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**July 1, 2016**

*Dear Friends & Family,*

**“THE SATURN 5 OF CAMP 1”**



**[6/25]** I returned home last night from my 1<sup>st</sup> of 4 camps this summer. This one was our sr. hi camp. Despite months of preparation, I felt so unprepared when I left for it. Though this is the smallest of the 4 camps [though we did break an attendance record by 10!], it is the hardest. It is the 1<sup>st</sup>. I strove in study, in prayer, in meditation, in packing & loading, in countless texts & emails, in the highly stressful staff recruitment process, in an end-less stream of administrative work that always dismays me as it cuts into my most pre-cious & important preparation, viz, being before the Lord Jesus in His Word & presence. There were nights I would awaken in the middle of the night & have an anxiety attack. I saw in my mind the massive “Saturn V” rocket on its launchpad. This rocket lifted the 1<sup>st</sup> men & their equipment to the moon. The very weight of it [6.2 million lbs.!] on top of its transporter [top speed 1 m.p.h.] from its assembly bay to the launchpad would crush the gravel road underneath it to powder. And yet, when it did launch it would exceed speeds 15X that of a high-caliber hunting rifle!

**“LET'S LIGHT THIS CANDLE!”**



Similarly, when the U.S. was preparing to send its first man into space, a.k.a., Alan Shepard, the NASA engineers were worried re: technical glitches they were encountering at Mission Control. Shepard was anxiously awaiting in the capsule on top of the rocket & could hear flight control cautiously deliberating re: whether they should proceed in face of the possible dangers involved. He interrupted them & said, “Let's light this candle!”. And they did. And the rest was history. On opening night of camp for many years I would say that to one of my spiritual sons who was my assistant director when we'd be outside of chapel anx-iously wondering how things were going to go. We'd pray, then look at each other, & quote Shepard. Unlike NASA that day in 1961, we didn't cast ourselves upon chance, but upon the abundant supply & manifold provision of our Father's grace. He's never disappointed.

“TURN THE CANNONS ON THEM!”



The Saturn V did get off the ground that July day in 1969 & made history. So did our camp “Saturn V” last week. As we launched the week, however, there was no small opposition to our endeavor. Early in the week we were hit with a cluster of issues & attacks that in my 26 summers at Tel Hai I cannot recall being so numerous & intense all at the same time. Two of my counselors were “hit”-one with a physical malady & the other with a psychological/emotional one that were looking to take both of them out of action. I quickly called a backup counselor to “fill the hole in the line”, just like at the Battle of Little Round Top at Gettysburg, when the Union army on top of it was losing men, which, as with the Saturn V moon launch, also happened to occur in July, almost exactly 100 years prior. With the other counselor, as she trembled in fear, I laid my hand on top of her head & quoted several Scriptures re: God's grace & sovereignty, & His selection of her to be His Own in eternity past, knowing full-well back then when He decided to do so, that she would have these struggles-& He still chose to choose her! I offered to call that same off-site counselor who had filled the hole for the other stricken counselor [Praise God she recovered from her physical malady!] to cover now for this one. However, this one wanted to stay in the game-better: to “stay in the arena”, which is surely what we were in. This same evening two campers “went down” emotionally. Both had issues they were struggling with “surface” in the intensity & battle of camp. One of my assistant directors went after the one, while my other director tended to the other. On top of all of this, my two assistant directors plus the camp office itself were

getting harassed with countless phone calls from an irate parent due to two of our campers [who, by the way, were having a wonderful time] being involved in an ugly divorce situation. I had to hold one of my assistants who just broke & wept in my arms. It was the first time in 26 years at Tel Hai that all 3 directors missed the entire sermon of our guest speaker due to dealing with issues. [Yet-while all of this warfare was going on outside of chapel, God was moving mightily among the campers inside!] I was reminded of another scene from the movie *Gettysburg*, viz, "Pickett's Charge" [I took the audio off of my VHS copy of the movie many years ago to listen to it for vision's sake]. 15,000 Confederate infantry marched across an open field right into Union artillery fire. Robert E. Lee, who ordered the charge, was a masterful tactician in battle, but this surely was his gravest mistake. Even his right hand man, Gen. James Longstreet, strongly advised him against it. In the may-hem & carnage of the battle however, amazingly, despite suffering huge losses, some of the Rebel troops made it up to the Union line & cannons. Gen. Lewis Armistead, who was leading the attack, screamed at the top of his lungs repeatedly, "Turn the cannons on them! Turn the cannons on them!" This scene burned in my heart, mind, & soul. This is what we needed to do as so many of our "corps" were falling. "Turn the cannons on them!"-*Them*, being the hordes of evil ones who knew we were there & why we were there, & sought to resist & thwart our efforts. How did we turn the cannons on them? We kept *praying & preaching & loving on the campers*. I can honestly say that this week was one of the sweetest re: fruit & moves of God in the several dozen camps I've done at Tel Hai. Our Thursday evening service was one of the best ever. How so? In the way that the campers broke, repented, responded to God, sang & testified spontaneously, repeatedly & fervently loved & hugged each other-how they longingly *stayed* in the chapel. In fact, I had to very reluctantly dismiss them just after 11 p.m. re:Tel Hai's curfew, out of love & respect for our Tel Hai "family".

## “BACKED UP TO BACK TO BACK CAMPS”



I have 3 more camps to prepare for-right at my door. My next one is our jr. hi. camp, followed the very next week by my annual N.Y. camp. This is the most intense ministry slot of the year for me. I preached to the staff last Sunday night from John's gospel's Prologue, 1:1-18. It says “from His fullness we have all received one grace upon another”. Scholars differ re: this verse's proper interpretation, but the one that seems most likely to me, is additional grace is poured in *after you have used the previous grace*. If it is just piled up, so to speak, it seems to be “wasted grace”. I have surely been using the grace afforded by our gracious Lord, for every conceivable area of my life-this gives me hope He is sending more. May it be so. Amen.



*Caboose! on the Loose:*

**MINISTRY/EVENTS FOR JULY & THOSE NOT LISTED IN LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER:**

June 8: IC, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David: worship leader

June 10: IC, Wilmington, DE: Encounter God Service: worship team drummer

June 15: New Covenant Community Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim credential holders' mtg.

June 29: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.

July 9-15: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: hsc Jr Hi Camp: pastoral director

July 18-22: Friends of the Cross Church, Corning, NY: Camp Victory: chapel speaker

July 23: Door to Hope Church, Canandaigua, NY: Sat. evening service

July 24: Door to Hope Church, Canandaigua, NY: Sun. morning 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, 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 [https://www.denarionline.com/DONORSERVICES/TEMPLATEPAGE.ASPXCOMP\\_REF=\\_ELIMFEL&SID=vjywxzcot0d5c5pnrq1f0rnl&CONTENT=MISSIONARY&MISSION\\_REF=E8668ABEC7](https://www.denarionline.com/DONORSERVICES/TEMPLATEPAGE.ASPXCOMP_REF=_ELIMFEL&SID=vjywxzcot0d5c5pnrq1f0rnl&CONTENT=MISSIONARY&MISSION_REF=E8668ABEC7)

If your church would be interested in ministry by Michael, please feel free to contact us. [www.cabooseministries.org](http://www.cabooseministries.org)