

January 1, 2015

"HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

*Dear Friends & Family,*

"*CABOOSE!*" END OF YEAR REPORT For 2014"



This week will mark the completion of **29 years** of full-time ministry, & **15 years less a month** of living-by-faith itinerant ministry as an Elim Fellowship home-missionary. Once again, as in previous years, **2014** encompassed traveling thousands of miles to minister in various states, which included **DE, PA, NJ, NY, & OH**. I *preached/taught 56X*, plus taught a number of times in addition to that, & drove **5,864** miles just for preach-ing ministry. This did not include many more miles for non-preaching ministry-related meetings & events. *Venues of ministry* included Sunday morning whole-family services, a senior citizen meeting, young adult services, 2 young adult retreats, youth services, youth retreats, a youth conference, children's services, youth & children's camps (4 last summer), home groups, a Bible school chapel, a Bible school class, a Christian school chapel, a camp banquet, a men's addiction-recovery ministry, a 4-night "Passion of Christ" drama, an inner-city mission service, & a non-stop praying-for-revival service ministry. Expressions of the Body of Christ I ministered to were ***Elim Fellowship, Hopewell Network, American Baptist, Mennonite, Italian-Pentecostal, Independent Pentecostal, & Charismatic***. Once again, I could not help but notice

the Father had me share “the basics” to His people, i.e., the doctrines of grace, the supremacy of Christ versus idolatry in His peoples’ hearts, the nature of the Word of God, the exclusivity & indispensability of the gospel, & The Person of Christ. As with 2013, this past year showed occasional involvement in **worship leading** for adults, youth, & children.

### “JESUS NOT ‘DASH RIPROCK’”



(12/15) In the light of the Christmas Season, I’ve been doing much study recently in Phil. 2:6-11 re: Jesus’ humiliation via His condescending to take on human flesh. Michel in Kittle’s Greek Dictionary said it was “the abyss of lowliness” for the Savior. Charles Hodge said something to the effect of, that for Jesus just to become **human** was unfathomable enough-but to be born of lowly means, in a stable, of poor parents, to be rejected by most for most of His public ministry, & to die such an horrific death reserved for slaves & criminals, is beyond human comprehension. Speaking of “being found in fashion as a man”, one would expect that He, being the unique Son of God, without equal, the **2<sup>nd</sup> Adam**, etc., would appear as the most handsome man who ever existed. Surely Adam, the first man, was exemplary in features. Joseph, David, Saul son of Kish, Solomon, Absalom, etc., were all handsome men. If men today were honest, most would admit they wished they could improve one or more of their facial & bodily appearances. And yet-the Scripture is clear: “He had no form or appearance of being handsome, that

we should be attracted to him” [Isa. 53:2]. One scholar I resorted to said even this was a humiliation for Jesus. Wow. I had never considered that as part of His humiliation.

### "the Devil's Diet"



There are three portions of Scripture concerning the devil that when I ponder them, they turn on inside warning-signals. The first is in **Job**. The Lord asks **Satan** where he has been. His reply of “roaming to and fro throughout the earth”, of course reminds one of the **Apostle Peter's** warning to Christians that Satan does indeed do that very thing-but then Peter elaborates further, as to *why* the devil does so-he's “seeking whom he may *devour*” [1 Pet. 5:8]. I'm not surprised the Holy Spirit inspired Peter of all of the apostles to record this in Holy Writ, as Jesus personally warned him years before, “Simon, Simon-Satan has desired to sift you like wheat...” [Lk. 22:31]. The evil one desired Peter; he desires Christians; make no mistake-he wanted Job too. He was not content with just taking his possessions, children, & health-he wanted his life-his soul life, if you will. Only the Lord prevented him from doing so. Satan feeds on “soul food”. He values the human soul more than most humans do. Every ploy, every scheme, every temptation, etc., ultimately, in his agenda, is to see souls lost & damned like his. Thank our God Satan is not sovereign. If so, all of us would have been gone years ago. He would kill lost souls before they could be saved, & he'd kill Christians before they could preach the gospel to them! When Peter warned Christians re: keeping watch for the devil, he also charged them to be “sober”. Thoughts such as these sober us up. We constantly need sobering-up as we live in a world that is drunk with a party spirit, which is a work of the flesh, which is sin.

## “THE TITANIC & HURRICANE KATRINA”



I often think sobering thoughts-& yes-I deliberately *try* to think them. If I don't, my flesh is just like anyone else's-shallow, wanting nothing but entertainment & comfort. Every year at this time I peruse celebrity deaths of that given year. This annual practice does so much for me: it teaches me to number my days, that I might live in the fear of the Lord & become wise; it curbs my envy of celebrities' fame, wealth, & luxury, when I see in a moment's time it is gone, & that compared to eternity these temporal amenities are dust in the wind; it stuns me re: the stark contrast between a lost soul's prosperity while on earth versus the unfathomable eternal nightmare they now face, & I often muse how very shocked these celebrities must be at the moment of death when they see the Lord Jesus Christ in all of His resplendent glory, staring them in the face before they're quickly sent to the temporal holding tank of torment, Hades. I recently mused upon the following the other day:of the several hundred lost souls who perished in the icy-cold waters of the North Atlantic that fateful night in **April 1912**-think of it, Beloved-again, *in a moment's time*, they went from freezing-cold waters to the fires of Hades [Lk.16], where they will be night & day until Judgment Day, after which they & Hades itself will be thrown into **The Lake of Fire**. A musing that personally hurts & shakes me even more is an incident I saw on the news in 2005 re: the events surrounding Hurricane Katrina. A charter bus full of senior citizens was en route out of New Orleans, seeking to escape the devastation there, only to have their bus catch on fire! The news reporter said that this particular fire burned even hotter than a typical fire would because of all of the oxygen bottles [re:

breathing assistance] the seniors had on board. O! It even hurts to write about this! But think about, dear ones chosen of God-these poor souls, i.e., those of them on board this bus who were lost-went from these *extra-hot fires* on earth to those unfathomably hotter in Hades! O! Nightmare of nightmares! And yet-*this* is what we are to be about, Beloved. Reaching those outside of Christ before they enter **Hades'** gates-never to return! ["But Michael", you might retort, "isn't giving yourself to such thoughts morbid?" Being an evangelist I trust not! God help the evangelist who *doesn't* ponder such things from time to time!]

For those who think these musings are too sober, somber, depressing, etc. to start off a new year, I would retort that thoughts like these are the very ones that stir me to more prayer, attention to **God's Word**, & num-bering *my* days-"*New Year's Resolutions*", if you will-that I might attain unto wisdom & more fruitfulness! O! May it be so! O Father-may my natural fear of man be overcome this year by Your love for them!

[Ministry/events for JANUARY & those not listed in last month's newsletter:"Caboose!' on the Loose"!](#)



Dec. 7: IC, Wilmington, DE: The Father's House: worship leader  
Dec. 10: IC, Wilmington, DE: Young Adults' home group: teacher  
Dec. 17: a.m.: Audubon, NJ: Elim Fellowship credential holders' breakfast mtg.  
Dec. 17: p.m.: IC, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David worship leader  
Dec. 31: IC, Wilmington, DE: New Year's Eve Service: worship leader  
Jan. 3: Sunday Breakfast Mission, Wilmington, DE: worship team drummer  
Jan. 6: Petra Christian Fellowship, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//pastors mtg.  
Jan. 10: IC, Wilmington, DE: DeHop worship team drummer

Jan. 17: Friends of the Cross Christian Church, Corning, NY: Camp Victory Banquet: speaker  
Jan. 18: Friends of the Cross Christian Church, Corning, NY: Sun. a.m. speaker  
Jan. 21: New Covenant Christian Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim credential holders' mtg.  
Jan. 22-25: Steel Hill Resort, Laconia, NH: Hope Community Church youth retreat: 4 sessions  
Jan. 28: Our home: IC Young Adult mtg.

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