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January 2018

“CABOOSE! END OF YEAR REPORT FOR 2017”

Dear *Friends & Family*,

This week will mark the completion of **32** years of full-time ministry, and **18** years less a month of living-by-faith itinerant ministry as an Elim Fellowship home-missionary. Once again, as in previous years, 2017 encompassed traveling thousands of miles to minister in various states, which included **DE, PA, NJ, NY, OH, VA, & Costa Rica**. I preached &/or taught at least 53X, & traveled **11,736** miles [5,579 for air miles to Costa Rica] just for preaching ministry. This did not include many more miles for non-preaching ministry-related meetings & events. Venues of ministry included Sunday morning whole-family services, youth services, youth retreat, children’s services, 4 youth & children’s camps, a men's mtg., a men’s retreat, Christian school chapels, an addictions’ recovery group, a wedding, 2 funerals, a kids’ workers’ conference, & a 5-night “Passion of Christ” drama. Expressions of the Body of Christ I ministered to were **Elim Fellowship, Hopewell Network, Evangelical Free, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Independent Pentecostal, Reformed, Charismatic, & Evangelical Chinese**. As with 2016, this past year showed occasional involvement in *worship leading for adults*. [12/3]



***New Year’s “Turkey Talk”:** **Kim & I have been living entirely by faith since February of 2000. I’ve been ministering the Word of God to old & young visually & dramatically in my travels. We live just like foreign missionaries. Yet-our Lord has called & gifted me to do my missions work among the young & not so young in the U.S. What I do & “how” I do it is most suitable for the American culture. Kim & I have prayed for more & new open doors of ministry this year-“to boldly go where I’ve never gone before”, so to speak. 😊 If the Lord should prompt you [&/or perhaps your church might be interested in taking us on as Stateside missionaries] to help us continue our work, *no matter how small or large the amount, monthly, occasional, or a 1-time gift*, we would be very grateful. Kim, the bookkeeper of our ministry, has informed

me that for many months time & again we have been under our Elim Fellowship “budget”. We constantly look to our Jehovah-Jireh for His supply. Amen. For those of you who have supported the Lord’s work through us in the past we thank you so very much. [click here](#) to give directly electronically via Elim Fellowship.

“[At] ‘GOODWILL’ (with thoughts) ‘TOWARDS MEN’”



Yesterday Kim & I went to a local Goodwill store [yes-she’s a cheap date! 😊], not only to take advantage of a sale they were having but also to donate bags of “stuff”. While Kim was checking out, I went & sat in the car. While watching the countless people & cars hurriedly racing by in the usual flurry of the Christmas season, I began to ponder the immensity of what the Lord of the Universe did that His people celebrate this time of year. And, I immediately began to grieve-& pray-something to the effect of: “Oh God, most of these people rushing by don’t give You the time of day. They ignore You, Lord. They could care less about the unfathomable humility & condescension You displayed-You, the Creator of the vast universe & galaxies, where even the smallest star dwarfs the earth, not to mention the less-than-microscopic [in the lens of the “electron microscope of the universe”] human beings that occupy it. Oh God. Forgive us. We just don’t get it. We just don’t get it. Why aren’t all of us on our faces in the light of it? Or at least crawling around, given the weight of the glory of Your Person & this unfathomable act?!”. I couldn’t take it, Beloved. I just couldn’t take it. Such things are too weighty for me. I began to quickly despair, giving up hope of things in our society ever changing. Oh God. Oh God. But then- “I entered the Sanctuary [His Word, i.e., in my mind] of God” [Ps.73:17]- Given the rapidly-spiraling ethical decay of our society, I identified in my heart with the missionary in India years ago, who, when surrounded by their countless idols & deities, exclaimed: “I no longer want to live in a place where Jesus is so unglorified.” O! How I often relate to this brother!

“TIDINGS OF COMFORT & JOY”



Comfort came when I remembered one of the platinum doctrines that permeates the entire corpus of Scripture-“You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you.” [Jn.15:16] “The Lord knows those who are His.” [II Tim. 2:19]. “...He has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world.” [Eph.1:4]. These & countless other texts of Scripture attest to the fact that all of God’s people will be brought in! And this will happen despite the moral decay of the society. Beloved? In a very real way, our society is just rapidly becoming like that of the New Testament! We’ve been spoiled! Our society in the U.S. has been drenched, relatively speaking, with the gospel & its “after-effects”-like few others in human history! How very blessed we’ve been. But now-given our decades’-long, across-the-board rejection of the Lord, His Word, & His people who represent Him, He has only one recourse after rejection of so much divine light [another fact of Holy Writ]: judgment. God’s blessings have a concomitant responsibility & accountability proportionate to the Light given, that come with them, vis, “to whom much is given, much is required”. He is “letting us go”, “giving us over” [Rom. 1:24,26,28], to what we want. This is exactly what He did with Europe. It is not a biblical judgment like those that have happened in the past, vis, fire from Heaven, world-wide flood, the earth opening up, etc. This one is much more subtle & terrifying, as the people who are being judged, i.e., released from sovereign divine restraint, to do whatever wickedness they want to indulge in, don’t know it is happening to them! In fact, many times these people believe because they are not immediately judged for their wickedness that not only is God “OK” with it, but that He endorses it! [Ecc. 8:11] These thoughts, though heavy & sobering, believe it or not, brought comfort to my soul. They reinforced to me once more that our God knows what He is doing. All is going according to His eternal plan [Eph.1:11, 3:11; Rom.8:28] which He has designed with the glorification of Himself through Christ Jesus. Praise His Name. I pray I will continue to remember these precious truths as I continue in the upcoming year to keep proclaiming to both old & young His excellencies & redemptive work.

“‘FRIEND’-ly ‘PERSUASION?’”



Speaking of the “young”, a long-time friend who lives in Missouri occasionally substitute-teaches at a nearby public school with the younger-aged children. While summoning the children recently in his class, he addressed them as “boys & girls”. He was approached by a guidance counselor at the school & told not to address them as such, but only as “Friends”, just in case there were any transgenders in the group! This happened in a school in the Bible-Belt! It happened among the younger-aged children! Needless to say, my friend did not acclimate to the request, but continued to address them as “boys & girls”!

“‘NINEVEH’ of the ABOVE”, or “NOT-SO-FAST?”



If the above article re: the state of affairs of our nation distresses you, may I reassure you, being an evangelist, that I constantly ache, mourn, grieve, angst, & long for a true, God-sent revival in our land. At the very least I ache for it in my ministry. We have yet to see in our day a true, biblically-based revival. Of all of the moves of God I have either heard of or been involved in in my lifetime, I have yet to see one like Jonah experienced with the king & people of Nineveh. Those I’m aware of have involved all kinds of “manifestations”, even similar to those Jonathan Edwards encountered in the First Great Awakening in the 18th century. However, as I ponder the encounters of men-& pagans (!) with the Lord of the universe in the Scriptures, I just haven’t seen what the Bible depicts. This is not to say it hasn’t happened. What manifestations am I longing for? The Fear of God. Repentance. Intense mourning over sin. Etc. The holiest men in Scripture accounted themselves as dead men in the Sovereign Lord’s presence. Moses. Joshua. Job. Isaiah. Peter. John. When the majesty & holiness of God

were revealed these men became undone. Many were unable to stand up. Rather, on their faces they fell. Ezekiel needed the Lord's Spirit's enablement just to stand up. Oh God-when I observe & ponder so many "preachers" today-they're not preachers. They tell stories, chit-chat, jokes, etc. Many are so flippant in their demeanor & how they handle the Scriptures. [This reminds me of what Paul Johansson, Chancellor of Elim Bible Institute told us decades ago: "We need more *preachers*-not 'sharers'."] And we wonder why we have no revival! The apostle Paul would have made said preachers look infantile spiritually. He said he came to the Corinthians, given the high-calling on his life & the eternal consequences hanging on the acceptance or rejection of his message, "*in weakness, with great fear & trembling.*" [I Cor. 2:3]. The Lord told Jeremiah re: the false prophets of his day, "...if they had stood in My counsel, they would have proclaimed My words to My people & *would have turned them* from their evil ways & their evil deeds." [Jer. 23:22].



Before being used to instigate revival via his preaching of warning [RARE it is to hear messages of *warning* these days!] Jonah had to first experience his own "personal revival" of being severely & terrifyingly disciplined by the Lord! Isn't it amazing our Lord didn't seek another to do the task? I love the amazing grace displayed in Jonah-God chose him & that was it. Some of the most gracious words in all the Bible are, "And the Word of the Lord came to Jonah *a 2nd time!*" Nineveh's wickedness had come up before God-to the point of His purposing to destroy it. When the sorely disciplined prophet preached, "Yet in three days Nineveh will be overthrown!", not only did the people respond & repent, but the king himself [wickedness often in a society trickles from the top down], got off his throne, put on sackcloth, & sat in ashes! This is one of the most astounding miracles in all of the Bible! *Obviously, GOD granted* repentance to this nation! [Acts 11:18; Phil. 1:29; 2 Tim. 2: 25,26]. What makes it doubly unusual & miraculous is that not only did the king command that no one in his kingdom eat or drink, but he also forbade it to *the animals!* I've read or heard of revivals in centuries gone by where businesses & shops would close down, due to how powerfully the Spirit of the Lord was moving in that society. But to think in Nineveh, *even the animals had to fast!* You can just imagine if this were to happen in our day the uproar that would ensue from the animal rights' activists! But then again, if the move of God were as heavy as that in Nineveh, even that would be a non-issue! Oh, as I type & ponder these things may the Lord do this once more in our day. It's my quest & ache for this new year!

“HALLOWING THE NAME”



I never reveal the camp theme this early, but it is pertinent to the present discussion. The theme for this upcoming summer is “Hallowed Ground”, vis, “hallowing the Name” of God, which is synonymous with His Person. It is my goal among the young [& not-so-young!] to see God’s people hallow His Name. O! How little it is hallowed, held in high honor & esteem, by our society-among all age groups! My goal, via preaching Christ-centered, God-glorifying doctrine that is bathed in prayer & touched by His Spirit’s power, is to see a move of God like this again. O Father, I can think of no higher aspiration for the work You give & grace me to do in this generation! Please come & enable me to more faithfully & fervently please & serve You in this new year!

***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 consequence of rejecting the message is directly proportionate to the magnificence of the Messenger.” [3/27/’11] *”Toning down the gospel message loosens the grip of its adherents.” [12/1/’08] *”The severity of Christ’s manner of death reveals 2 things: the great heinousness of man’s wickedness & God’s great holiness, wrath, & hatred of sin.” [7/26/’11]



Caboose! On the Loose:

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

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

Dec. 3: Maranatha Christian Fellowship, Moorestown, NJ: 30th anniversary of ministry tribute to Geo. Bowen

Dec. 13: New Covenant Community Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area pastors' mtg.

Jan. 2: Petra Christian Fellowship, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.///network pastors' mtg.

Jan. 10-21: our daughter Laura & her family of 6 return for another 10 days re: their missionary furlough

Jan. 28: Word of Life Church, Springfield, VA: Sun. 2-a.m. services & p.m. service

Jan. 29: Word of Life Christian Academy, Springfield, VA: school chapel

*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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