

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

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

January 2019

"Happy New Year!"

"CABOOSE! END OF YEAR REPORT FOR 2018"



Dear ***Friends & Family,***

This week will mark the completion of **33 years** of full-time ministry, & **19 years** less a month of living-by-faith itinerant ministry as an Elim Fellowship home-missionary. Once again, as in previous years, **2018** encompassed traveling thousands of miles to minister in various states, which included **DE, PA, NJ, NY, OH, VA**. I preached/taught at least **64X** & traveled approximately **4,758** miles 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 retreats, children's services, mid-week services, 4 youth & children's camps, Christian school chapels, two banquets, a pastors' mtg., & a 5-night "Passion of Christ" drama. Expressions of the Body of Christ I ministered to were ***Elim Fellowship, Hopewell Network, Assembly of God, Chinese Evangelical, Independent Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Interdenominational, & a Seeker Sensitive Church***. As with 2017, this past year showed occasional involvement in ***worship leading for adults***. In addition, on the Sunday mornings I am at my home church, "Immanuel Church", I strive to provide puppet shows for the nursery, 4 & 5 year-olds, & sometimes our children's church service, a.k.a., "Father's House". I have found these short puppet shows are one of the biggest thrills for the children that day. As with camps, I strive to make sweet childhood memories in the House of God among His people. Amen.

[12/11] "SILENT NIGHT? HIS 'SILENCE' WAS DEAFENING"



Kim & I went to FL late last month to visit our daughter, son-in-law, & family. They were repositioned there from Costa Rica in August by their mission organization for strategic purposes. One evening we attended their city's annual Christmas celebration festival. There were food booths galore, two mini trains [of course I rode in the *Caboose!!*]. There was a grand stage with blaring Christmas music, bright LED floodlights, singers & dancers, & an emcee's voice booming over the loudspeakers. They even had "bubble machines" with fans that produced artificial snow! [a first for me]. There were throngs of people everywhere. Yes-I was caught up in the atmosphere. I've always been a "Christmas nut", & wished for years I could make toys at the **North Pole** for a living! Those of you who know me know I'm not kidding 😊. But then-I looked up. Towering above this **Holiday** din was a vast panoply of Florida evening sky that was such a display of the glory of God it could take one's breath away. And yet, I saw no one looking up to notice it. In the midst of the excitement & joy of being in the midst of man-made "attractions" I began to mourn for God. He was declaring, "screaming" if you will, His glory on His heavenly "stage" above [Ps.19:1], yet no one was listening. In pure vastness, His stage above exponentially dwarfed the one below, yet no one was "storming the stage", with their adoring eyes & ears, as concert-goers call it here on earth. **"KNOW OFFENSE?"** To ignore God is a high offense-a "Most High" offense-given the "infinite dignity of His Person" [Charles Hodge expression; 19th century]. One need not be a violent offender or hardened criminal. All it takes to offend Him is to ignore Him. The prophets of Israel staggered like drunken men as they pondered the danger Israel put herself in when she did so [Jer.23:9]. The Scriptures are clear-until a person repents & flees to Jesus for forgiveness the wrath of God "towers over him", just like the heavens did over this Christmas crowd [Jn.3:36; Eph.2:3]. He has given His all-His Darling of Heaven, to remove His Own wrath from being upon those who believe. And now-He waits. Silently, yet-silently with a deafening roar via the "art gallery" of His glory, in the heavens.

“CHEAP COMPETITION”



What further intensified the situation & increased wrath [Rom.2:5] is that 1: He was being ignored by His image-bearers! And by them alone! And 2: is that **Santa Claus** was repeatedly sung about & to. He was ascribed with Divine attributes & actions, such as “his coming”, his omnipresence [“he sees you when you’re sleeping...”] & omniscience [“he knows when you’re awake...he knows if you’ve been bad or good”]. As if the Lord was not slapped in the face enough! What is so tragic is that Santa never comes. Every year he is celebrated & anticipated. And he never comes. He never gives anything. And yet, here, towering overhead was the God of all creation, Who “spared not **His Only Son**” [Rom.8:32]. Thoughts & meditations such as these over the years have slowly removed the “Christmas nut” from deep inside of me.

“THE LINE OF LINES”



Having recently completed a summer & fall season of preaching re: **Judgment Day**, I could not help but have thoughts of it as I meandered through the crowds with our daughter, son-in-law, & grandchildren. Because there were food booths everywhere, there were *lines* everywhere. And there were ethnic groups galore represented. And it was a beautiful thing, despite my deep sadness for the Lord I was experiencing. As I meandered through them, both young & old, I could not help but remember that all of them, every single one of them, would be present before Jesus’ glorious throne one day. O God. It will be a single file *line*. One person at a time-to give an account.

"A-'CHOIR' THE IRE?"



Speaking of wrath, a dear friend of mine recently showed me a Facebook post of a Christian choir-ensemble “invading” [in my words] a fast food restaurant. I believe they call them “**flash mobs**”. The person who showed it to me meant well, but you, like I, will be surprised how I reacted to it. As these mobs typically do, all of the sudden they just rise up & start singing praises to God in a public setting. I get their motive. They’re trying to “bring God’s presence” into & onto the scene, with hopes of some folks coming to the Lord. However, the more I watched & listened the more annoyed I got with them & offended for the folks who came to the small restaurant just to get something to eat. They didn’t come to be sung to. They came to eat. As the person filming the scene panned across the customers, I don’t recollect seeing one who was enjoying it. The singing was loud, interruptive, & surely startled the diners when it first commenced. In addition, the song they sang didn’t mention the gospel, Jesus, nor His cross at all. It was a song “for Christians only” who already knew God. There was no truth content in the song which could be used by the Holy Spirit to convict & draw sinners. Unbelievers are dead in sin [Eph.2:1], hostile to God [Col.1:21], & unable to please Him [Rom. 8:8]. As crazy as it sounds, Beloved, I found myself offended for the sinners! And I’M an evangelist, constantly burdened for the plight of the lost! It is what I live for-to reach them! I just don’t believe this is the way to do it. Enough said.

“FROM WRATH OF GOD to WRATH TOWARD GOD”



I recently heard a good brother encourage some fellow Christians to be free to be angry with God. This is not the first time I've heard some well-meaning Christian do so. And yet, each time I have heard any preacher encourage folks to do so, I have cringed inside. I realize what they're trying to do-to encourage God's people to pour out in total honesty their thoughts & feelings re: things & not be afraid that God can't handle it. And yet-I still find it impossible for me myself to ever give anyone such advice. [I realize **Cain** was angry with God. The Lord was so tender & patient with him despite it. Nevertheless, remaining unrepentant, Cain was handed over to **the evil one** {1 Jn.3:12}; **Jonah** was angry with God. God reasoned with him as well, but left the embittered prophet to his sulking self, although, unlike murderous Cain, the Lord did not forsake him.] Why Michael? Because in every situation, not matter what the case, the said angry person is always wrong. How can anyone be justified in being angry with an infinitely wise, good, & holy Person? With Someone Who is never wrong, Who can do no evil, & always does everything absolutely perfectly every time? The problem always lies with **man**. Hands down. [You may recollect from last month's newsletter my very deep & prolonged struggles with numerous & various debilitating health issues. Yes. I confess. I have had anger well up in my heart towards God-& with other of my many "issues" in the past.] And yet-the only thing I can ever do with my times of being angry at God is to entreat His forgiveness for my being so. Because I know I'm the one who is wrong. I'm the one who is sinning by being so. Anger at God is "understandable", given our fallen, sinful, human condition-but never excusable.

“THE ‘GRECIAN’ JEW”?



My Greek teacher in Bible school was a completed, Messianic Jew from N.Y.C. I loved being with & sitting under his tutelage. I will never forget him sharing with me decades ago his anger at God for “messing up his life”. He was basically saying he was doing fine until the Lord came along. Now everything was a mess. [Welcome to Christianity! This is par for the course for all of God’s true people!]. He shared with me what he said & how he vocalized it to God-using a pretty severe expletive. He told God to get out of his life. I cringed inside with fear as I listened. I couldn’t believe my ears! And yet, and yet-to be honest? I so very much longed deep within my soul that I could have the “freedom” in my walk with God to do that myself-to know that I was so loved by God, & locked in an eternal covenant with Him, as obviously my teacher/friend did, that I could do & be & say anything I felt & still know “like 2nd nature” that He would never leave me. I didn’t have that security then & I don’t now. I’m not sure I would want to have it. Yet, I must confess I envied him & longed to know God like he did. He was secure in his faith. I work on it daily. This is why the “**Golden Chain of Salvation**”, vis Romans 8:28-30 is priceless, precious, & indispensable to me. This is why the Apostle John’s “**Golden Chain of Salvation**”, vis Jn.6:37-39 is a golden anchor to me. This is why Eph.1:3-8 is a non-negotiable for me.

“SPEAKING OF THE NORTH POLE”



Above I mentioned I daydreamed for years that I could be an elf [Ok, well, maybe not an *elf!*] toymaker at the **North Pole**. Yes. I know. It was an escape mechanism. But I couldn't help but love the idea.



Well, I recently came across & joined a "**Guertin Family Descendants**" group on [Facebook](#). In my understanding, the original **Guertin** who came from France resided in Canada. His name was **Louis**. He had two sons, **Adolphus & Medrick**. I am descended from Adolphus' line. My father's father & his grandfather's names were Adolphus. Despite that however, in the light of my "**North Pole** employment aspiration", I seem to perhaps have more of **Medrick's** blood in me than Adolphus'. Well, at least in one respect. One of the pictures posted on the FB site was of Medrick assembling **Fisher Price** toys in his kitchen. I'm assuming in the light of that he did this as an aside job.



Over the **30+ years** of ministry, I have made **7 Time Machines**, **1 robot**, numerous & various puppet stages, Bible games, countless object lessons, costumes, armor, weapons, shields, kids church props, camp props & signs, etc. When I saw the picture above I couldn't help but feel connected to him, both by blood & trade. May we say it runs in the family? 😊

[12/13] "CHERUBS AT THE ALTAR"



Kim & I got home late last night from a church in Birdsboro, PA's weekly community children's outreach. These faithful servants have been conducting this crucial ministry to the young for years. I've ministered at it a couple of times in the past though it had been some years since I was there. I was suffering from a lot of pain in my body, specifically from my lower back down to the bottom of my feet. Before I preached I was backstage behind my Time Machine stretching & praying. I'm glad no one saw me. They may have thought I was a Muslim the way I was kneeling with arms outstretched forward on the floor! 😊 I had about 35 minutes to give my "**Why There Had To Be A Christmas**" message, which involved expounding on Creation, The Fall, Depravity, The Law & its demand for absolutely perfect righteousness & man's dismal failure to do so, the resultant deserved wrath of God for that failure, & God's free choice to save angels, men, or no one! Using my moral "report cards" object lessons, I explained to the children God, given Who He is, must demand an A+ grade from everyone, old & young. If He were to accept anything less He would lower & violate His Own perfect standard. This introduced the incarnation. Jesus had to become human so that He could *die*. I was watching the clock diligently, as my ministry hostess, sister in the Lord, & longtime friend, a.k.a., [Jess Blankenbiller](#), had informed me of their schedule needs. In addition, there were five-year olds [& at least one 4-year old!] in the room. Jess had told me earlier that week that one of the 5-year olds was like a 2-year old inside. I told her that oftentimes in my travels over the years when I'd do whole-family church services [my "specialty"] Jesus' presence would so come in the room that even the very young ones would sit still through it. Yes-there have been exceptions, but this is what we prayed & were hoping for last night. And-it happened! The very young children-yes, even them-were sitting very still throughout the entire message! When I finished Jess came up & I assumed she was going to end the night. How blessed I was when she asked if the children wanted to come up to the altar in response to the message & express their love & thanks to the Lord for what He had done for them. As they knelt there I went from child to child as I knelt on the platform & laid my hand on each one's head. Child after child would look up at me. Their tiny little faces, so childlike, so "cherub-like", so [relatively] innocent, naïve, & tender, looked up at me in respectful gazes. It was one of the most precious things I have ever beheld in my

almost 34 years of working with children [& all the other age groups] in full-time ministry. I shall never forget it. It is an indescribable honor-a very high honor-a sacred trust-from our Lord to be called to such work. I've often said, "There is no other place in **Christendom** I'd rather be than at the altar with a broken kid or teen." I pray our Lord will heal me physically so that I can continue for years to come to live this "dream-come-true". Amen.

"IT GOES ON, JUDAH-THE RACE GOES ON."{line from Ben Hur 1959}



Here, once again, our gracious Lord has gifted me with another year of ministry. My deepest hope & ache is that He will grant me many more. As I also said in last month's newsletter, I still have the fire in my mind & heart to keep doing what I'm doing. [You will notice below I'm scheduled for a hip replacement surgery in early February]. So, I will keep seeking Him in this new year, I will keep praying for His open doors of ministry, & of course, for His provision to do so. May it be so-for Jesus' great Name's sake. Amen.

PS-Kim & I want to sincerely thank those of you who sent **Christmas** cards & gifts.

****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]: "With the lost, the spirit is NOT willing, & the flesh is weak." [6/12/'04] "Have you been broken before the Lord? If not, PLEASE don't preach to me!" [7/23/'04]



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

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

Dec. 30-Jan. 4: our oldest son Matthew & family of 7 visiting from OH.

Jan. 8: Petra Christian Fellowship, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg./network pastors' mtg.

Jan. 13: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: Warehouse youth group

Jan. 16: New Covenant Community Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim Fellowship credential holders' mtg.

Jan. 19 or 26 [date to be confirmed]: Converge Church, Moorestown, N.J.: kids workers' seminar

Jan. 27: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: 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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