy barrel of "**toxic slime**". I used this to illustrate the thorny-soil people. When the seed of God's Word is given to them, the Scripture says that the thorns *were already there* where the seed was sown. Hence, the person had been feeding & nurturing the thorns prior to their hearing the gospel message. Jesus said the thorns were the cares & worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth, the passionate desires for other things, etc. These are the things in the hearts of this group of people that strangle & choke any desires they might have had for the things of the Lord. Hence, I use the **toxic green slime** to illustrate said worldly desires.

"FOR THE RECORD"



When I go to this particular area of N.Y. to minister, I always stay at the host church's worship team office. The church has offered & also has put me up at a hotel in the past but I truly prefer to sleep at the church. It really helps me focus, stay away from distractions, save on travel time to & from the hotel, & saves my host money. I bring my air mattress & sleeping bag. From this "base" I head out to the other places of scheduled ministry besides the said church. I was so exhausted from my schedule these past few days I was averaging going to bed at 6:20 p.m.! However, I would then wake up around 11 p.m. then again between 3-4 a.m.! While sitting in a chair in this office one of the mornings I was there reading the gospels, I looked up & pondered the many 33 & 1/3 r.p.m. record albums that lined the top part of all of the walls of the room. Years ago someone had come up with the idea to decorate in this unique manner given that it is the "music" room. I recognized some of the labels on the old [what I assumed to be secular] music albums. I probably had about 200 [mostly rock] albums that I listened to incessantly before I got saved. When the Lord did apprehend me they were one of the first things to go, though not without difficulty. In fact, I gave them several months after I got saved to another Christian brother who was somewhat weaker in the faith than me. I've often regretted I had done so. I am so affected by music. Hence, I have to be so careful what I listen to. While looking up at these albums on the wall, given that I have studied & taught on the subject of Judgment Day since 1997, I couldn't help but ponder that every one of these records will be "played again". Every lyric, every note of music that in any way affected its listeners, either for good or for evil, will be brought to account. "Every idle word" [Mt.12:36] As I sat there I thought of the many band members who had acquired their fame, their money, etc. from these vinyl compilations. Most likely they all assume those were the "good ole' days"-that they were "good" to them. However, if these said musicians, producers, marketers, etc. die in their sin, these same records will be used as *evidence* against them. Their records are on "the records". It is one of the most sobering principles in all of the Word of God-the principle of "influence". This is why **Judgment Day** cannot occur until the last human being is conceived. Every human being

will be judged by many standards, but one which will greatly affect their degree of either torment or reward will be how many other humans they affected by “their works”.

“SEATED IN THE ‘BALCONIES’ WITH JESUS?”



Speaking of ***Judgment Day***, believe it or not, while sitting in the ***Sight And Sound*** theater in the Lancaster, PA area last month with Kim & three of my sisters, I had a miniscule glimpse of the vast array & awesomeness of what some theologians term “the Great Assize”, vis, Judgment Day. We were seated in the high balcony of the immense theater waiting for the show to begin. I looked down below me to the main floor below. There was a “sea of heads”-mostly white & gray, looking up at the stage in anticipation. O God. My heart sank with such a deep compassion for this “sea of souls”. There are so many, O God. So very many. And yet, this assemblage was smaller than a pinpoint compared to the vast throng that will be assembled before Jesus’ glorious throne. I sat there so very sobered. As I watched, I pondered that all of these precious people will be once again gathered in One Place. Despite the fact that this was a Christian theater with a Christian production, being the evangelist that I am, I couldn’t help but wonder how many in this vast, mostly aged crowd knew the Lord. O God. I felt in a very small, but in a very poignant way, I was given a “God’s-eye view” of the human race in all of its “relative” insignificance. And yet, and yet, on these microscopic-in-the-sight-of-God image-bearers, the great Lord of Glory has chosen to lavish His love. O God. O God. How great is Your love, O God!

“SOWING IN TEARS”



[12/2] Kim & I returned home about an hour ago from a 4-day, 900+ mile trip to the **Cleveland, OH** area. We went to visit our oldest son & his family. Matthew has been leading a new church plant out of his home [mostly] since August. While I was trying to prepare to preach twice a few days before at a Christian school in N.Y., I kept thinking of Matt's church instead. My heart swelled with such desire to minister to his church family, both children & adults. I felt a tear go down my cheek as I entreated the Lord re: this. I had to ask the Lord to forgive me as I needed to focus on the teens & children I was soon to preach to that morning! Well, before leaving for OH Matthew was cool with me preaching for him that upcoming Sunday. The day of their service I stayed up in his identical twins' bedroom where Kim & I were staying so I could stay focused & pray while the church family ate & congregated downstairs. I'm a huge creature of distraction. I've always preferred to be alone before I preach. I've written before, "I want to lay before God before I stand before men". Kim came up shortly before the service. She noticed my face was flushed. I had been aching inside, weeping inside-for *the children* present at the service. I felt that if I could reach them, the adults would be "easy".



Four of my five grandchildren were present in the meeting. It is a very high calling & privilege to be children of a minister-& also a very dangerous one. Why so? When you “grow up in church”, & hear “it” over & over again the tendency of the fallen human heart is to harden & to treat sacred things lightly apart from the Holy Spirit’s gracious moves. That’s what I was aching for-that the Spirit of God would come “forcefully” upon these young souls, as His Spirit did upon Samson. Well, one of my grandson’s friends was in the meeting. He kept turning to the side during the message to see if his mother was hearing what he was hearing. Kim told me his sister, who was also in the meeting, kept turning to my granddaughter as I preached as well. Well, when the meeting was over, I prayed & concluded the service & the church family fellowshiped & ate some more. I didn’t “see” the results I was hoping & praying for. However, while driving home today I got a text from that boy’s mother. This is what she wrote: “Cool testimony: Last night as I was laying with Holden before bed, he started talking about the message in church yesterday. He was uncharacteristically serious about it. He talked about the different soils [I had preached on the *parable of the soils*] & then looked at me somberly & said “Mom-I think I’m pretty “thorny” I need to really work on that. Would you please read to me from the Bible before I go to sleep?” So I read & then asked if he was tired & he said “keep reading”. Wow. Thank you, Jesus!!!! And thank you Mr. G for your love of Jesus & sharing His truth in such a profound way. You are bearing MUCH good fruit.” O! One day perhaps I shall learn to trust the Lord-that He is doing far more in the soils of men’s hearts than I can see on the surface. Help, Jesus!

May the Lord Jesus receive more & more of the focus in your hearts & homes this **Christmas** than He ever has before.

Yours for Him, **Michael & Kim**



****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: "The Early Church turned the world upside-down by its preaching. Their Lord will turn the world inside-out by His judging." [M.R.G. 9/6/2002]



****Caboose! On the Loose:***

****Lookin' out for the little guys...***

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

Nov. 17: IC, Wilmington, DE: Sun. a.m. worship team drummer

Dec. 1: *Local Church*, Bay Village, OH: Sun. family service

Dec. 3: Shady Maple Banquet Center: Hopewell Network pastors' Christmas Luncheon & mtg.

Dec. 6: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: Senior Luncheon

Dec. 13: Newark, DE: Immanuel Church Leadership Christmas dinner mtg.

Dec. 15: Trinity Christian Fellowship, Biglerville, PA: Sun. a.m. service

Dec. 18: New Covenant Community Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim Fellowship Christmas mtg.



***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 gift no matter how small would be greatly appreciated! Thank you! [click here](#)**

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