

**Audio sermons:** <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministriesaudiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>  
YouTube Channel for Time Machine Dramas & Sermons: "Michael Robert Guertin"

## July 2018

Dear Friends & Family,

### "SOWING & 'SEEDY' CHARACTERS"



[6/30] I returned home late last night from my 1<sup>st</sup> of 4 annual camps this summer. It was our Sr Hi camp, comprised of about 67 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders. As always, I meet with my staff the Sunday evening before the campers arrive. [For a glimpse into some of what I shared with them you can view this special video I had made by one of our camp tech men. It came to me while cutting the grass a few weeks before camp: <https://youtu.be/j3F0DnSsnSM>] I shared with them the advantage of staying in one ministry site long-term. This has not been the case with me with my four children's pastorates over the span of 14 years. Mine & Kim's average stay at a church while pastoring children during those years was about 3 years. This occurred for various reasons. I was a "starter" for one thing-almost like an "apostle" if you will-i.e., once I had equipment built, personnel recruited & trained, & the ministry up & running, I felt like I needed to start over, as my gift was not "shepherding-maintenance" mode. I do not minimize this "mode" at all. This is what "keeps the sheep" on the human side. Camp, however, is the one venue I have had the richness of experiencing this long-term aspect of ministry. I have been at Tel Hai now 28 years. I have the children of former campers now. Former child campers are now by my side either helping me direct or counseling campers. There are few greater joys in all of life for me. There is a downside to long-term ministry though. You are able to see if your plowing, sowing, watering,

& fertilizing young souls “took”. I have pondered about one group of children who sat under me decades ago many times. Our Sunday a.m. services in kids’ church were often like our camp services: in-depth doctrine, Holy Spirit filled worship, & countless times at the altar together in repentance & adoration. And yet, as I have observed the lives of many of these children as they have aged & gone through the various stages & trials of life, how deeply saddened I have often become seeing where they are & are not now. It’s an ache I cannot convey. You assume in the back of your mind because they are children-relatively innocent & tender, & easily impressed, etc., that these precious childhood encounters with the Word & the Spirit of the Living God will last through all of their lifetimes. And yet, how often this is not the case.

## **“SOILED FOR LIFE”**



For the Sunday evening staff vision-imparting meeting mentioned above, I went to the text/portion of the Word of God that perhaps above all others in my 44 years of knowing Jesus I have spent the most time in, re: studying, memorizing, meditating upon, preaching, etc., vis, the parable of the Sower. Why? I suppose because my biggest motivational gift is evangelism, & I constantly ponder & ache where human beings I encounter will spend eternity. The parable of the Sower explains why, on the human side of things, why people wind up in Hell. It is all determined [again, on the human side-we’re not discussing God’s sovereignty right now] by how humans handle the Word of God. Three of the 4 soils Jesus mentioned & likened to human hearts, “didn’t make it”. And they were in the presence of the Word of God Himself! I told the staff this would be the case, as difficult as it is to believe, among the young people last week. I told them every adult that winds up in Hell was once a child. I told them that according to Jesus,

most of the population of the entire human race from Adam & Eve until the last human being is conceived, would spend eternity there. Jesus said “many” would walk the road to destruction, & “few” would find the road to life. He couldn’t have been more clear. And yet, I’m aware that the number of the “few” is a number that no one can count [Rev.7:9]. Still, my heart is always aching & mourning to ensure we “get as many in” as possible, as much as it lies with us, we, being God’s means, via being bearers of the gospel, to bring in His chosen ones.

### **“FROM ALL SIDES”**



I had a plethora of different & variously gifted preachers & teachers come in, as my heart was to come at the kids from all sides, & to give them the most balanced diet spiritually for the week as possible. The messages were full of doctrine-sound doctrine-God, Christ, & cross-centered doctrine-all encapsulated in the richness of the Holy Spirit’s presence. One would think given this that the kids would go down like wheat before the scythe in response. Such was not the case. Yes, of course, many humbled themselves & expressed it before the Lord & unashamedly before their peers. Yet-there were many, just like the first 3 soils in the parable of the Sower, who resisted, & resisted again, throughout the week. Nevertheless, we kept coming at them-with love, words, prayers, hugs, etc. One by one many more “fell”. Kids who were professed atheists [of course, Romans 1 doesn’t acknowledge the existence of such nor allow such an excuse on Judgment Day], kids who were abused, kids who came to camp with all kinds of issues, their hearts’ “soil” like a vacant lot, strewn with every kind of garbage & filth [I had an object lesson for that], kids who have grown up in church-we had just about every kind of teen there this past week. And, we watched the Word of God do its work.

## “THE BACK ROW”



If there is one phenomenon at camp that has always distressed me in one way or another through my 36 years of camp work, it is the “back row”-particularly of the oldest boy campers at Sr Hi camp. My heart aches & grieves as I watch some of them who have come to camp since they were little boys, never seem to enter in & yield to what is happening in the service. Oh God. And then they leave me. Never to return as a camper. I’ve often ached & have told both the staff & the campers, “If you don’t yield to God here, where are you going to?” We strive to make camp as intense [minus the hype!], deep, & sincere in approaching the Lord & His Word as possible. And we also strive to make it *safe*. We charge the campers at the beginning of the week that we won’t tolerate unkindness of any kind. It is our years’-long endeavor to make camp a secure place where campers can express their love to God however they want to & not fear being mocked or criticized by their peers. So, in the light of that I have often been dumbfounded that despite that, so many through the years have remained hardened & unresponsive. Oh God-it’s an ache I can only heave up to the Lord & His great faithfulness.

## **“A TICKET TO ETERNAL LIFE-or-EVIDENCE”**



I told the staff that we as the Lord's vessels that week would provide only 1 of 2 things: the means by which the campers would obtain eternal life-or evidence against them on the Day of Judgment if they reject the gospel & die in their sins. I told them either way we are doing our work. Our Lord is responsible for the fruit- we are responsible to plant the seed. And that we did, as I said, through so many of the Lord's servants. **“BACK TO BACK”** The next four weeks are the most intense of the year for me. They include preparing for back to back camps in PA & NY respectively, & then the actual on-site ministry they entail. With the countless details re: packing & loading, administrating the camp, & sermon preparation, focus is essential. This is not to mention trying to recuperate & refill & refresh from pouring out day & night this past week. May the Lord draw me to Himself & show me His perfections & glory through His written Word by His Spirit's illumination-& I will be satisfied. Amen.

**\*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.] "God's Word deserves to be preached by those who are in awe of it." [M.R.G. June 2018]





## *Caboose! On the Loose:*

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

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

July 3: Heritage Restaurant, Morgantown, PA: hsc camp board mtg.

July 14-20: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: hsc Jr Hi camp: pastoral director

July 16: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA: father-in-law's interment service

July 23-27: Friends of the Cross Church, Corning, NY: Camp Victory: chapel speaker

**\*If the Lord should move upon your heart to help us do the Lord's work, Kim & I would be very grateful. Even if it was only \$5 a month, it would help. If your church would be interested in taking us on as missionaries, that would be such a blessing too-no matter how little the monthly support! See link below.**

**\*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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