

Audio sermons: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministriesaudiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>

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

***NOTE: *Via Dolorosa* signups via www.immanuelchurch.us website begin this month! See attached flyer for details!**

February 2019

“A 19TH YEAR I.C. ANNIVERSARY”



Dear ***Friends & Family***,

[1/29] This past Sunday was the 1st time I preached at my home church, vis, ***Immanuel Church***, on a Sunday morning, in 19 years. A curious coincidence was that it was 19 years to the Sunday! It is not that the elders have not asked me before. I've just been on the road for **19 years this month**, & our church had its own pastor & a number of gifted brothers to minister the Word effectively. I basically felt that my services were not really needed-& that was fine. I've had more than enough to do, believe me.

“LET’S BE ‘CIVIL’ ABOUT THIS”



I will, however, never forget the last time I preached at IC. It was the last Sunday in January of the year 2000-January 30th. Why do I remember this so well? Well, it was my last Sunday on IC staff as children’s pastor-a capacity I served at for four years, less two weeks. I used my *Time Machine* for this service. I performed, along with a host of brothers & sisters in the Lord who helped me, a re-enactment of the Civil War **Battle of Shiloh**, 1862. It led into an illustrated sermon entitled “Christian Casualties”. At that time I was especially grieved & burdened re: how many of my colleagues from Bible school-colleagues whom I sat arm in arm with in chapels that were rich in the Word of God & heavy with His Spirit, had “fallen in battle”. Many had fallen from pursuing the Lord &/or the pursuit of ministry, which is the biggest reason most students attend Bible school. I’m reminded as I type of the tragic & horrific opening scene of “**Saving Private Ryan**”, which portrayed American GIs landing on Omaha beach in the invasion of Normandy on **D-Day, June 6, 1944** [btw-I also have performed a Time Machine drama where I re-enact this scene as well]. What made it so very tragic for these young recruits was that as soon as the landing craft door was dropped into the sea for them to attack-to fight-to defeat the enemy-said enemy machine gunfire wiped most of them out! All of the years of hard training & discipline were wasted & worthless against the might of the German “88’s” on the beach cliffs above. Of course, hindsight is better than foresight but I have often lamented as to why the Army didn’t have some kind of bulldozer with foldable/expandable front blades [to fit in the landing craft] be in front of the men to protect them to take the enemy machine-gun fire as they stormed the beach?! Yes-I realize the craft would have to have been redesigned but when you ponder how many American soldiers lost their lives, I think it would’ve been worth it! Back to being “Civil”-I was in mourning re: my “fallen” brothers, who, when they came to Bible school, had such dreams & aspirations of being in the ministry. Many never made it out of the landing craft. ☹

“CIRCLE THE WAGONS”



This past July, while I was in the midst of my most intense time of the year, vis my 4-summer camps' season, I was walking around the bottom floor of my house praying while Kim was out. Here, I was responsible to feed & lead hundreds of people, from 5-year-olds to senior citizens, which these 4 camps encompassed. And yet, all I could think about as I paced & prayed was my own home church. We were in our 2nd month of a very tragic event that occurred that rocked our church-an event that in my 44 years of being a Christian I have never heard of happening. I saw in my mind as I prayed a massive sailing ship from centuries ago sailing into the midst of dark clouds in a troubled sea. All I wanted to do was be with my own church family. I was wishing all of my usual summer ministry could be canceled so I could do so. But, of course, our Father had other things for me to do. However, when I would pace & pray & our church would come to mind I would always have this shepherd's compassion well up within me to "circle the wagons", gather the people close together, & "cuddle them" in the Lord. If the opportunity ever came up that I would be asked to preach, this is what I planned to ask the elders-i.e., if we could have everyone in the church that Sunday come forward & squeeze in in the front pews as much as possible, side by side. I then felt to have the elders, pastors, & deacons stand up & circle the people, symbolizing shepherding care & protection of the flock. I then saw myself asking these leaders to lay their hands on as many people as they could reach & ask Jesus to touch them as they did so. I then in my mind saw myself asking the people after they were prayed for to lay their hand on the person next to them & pray for them.

“MY DREAM COME TRUE”



Well, given that this “dream” came to me a half a year ago [to the month] in my house I wondered if I should still pursue it. About 10 days before I preached I submitted it to the elders & they said they felt it still was needed. Before I preached Sunday re:

“The Law, The Curse, The Cradle, The Christ, The Cross”,



I entreated the church to come forward. They did-& my dream came true. To be honest, before I went up I was scared to death. I was the previous Sunday too as I pondered

preaching the next weekend. I don't know why. This is my home church. My church family. The church I have been connected with for 19 years altogether! Before Immanuel Kim & I averaged three years at our previous churches! Granted-given the nature of the call on my life at the time, vis, getting children's ministries started in churches then moving on, this was a major reason why our tenure at said churches was so brief. There were other factors involved too. When I arose though, from the front pew to commence, Jesus' faith in me overtook my fear.

"THEOLOGY ON FIRE"



Burdens I had carried for our church for years seemed bottled up in me. I had thrown many "logs" of doctrine & theology into the burner of my heart. I had lain before the Lord, entreating Him for His Spirit's power. Martyn Lloyd Jones once said, **"Preaching, is theology-on fire."** I have experienced that many times in the work our Lord has called & graced me for. And it wasn't long before I started that I felt His Spirit's fire once again. [You can listen to the message via the church bulletin graphic below.] When I finished I felt once again to have the leaders stand up & surround the people & have them lay their hands on them again, to kind of "seal the Word", if you will, in the people's hearts. I released them to go but asked that should they choose to do so, to please do so quietly. At the same time I encouraged the folks who wanted to sit & ruminate on what they had heard to please feel free to do so. And they did. I think I can honestly say the vast majority of the people-I dare say over 80% of them, just sat there-for at least 25 minutes? I continued to pace & pray up front, adoring, thanking, & entreating the Lord to continue to move upon His people. This was more than I could have hoped for. It was like a camp service! Speaking of camp, one of the elders came up to me after the service finally ended. He has been an elder here for decades. He told

me he had asked the Lord for me to bring to our church a “camp service”. Wow. Talk about a confirmation. My heart was full-& humbled once again by our gracious Lord.

“THE MESSIAH-HANDLED-& MANHANDLED”



While preparing for a youth retreat I’m doing this weekend I was once again in the synoptic gospels’ accounts of “Peter’s confession”. After the Heavenly Father had supernaturally revealed the identity of His Son to Peter, Jesus began to shatter *their* concept of “The Messiah”. He would not henceforth conquer the Romans & shatter their pride. He would allow Himself to be rejected, to suffer, & to die at the hands of His enemies. Peter & the others “choked” on this additional “revelation” of the Messiah they were surely not expecting. **“The Life of Christ In Stereo”**, a “blend” of the four gospels I’ve owned [& loved] since 1976 by Johnston Cheney says that Peter “seized” Jesus & took Him “face to face”. I was struck by those words yesterday, though I’ve read them dozens? of times over the years. O God. If Peter had only known Who he was grabbing! Just think, Beloved-if NASA were able to place you in a rocket & hurl you into space to within 100,000 miles of Jupiter? Which dwarfs the Earth?



You would die from a heart attack because of its immensity as you stood before it. Now think-The One Who *created* Jupiter-along with the rest of the vast expanse of the universe, was in Peter’s clutches! “Face to face”: in John’s prologue, vis, John 1:1-18,

the apostle writes that “The Word [Jesus] was *with* God.” Many scholars concur that the Greek preposition that John used which our English translates “with”, is not the usual one used. “Pros” in Greek is not just being in proximity to, but can mean “face to face”, “turning toward”, etc. That is what the Lord Jesus was doing with the Father in eternity past. The implications are huge. A mere man would not be “with God” in the first place—hence, Jesus’ pre-incarnate deity. In addition, this preposition forbids identifying The Word with The Father—i.e., They are not the same Person, since They are “with” Each Other. This refutes “Oneness Pentecostalism”, Modalism, Sabellianism, all of which propound that Jesus & the Father [& the Holy Spirit] are *the same person*, Who just manifests Himself in different “modes” [hence, Modalism]. Angels—the Seraphim to be exact, who continually hover over the Lord’s throne [Isa.6:1ff] can’t even *look* at Jesus [Yes. It was Jesus Who Isaiah saw in his infamous vision, Jn.12:41] in His glorified state! With two of their wings they covered their faces [Isa.6:2]. And here Peter was, staring in the face which stared into the Father’s face in eternity past, chewing Jesus out, telling Him what He could & could not do! Oh, the mystery & glory of the incarnation! Only The Son of God *incarnated* could be held & treated so! But it gets worse. Think of the Roman soldiers who *slapped* Him in the face, beat Him in the head with reeds, impressed the crown of thorns into His skull, ripped His back to pieces with the flagellum, hammered nails into His hands, & thrust a spear into His side? Can you imagine the absolute horror of these soldiers if they died in their sin, when, on Judgment Day, they stand before Jesus’ throne & realize Who they did it to? Pondering on these precious texts from the inspired written Word, Beloved, can bring you to your knees—in holy terror & awe. It has been my burden for decades in my ministry to be so used by Him to impart the fear of the Lord to His people—then & only then do you truly begin to know Him—holy fear, mixed with adoring love. May it be so. It is the *text* that does this, particularly when the Spirit of God illuminates it to the believer’s mind. “Did not our hearts burn within us as He opened up to us The Scriptures?” [Lk. 24:32]. May it be so. Amen.

January 29th, 2019

Sunday's Recap

A+ Report Card

Pastor Michael Guertin shared at Immanuel this past Sunday. The message reminded us that all sides of God are worthy of worship. Ephesians 2 says that we "were dead in our trespasses and sin" and on a grading scale, we would score an F-, but Jesus fulfilled the law in perfect obedience. His score would be an A+ and at Calvary, Christ took our sins and imperfections. In exchange, by His grace, we trade in our F- for His A+.

You can find the sermon and all Immanuel sermons [here](#).

***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 various Bibles I have studied from]: "Luther said the Lord has the devil on a short leash but actually given how sovereign He is, God actually micromanages the devil." [1/28/19]



**Caboose! On the Loose:
*Lookin' out for the little guys...**

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

Jan. 16, 23: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David: worship leader

Jan. 22: Hopewell Community Church, Pottstown, PA: ordination candidate examination board

Feb. 1-3: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: Sycamore Hill Church youth retreat

Feb. 6,7: Wilmington Hospital, Wilmington, DE: hip replacement surgery: 6-week recovery time ☹

Feb. 7ff: Hip physical therapy & Via Dolorosa administrative preparation work

*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](#)

Michael Robert "Guerty" Guertin
3 Windsor Road
Wilmington, DE 19809-2144
(302) 764-0490
www.cabooseministries.org
www.hopewellsummercamps.org
Facebook: Michael Robert Guertin
Ministry Facebook: Michael Guerty Guertin
YouTube Channel: Michael Robert Guertin