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February 2018

*[this month marks **18 years** of itinerant, living-by-faith ministry]

Dear *Friends & Family*,

“THE BEAUTY OF THE BODY of CHRIST”



[2/4] This newsletter is uncommonly late but for good reason. I returned home two days ago from a 7 day, 8 speaking engagements’ ministry trip to VA. These meetings included 4 whole-family services & 4 Christian school chapels. It was a large Assembly of God church outside of Washington, D.C. [www.wolag.org], where I have ministered before. What I love about this church is its diversity re: the numerous & various nationalities which attend there. Painted on one of the walls of the sanctuary is the Scripture verse, “From every tribe, tongue, language, & nation” & that is exactly what the church is comprised of. White Caucasians are in the minority! At the church’s Christian school, where approximately 100 kindergarteners through 8th graders attend-only about 5 were white! I saw **Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, Asian-Indians, Russians**, etc. It was such a beautiful sight to behold. I felt as if it were a preview of Heaven. To top things off, speaking of the diversity of the Body of Christ, I preached this morning here in DE at a mostly Chinese-comprised church! Again, it was beautiful to behold. I consider this one of the many privileges of what our Lord has called me to-to behold the manifold diversity of His people.

“MUTUAL DNA INSERTION”



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While driving down to VA the week before, I saw in my mind's eye a cell under a scientist's microscope, with the scientist puncturing the cell with a very fine needle to insert DNA into the cell. I'm sure many of you have seen such pictures. This scene I envisioned was actually my prayer for the week. I wanted to be used by our Lord to insert something into this church body that they didn't have. I wanted to add something to their "DNA", so to speak, that would further their growth & progress in the Lord. I wanted to lay some golden bricks of doctrine in their hearts-bricks that would stay with them the rest of their lives-doctrines that would affect their everyday lives as they do mine. The pastor, whom I have known & loved for decades & whom I affectionately call "Buddy" [he's in his mid-80's now] gave me "free reign" to minister "how" I feel "inspired" to do it. This included my *Time Machine* & numerous & various object lessons. I "crowded" his platform with them, but like I said, he was so gracious! I love it when I'm trusted by my hosts-when they let me "do what I do how I do it". In 18 years of itinerant ministry this month I've never had one complain about it. They, & their people, have seen that what I do & "how" I do it is "worship" too.

“YOUR INABILITY-YOUR SECURITY”



For the two Sunday morning a.m. services I preached, I gave a detailed Creation/Fall/Redemption message which I entitle “The Gospel Elaborated”. After elaborating re: devastation of human depravity via Adam’s sin, I eventually get to the resultant inability such sin left us in. I first elaborate on God’s wondrous provision to expiate His people’s sin, via the *Perfect Substitute’s* full satisfaction to the Law’s holy demands & justice of God-His “propitiation”, i.e., Jesus’ removal of the wrath of God, via His death on the cross. I then quote John 3:16. Problem solved, right? All people have to do is believe, right? Not so fast! The same Jesus Who said, “Come to Me...” [Mt.11:28] also said no one had the ability to come to Him unless the Father Who sent Him enabled them [Jn.6:65] & drew them to Him [Jn.6:44]. John wrote that “...the Holy Spirit, Whom the world *cannot* receive...” [Jn.14:17]-what were we, but part of “the world”, before we were regenerated, Beloved? Paul confirms this: “The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God [vis, the gospel ministry: II Cor.3] because they are foolishness to him; neither does he have the ability to do so (!)...” [I Cor.2:14]. Paul said in Rom. 10:9 that in order to be saved one must confess that Jesus is Lord, but I Cor.12:3, Paul also said that no man *can do so* except by the enabling of the Holy Spirit, Whom as mentioned above sinners [the world] don’t have the ability to receive. We’re at an impasse here. I then used a drama to illustrate to the audience how at the time of their conversion the Father was enabling them & drawing them to Jesus, without which they would not, & *could not*, have come. Paul said in Col. 1:13 that at the moment of a Christian’s salvation HE was transferring them from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of His love. [I told the audience that NO Christian knows these things at the time of their salvation & that sadly, many won’t learn of them until they get to Heaven!

☹️] The congregation clapped several times during the message-not for me-God forbid! If that were so I should go into a side room, fall on my face, & weep in deep remorse before the Lord, for stealing the glory from Him! No! They were clapping because they were “getting it”! [You can go to the church’s website above & view the message in their archives from the Jan.28th 10:30 a.m. service]. One woman came up to me later & said after hearing of God’s sovereign intervention & involvement in her conversion, that “it takes the pressure off”. A grand-father said his grandson “Samuel” is usually bored in church but that he was paying attention to me. A woman from the church who played “Eve” for me out of my Time Machine later emailed me, “Thank you for teaching the word of God so simple yet so penetrating.” A church leader’s wife said to me, “We needed you here”. [Little did she know how much I needed them!]. God was hearing my prayer en route down-He was inserting some fresh DNA into them!

“MUTUAL, I’M SURE”



This DNA insertion was not one-sided by any means! Our Lord inserted so much of this church’s DNA in me! Their joy, humility, & freedom in worship was heart-melting & precious. I was born & raised in “The North”. I’m the first Yankee to marry on either side of my wife’s family! I will be honest-it was an “adjustment” acclimating to her family’s “Southern” culture. And this church was filled with “Southerners”! And yet-how very touched & blessed I was by their sincere love of Jesus. The worship leader & his wife were from Georgia & Alabama respectively. I was trying hard not to weep after hearing him minister to the Lord in song so that I could preach afterwards. His wife? She served me as if she were an angel.

“SCHOOLED BY SCHOOL CHILDREN”



I sat amazed as I beheld this church's school children all week. It was so obvious they were bred, fed, & led by godly staff. It made my job for their spiritual emphasis week so much easier. As I've always done with children, I gave them serious, heavy doctrines from the Scriptures-by Jesus' giftings & grace, in a way they could understand & receive. They sang like angels. More than once I didn't want to preach but just listen the whole time to them worship. For one chapel service I did a Time Machine drama & preached but only got through half my message before time ran out. I had no idea of the time-I couldn't see the clock, as I always have the sanctuary dark [both for my drama but also to enhance the kids' attention spans-what they can't see can't distract them! 😊] This has never happened to me. It really threw me & I felt as if "nothing was accomplished". My host, the vice-principal of the school, *Cornelius Cross*-an amazingly anointed & gifted man-said it was fine. Despite this kind encouragement, my spirit was grieved. I was hungry for more of a release of God's Spirit next time than what I sensed in this particular chapel. I hit the floor later that afternoon when everyone else had left. I entreated our Father to move more powerfully the next time. We are in a battle here, & every chapel counts. It must. Our Father was faithful to hear the prayer in me that His Spirit inspired!

“HUDDLED & CUDDLED”



At the end of my final chapel there, where I had preached re: the parable of the *Sower*, & how people’s destinies are determined [on the human side] by the way they handle the Word of God, Cornelius had the children come forward to give me a hug good-bye. Almost all 100 of them gathered around me—all of them wanting a hug, which I tried to give without falling over [I was that tired—this was service #8 of 8!—the most I’ve ever done in so short a time in 32 years!]. It was a very tender, bittersweet moment. Oh, how I hated to leave them. For most of the 2+ hours’ ride home I listened to children’s movie soundtracks’ slow songs & let the post-ministry sweetness envelope me. I’ve often said if the Father should stop sending me to children & teens? Please take me Home, Lord—take me Home. 😞

“AS HE SOWED”



Speaking of the parable of the Sower, one of the most sobering parts of that text is the 2-letter word “as”. “As” He sowed...the very teaching of the parable was being fulfilled. As I preached it this a.m. at a Chinese church I frequent about 2X a year-a very precious group to me-I saw it once more fulfilled while it was being delivered. Once again, as so many times in the past with this congregation, our Lord gave us such a sweet time together. The saints there are very receptive, hungry, & respectful to me. Today was no different. Despite the fact that I had preached 8X over the past 7 days, & that I have been suffering with one of the worst sinus-fatigue days of my entire life, I felt our Lord’s Spirit once again rise up in me when I needed Him. His surge of conviction, urgency, soberness, & intensity once more came out of this very weak vessel. These (mostly) Chinese saints sat, listened, received, & responded to this key-very key portion of the Word of God. And yet-it is an inevitable part of human nature, that most likely all 4 soils Jesus described were present in the room. Not because they were Chinese, but because they were human. One of the most heart-wrenching aspects of ministry to me is the fact that I know of too many children whom I have worked with through the decades-children who were in kids’ church & camp with me, who are now not walking with the Lord. And it’s not just a few. As much as I hate to admit it, At times, I can recall more of them not walking with our Lord than those who are-children with whom I once had “such sweet fellowship in the house of the Lord.” There are times in my travels where I will play the kids’ movie soundtracks mentioned above & pray for these children by name who are now adults,

entreating our Lord to call them back to Himself. Such is part & parcel of bringing the Word of God to the masses-you constantly encounter all 4 kinds of the soil the parable of the Sower elaborates upon-& 3 of the 4 soils Jesus described didn't "make it"! 😞 Fill my seed bag afresh, Lord, as You send me this month to more of Your fields-of all ages!

***Caboose! Commentary Corner:** [My 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 various Bibles I have studied from.] ***"The devil's incessant quest since the Garden: lift man up & degrade God down."** [11/28/'10]; ***God has to create, setup, & ordain His Own obstacles to His eternal plan because the devil's aren't formidable enough to allow for an adequate display of God's glory!"** [7/3/'14]. ***"One of the most grievous things in life to me are Christians, & especially pastors, who teach thus that God's choice of them is because of His foreknowledge of their choice of Him, instead of the biblical teaching that God's choice of His people is solely dependent upon His good-pleasure-His pure mercy. If it is not? And it *is* as they say? It is NOT MERCY!"** [7/26/'14]



Caboose! On the Loose:

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

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

Jan. 7, 14,21: IC, Wilmington, DE: 4 & 5 year-old ministry: puppeteer & worship leader

Jan. 28: Word of Life AG Church, Springfield, VA: 3 Sunday services

Jan. 29, 30, 31, Feb. 1,2: Word of Life Academy, Springfield, VA: spiritual emphasis week

Jan. 31: Word of Life AG Church, Springfield, VA: midweek service

Feb. 4: Hockessin Chinese Evangelical Community Church, Hockessin, DE: Sun. a.m.
English service

Feb. 12-15: Westlake Christian Academy, Westlake, OH: spiritual emphasis week [8
chapels]

Feb. 17: Christian Assembly, Richmond Heights, OH: Valentine's banquet speaker

Feb. 25: Friends of the Cross Church, Corning, NY: 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 [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 sized amount would be greatly appreciated! Thank you!
[click here](#)*

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