

TO UNSUBSCRIBE, please hit “reply” & leave blank. Thank you!

Podcast channel: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministries/audiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>

Website: www.cabooseministries.org *YouTube*: “Michael Robert Guertin” Facebook: (same)

February 2024 **“24 YEARS & COUNTING”**



Twenty-four years ago this month, Kim & I embarked on this live-by-faith itinerant ministry. Prior to this, I had pastored children for **14 years** @ **4** different churches overall, in **4** different states, vis, **NY, OH, PA, & DE**. After finishing my **4th** children’s pastorate here in **DE**, my original intent was to next take a youth pastorate. My ministry strategy I intended to implement was to minister to the youth & also train them how to minister to children. I would then use them as my children’s ministry team in the next church I went to. Hence, I would do both roles, *youth & children’s pastor*, & basically “kill two birds with one stone”. As I sought the Lord & counseled with trusted brothers & fathers in the Lord, we all felt the heart of our Lord for me at that time was rather to be a minister to the **Body of Christ** “at large”. This decision was also confirmed by a minister friend from Australia, **Graham Nelson**, whom I was doing ministry with in Missouri at that transitional time. Graham felt the Lord had spoken to him after watching me minister. He told me that my giftings from the Lord were exactly that-to the Body of Christ at large & not to be confined to one local assembly. Over the 24 years, I have repeatedly seen this truth confirmed. How long will I continue to do so? Only our Lord knows that. What I do know is that His fire still presently burns in me to continue to do what I have been doing. I trust that when it is time for transition He will “dim this present flame” & ignite it elsewhere in His Kingdom. One thing I also know for sure, I have repeatedly entreated Him that when I can no longer bear fruit

for Him on Earth, to please take me Home. Not to bear fruit for Him while we live here on this Earth is a waste of time-& life.

“TURNING TO THE RIGHT OR LEFT”



[1/18] This being the precipice of a new year, it is good, wise, & helpful to reponder the following sobering thoughts. In my travels late last year, I preached a number of times re: **King Josiah & High Places**. Each time I do, I too am smitten by the message's contents. My heart is sickened by how I have been side-tracked by numerous & various enticements. These steal my time, thoughts, emotions, & energy. They also by doing so cause me to do the opposite of King Josiah. What is that? "He did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord, walking in the ways of his father David, *not turning aside to the right or to the left.*" (II Chr.34:2). The more I would go back to the **Sacred Text** & study & ponder these words, the more deeply saddened my heart would become as I recollected how many brothers of mine, with whom I had once spent much time with in the presence of our Lord, had "turned aside to the right or to the left". Some were Bible school students, Some were worship leaders. Now, they don't attend church anymore. On their social media sites there isn't one mention of the Lord, nor of His Kingdom, nor of His gospel. Everything they post has to do with the world, its places of "interest", its places of amusement. They give the impression to their followers that "they're doing good now", now that they're away from "Him" & His Church, His people. Oh, they don't type those words, but that attitude comes through loud & clear. They have "**given up the 'pursuit'**". It is a personal agony I cannot convey in words, Beloved. A number of these brothers had dreams, aspirations, & zeal to serve the Lord in the ministry, & some did. But, now? It's as if they never knew Him. ☹️ I am dumbfounded how so many of them "seem" content in the new life they've chosen. Too many are cynical towards the Church. I don't condemn them for that. I fight that same cynicism on a daily basis. But they allowed the issues that come with The Church, which, by the way,

God's Word said would come, to kill in them their desire for fellowship with the Son of God-a fellowship, which He paid a very high price for them to have! It tears me up inside like I cannot express.

"FLASH PAPER"



One thing I am very afraid these same brothers do not realize, from the very moment they gave up said pursuit, & began their "new journey" to pursue the world & all it offers, is that, in a very real way, *flash paper* began to ignite & burn up all around them in the unseen world. Flash paper is an object lesson I use from time to time to illustrate various biblical principles. For my "High Places" message, it visualizes what happens to a person when they cease their pursuit of the Lord & His will for their lives. Immediately, their works, their endeavors, their pursuits of worldly interests & pleasures, etc., their "substitutes" for God, begin to burn up. Every second not lived for our Lord, His glory, His Kingdom, His gospel, & eternity are wasted seconds-never to be retrieved, never to be relived. They're lost-*forever*. All of us are "being followed". We are being followed by our "works" (Rev.14:13). "...their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, & the fire will test the quality of each person's work (I Cor. 3:13). What breaks me up inside is that these brothers don't realize this is happening. For some reason, if they did, I'd want to believe they'd fall on their faces before the Living God & entreat Him to forgive & restore them to Himself. But, more often than not, they don't. I do know one thing with all certainty-they *will* do this one day, on *That Great Day*, when they stand before Him, in shame & deep regret that they wasted so much of their earthly lives-lives that could have been so productive for the Lord, the True Vine, if only they had continued to cling to Him.

“THEIR JEALOUS LORD”



[1/25] And, how does their God feel about their wandering from Him? O, if they only knew, how very quickly by His gracious enabling & drawing they would come back to Him! When our Lord's people, His Bride, Israel, whom He chose *above & instead of all other nations* on Earth (Deut. 10:14,15), wandered from Him & gave themselves to other gods (which is the only possible alternative when one departs from the Living God) Yahweh, their Husband, *longed for them!* “***I have fond memories of you***, how ***devoted you were to Me*** in your early years. ***I remember how you loved Me*** like a new bride; ***you followed Me***...Israel was set apart to the Lord; they were like the first-fruits of a harvest to Him. *All who tried to devour them were punished*; disaster came upon them...***What fault could your ancestors have possibly found in Me*** that they strayed so far from Me?” [N.E.T.]. It continues to dumbfound & amaze me that our God, being Self-sufficient, i.e., He has no need of anyone or anything, should even CARE how His people feel toward Him! Why does He make Himself so “vulnerable” emotionally to them? I'll tell you why. For His Own holy & wise reasons, He has set His affections upon His people that He has not set upon others. This love on God's part is selective, exclusive, intense, & fiercely loyal. Hence, along with these Divine affections, comes a Divine *jealousy*-even to the point of calling Himself by that Name (Ex.34:14). What brings me to mute adoration is that this jealousy on the Lord's part for His people's affections is so strong, that He even invites them to identify any fault, cause, etc. in HIM that may have caused the breach in their relationship! I don't even know what to say to this, Beloved. I do know this though-our Lord, on That Great Day, will ask every one of those people who wandered from Him in life that same question: “What did I do to you, that you no longer pursued Me during your life??”.

"THE LANDING CRAFT"



In 1998, the movie *Saving Private Ryan* won the **Oscar** for best picture. Its opening scene graphically depicted the horrendous & tragic events surrounding the initial landing by the Allies on the shores of Normandy, France. It was **"D-Day", June 6, 1944**. To invade the beaches, which were occupied by the Germans, the Allies used sea vessels called "landing craft" to bring their G.I.'s to shore. Each vessel was filled with new, young recruits. Many of them were just boys in a very real way. They had spent countless months in boot camp, training, & non-stop drilling. They were fully dressed for battle, both in uniforms, armor, & weaponry. Some were filled with zeal, excitement, & bent on revenge towards the Nazis. Many were filled with anxiety, & all of them to some degree or other, were terrified. Very many tragic events unfolded that terrible first day of the invasion. Surely, the very worst was, as soon as the landing craft hit the beach & their front "drawbridge" doors dropped onto the shore-the dreaded German **"MG-42** machine guns, or the "Buzz-Saw", as they were called, relentlessly mowed down countless recruits in these vessels. All of those months of preparation, all of the money spent to do so, but by far most importantly, all of those precious young lives trained for this historic day, were lost. I have pondered this movie scene many times over the years, when I have mourned over my brothers, who, like me, when we were in Bible school together, had so much zeal & excitement to do great exploits for the Lord. So many, in early stages of their ministries, "when their drawbridge dropped", were taken out of action so quickly. To be sure, since 1986, when I first commenced in the ministry, I felt & feared *many, many times* that *I* was done. It was over. I, too, would be just another one of many Bible school graduate "casualties".

“FEAR IS ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS”



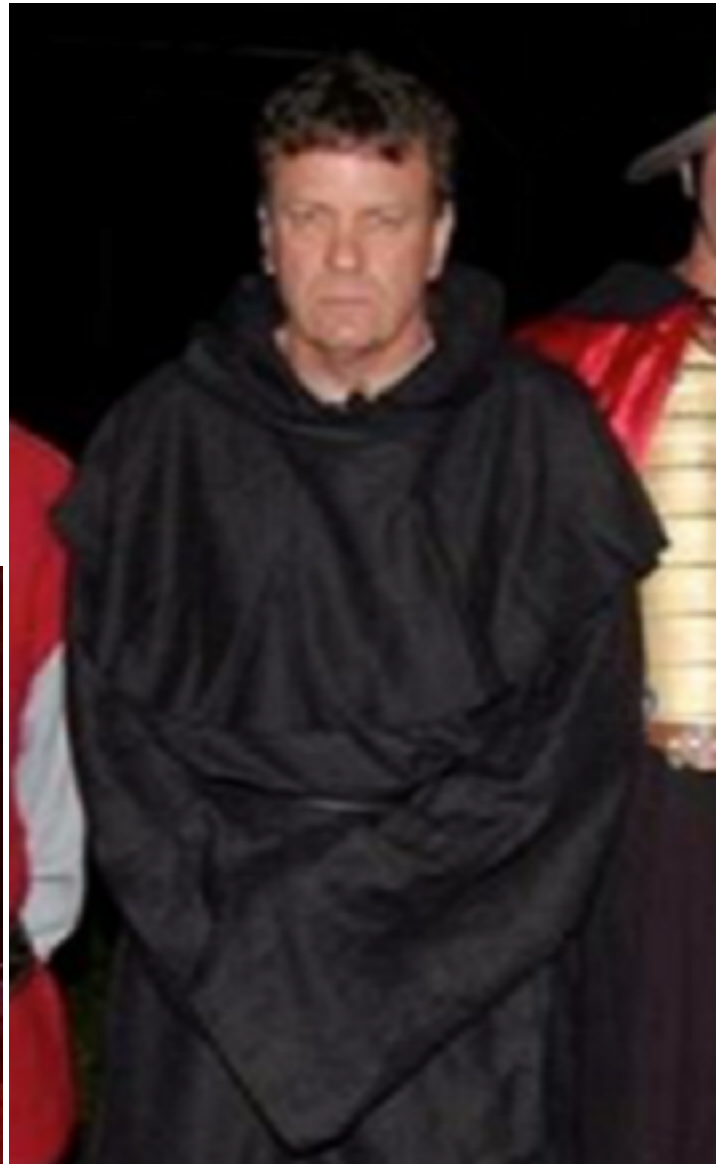
Our Lord has graciously used these brothers of mine, who have become “Christian casualties”, to actually produce the opposite behavior. Repeatedly observing & pondering these tragedies over the many years has bred a fear of the Lord in me that has kept me from doing the same. This fear of the Lord is one of my best friends. It, along with His great love & grace, has caused me to cling, O, so very tightly to Him in desperation. By doing so, I have so very often seen my own very deep frailties & weaknesses & have wondered *many* times, “Oh Lord? When is it *my* time to fall??! It seems, dear Lord, that everyone else is—men who are so much stronger & maturer than me!” Someone astutely observed many years ago, that as far as our walk with God goes, “***The love of God is in front of you, & the fear of God is behind you***”, i.e., to keep you pursuing Him. With this I would concur.

“LONG OVERDUE HOUSECLEANING”



I'm sure many of you are aware of the very, very many scandals being exposed these days in very large ministries & churches, & involving "celebrity pastors" at that. I must admit, I feel a very deep gratification that this is finally happening as these men have so hurt the honor of the Name of our Lord, & have caused the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme. Yet, at the same time, these exposures of things hidden (& not so hidden!) have caused many ministers to press in closer to the Lord to ensure "crouching sin" doesn't overcome them!

“FROM THE PROPHET JEREMIAH TO MARTIN LUTHER IN 8 DAYS”



Two days after you receive this newsletter, I will be coming out of my ***Time Machine*** for the very 1st time as the prophet ***Jeremiah***. I have portrayed several **Hebrews** over the decades, vis, ***Abraham, Moses, Mishael, Nadab, Joshua, Gideon, Samson, King Solomon’s cavalry captain, Elijah, Queen Esther’s cavalry escort, King Josiah, Isaiah, Daniel, Simeon, John the Baptist, a 1st century Jewish vineyard owner, the Prodigal son, Jesus of Nazareth, Barabbas, & now, Jeremiah***. After all, my name “***Michael***” is Hebrew! **מִי כֵאל**, *mī kā’ēl*, 'Who [is] like-El {God}?'. The “Weeping Prophet” will come out of the Time Machine after having been flogged & bound by **Passhur**, the high priest’s assistant (Jer.20). Jeremiah received such treatment for prophesying against Judah’s idolatry & apostasy. He was also persecuted for predicting the coming doom upon the wayward nation via the army of **King Nebudchadnezzar**.



This dramatic presentation is for our **Hopewell Summer Camps' Winter Reunion** event. It is a gathering for all veteran staff & campers from any year since **hsc's** inception in **1985**. Parents of younger-aged campers (age 12 & up) are also welcome. Eight days later I shall emerge from my Time Machine once again as **Martin Luther** for a Sunday a.m. church service in PA. Luther, like Jeremiah, was also a prisoner at the time of his life the drama will portray. Both men were confined & persecuted in one way or another for speaking the truth—something desperately needed in our time as well. In myself, like these men, I am weak, weepy, & cowardly. These are hardly the character traits to be a preacher of the gospel. I am often fearful of men. Yes, I know—it brings a snare (Pr.29:25). But, our Lord, Who resides in me, is afraid of no one. I fear Him, &, fall on Him. And, it is enough. If I trust in myself, which is insanity, I'm sure to fall. But "the Lord upholds him with His hand" (Ps.37:24). May it be so. Amen.

"ON THE PRECIPICE OF A NEW YEAR"



As Kim & I commence our **25th year** of live-by-faith itinerant ministry, I can think of no other prayer to pray at this time than a heartfelt entreaty David made to the Lord millennia ago: "Search me, O Lord, & know my heart, test me, & know my ways, & see if there be a wicked way in me, & lead me in the way everlasting" [Ps.139:23,24). Blessed are the pure in **heart**, for they

shall see God (Mt. 5:8). Is there any greater goal & pursuit of a minister, or of a Christian for that matter, than to see His face? I think not.

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: **"In the Old Testament, the fierceness of God's wrath toward His people is directly proportional to the intensity of His jealous love for them."** [M.R.G. 1/26/'24]



Caboose! On The Loose!

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

Jan.24: a.m. Converge Church, Moorestown, NJ: Elim area pastors' mtg.//pm-hsc directors mtg.

Feb. 3: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: Hopewell Summer Camps' Winter Reunion

Feb. 6: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg//Hopewell Network Pastors mtg.

Feb. 11: Hopewell Community Church, Pottstown, PA: Sun. a.m. service

Feb. 18: Pursuit Church, Manheim, PA: Sun. a.m. service

Feb. 19: Home: meeting with engaged couple whom I'm marrying this Spring re: wedding details

Feb. 21: Converge Church, Moorestown, NJ: Elim area pastors' mtg.



***Michael is an ordained *Elim Fellowship* itinerant Stateside missionary & *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 this link to give directly: <https://elimfellowship.org/missionary/michael-guertin-guertin>

Michael Robert "Guerty" Guertin

3 Windsor Road

Wilmington, DE 19809-2144

www.cabooseministries.org

YouTube: Michael Robert Guertin

FaceBook: Michael Robert Guertin

www.hopewellsummercamps.org

