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**Note: if you go to the link above you should be able to listen to a recent radio interview I did on WVCH AM 740 re: Caboose!, Via Dolorosa, & Hopewell Network Camps*

February 2017

Dear Friends & Family,

This month marks **17 years** of live-by-faith itinerant ministry for Kim & me. It is because of our Lord's gracious touch on a number of you to help support us that we've been able to continue this multi-faceted ministry to both young & old for so many years. I still feel the call to continue ministering for the Lord in this way. May He continue to give me His divine strength & open doors to do so until He sees fit to change my course of service. Amen.

"GEEKS?" OR IMAGE BEARERS?"



Some weeks back a friend of mine sent me a text picture of presumably a married couple from the 70's that at first glance seemed photo-shopped. They both were wearing large, thick eyeglasses & were suffering from what seemed to be Strabismus, or more commonly known as being cross-eyed. I immediately laughed-to the point of tears. I even shared it with my brother-in-law with my own funny caption at the bottom. It was hilarious. But, while lying in bed that night, the Spirit of the Lord brought to my mind the fact that these two "funny-looking" people were made in the image of God, imago dei, to use the Latin term. They were image-bearers, whether they were Christians or not, due to creation. Yes-deeply marred by sin as we all are, but still image bearers. I felt such a deep sorrow & shame in my heart for doing so. In a very real way I had made fun of Him.

"MOVED AT THE MOVIES"



Not long after this experience, Kim & I accompanied our daughter & her 4 children who were on furlough from Costa Rica to a kids' movie. I couldn't understand why during the movie someone behind us was playing with their device for a very long period of time, despite the theater's prohibition to do so. I kept wondering why their parents didn't have them stop. During the movie, people in the cinema would laugh out loud at seemingly inappropriate times. It was only later that I learned this group of undisciplined "children" were actually mentally-challenged people. That wasn't what we called them growing up. They were "retarded". Now, that word over the decades has become a very unkind derogatory term. As we left the theater we rounded the hallway to exit & there standing against the wall was a tall, lanky middle-aged man. He was with "the group" but standing alone against the wall. It was so very obvious from his appearance that he also was "challenged". I began to weep right there in the hallway as I beheld him, once again remembering he was made in the image of God-no matter how maligned by sin or physical impairment, he was still an image-bearer. That set him umpteen miles above any other of God's creatures in intelligence, logic, reasoning [Yes-even though mentally-challenged!], creativity, communication skills, emotions, the ability to converse with God & having religious affections, to bear Jesus' image if saved, eternity, etc. Why? Because he had a *soul*. **Charles Hodge** once wrote in **1864** something to the effect of, "more would be lost if one human soul perished than if a whole globe teeming with animal & vegetable life were blotted out." [**Princeton Sermons; The Value of the Soul**]. Looking at human beings-*all* human beings, despite obesity [which is rampant in our society & the brunt of so many jokes], malformity, age, or economic-social rank, etc. as *image-bearers*, has radically changed my life & contributed to my deepened sanctification in thought, word, & deed.

“THE Visuals’80-LADY”



I ministered at a church in NJ last week comprised mostly of elderly senior citizens re: Phil. 2:5-11 re: Jesus’ pre-existence & co-equality with the Father & His emptying Himself of the *manifestation* of that equality, NOT of the essence of His equality [as many heretics both past & present have alleged]. Of course, as always, I did this using various & sundry object lessons & visual aids. An 80 year old woman came up to me & said it was the best Christmas message she had ever heard [this amazed & deeply humbled me, not only in itself but given how old she was!] & that she “just loved” the visual aids.

“SICK & HEARTSICK”



[1/29] Our daughter & son-in-law & family of 6 w/4 children ages 11 & under left the States for **Costa Rica** last Monday at 3:30 a.m. Kim & I immediately began to put the house back to our “normal” setup. We were both blessed but exhausted. Kim got sick while they were here & I got sick the day before they left. I have been sick all week with what seems to be another debilitating sinus-infection. The fatigue is indescribable. And yet-I had to prepare for a family service today at a church in PA. This entailed much setup. I kept plodding on. Thank our God

Kim went with me this trip, which is a rarity, as she covers the home front. I had prayed, meditated, studied, etc. but I couldn't beat the fatigue. And yet, I was "heartsick"-i.e., aching to preach ***Christ & Him alone***. However, right in the middle of declaring God's sovereignty to this church re: not only *supplying* grace but *applying* grace to His people I felt like I could have preached another hour, despite how exhausted I was. I told the Lord en route home in prayer with Kim, after thanking Him once again for His gracious provision of all I needed to proclaim His greatness & gospel, that "there is nothing else to live for". Kim & I both pray He continues to grace us in this itinerant multi-aged ministry for years to come. May it be so.



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

Jan. 5: WVCH Radio Studio, Brookhaven, PA: pre-recording "Caboose! Ministries" interview to be aired 1/11

Jan. 11: Maranatha Christian Fellowship, Moorestown, NJ: kids' church service

Jan. 23: IC, Wilmington, DE: ***Via Dolorosa*** Room Captains' mtg.

Jan. 31: IC, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David: worship leader

Feb. 7: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//network pastors' mtg.

Feb. 17,18: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: Hopewell Christian Fellowship Telford Youth Retreat

Feb. 22: New Covenant Community Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area credential holders' mtg.

Feb. 26: Maranatha Christian Fellowship, Berlin Campus, West Berlin, NJ: Sun. a.m. service

*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:

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