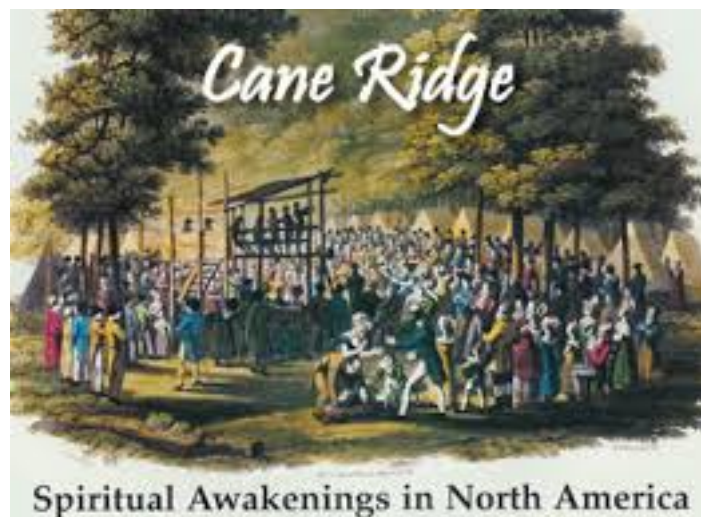


**Audio sermons & newsletters:** <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministriesaudiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>

**June 1, 2016**

**Dear Friends & Family,**

**"CANE RIDGE, KENTUCKY & TEL HAI CAMP"**



On the threshold of my 34<sup>th</sup> summer in camp work, I recently found myself “bankrupt” re: desire, vision, & motivation to do another season. As with Via Dolorosa this past Spring, the “umph” inside just wasn't there. And, the way I'm wired, I need that “umph”, the sense that God is in this, that I'm supposed to be doing it, etc. If *it's* not there, *I'm* not. I recently read in [The Encyclopedia of American Religious History](#), an article re: the **Cane Ridge Revival** in 1801 in Cane Ridge, KY, not far from Louisville. At the time, the population of Louisville, Kentucky's largest settlement, was about 2,000. Well, the Cane Ridge Revival drew 10,000 people in a week! Initiated by 2 Presbyterian ministers [this comforted me, given their reputation for solid, biblical doctrine and aversion to mysticism, emotionalism, “revivalism”, etc.], it encompassed a week of various preachers [A Methodist minister was involved too] preaching simultaneously to the milling crowds from platforms built at various locations. They called the people to repentance & to submission to the Lord's reign in their hearts. As with The Great Awakening about a half-century before, attendants cried out, fell on the ground, wept uncontrollably, “barked”, etc. [I'm not condoning these manifestations.] Jonathan Edwards faced the same situation during the Great Awakening & wrote a work re: it called [“The Signs of the Spirit”](#). My musings re: it are, “Are these manifestations the

result of the Holy Spirit, given that they have often occurred during such revivals of the past & in more recent history, OR, is this the standard fare of how human beings react emotionally when the Holy Spirit is poured out in a given place?”. It is not easy to decipher. Be that as it may, what struck me as I read & re-read these accounts was the need for young people of every generation to sit under solid, biblical preaching, drenched in the presence of the Spirit of God. This is what I ache for. This is what I long for. This is what I mourn for.

**“NOT ON MY 'TIME-LINE'-NOT ON MY WATCH”**



As vision was kindled afresh in my heart to once again do camp, I thought, “Why *wouldn't* I do camp?! The young people of my day desperately need to experience the move of God in their lives, & that is *exactly* what camp has been to countless staff, teens, & children in the quarter of a century I have had the privilege & honor of serving as a pastoral director there. I mean, like, if we stopped camp, what of the young? In my mind I took a step back from *this* summer in my mind, & looked at the time-line of American religious history during *my watch* of ministry. A fresh resolve arose in my heart, NOT to see a “blip-less” line in the time-line of *my* life, re: the absence of the moves of God. O God! NOT on MY watch! If Jesus tarries, I want people to look back through history books & observe that, “Hey? Look at this-during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century & into the 21<sup>st</sup> century at Tel Hai Camp there were constant, continuing moves of the Spirit of God among young people!”. I dread even the thought of standing before the Lord & Him showing me my ministerial “time-line” & seeing no “blips” on it-viz, moves & stirrings by His Word & Spirit. O God-please come again to

us this summer, as You did in the days of Samuel, who “laid down in the temple of the Lord, *where the ark of God was*”, where You revealed Yourself to him by Your Word! “And the Lord *continued to appear* at Shiloh.” [1 Sam. 3:21]. May it be so. Amen.

**“CHURCHES & A FROG IN THE POT”**



Last evening I had the privilege & honor to preach at Hopewell Christian Fellowship of Telford, PA's new church-wing dedication. Its pastor is a brother, friend, & “boss” re: the head of the camp board I serve on. It was a joyous occasion, & rightly so. However, I felt so burdened in my heart to warn this precious congregation, that many congregations throughout Church history have been in a similar situation. Many have

gone to great cost & lengths to build their wonderful edifices, both church buildings & even cathedrals {many of which have taken years & sometimes *centuries* to build!}, to the glory of God, only to find them, centuries or even decades later, to be used for *secular, & even ungodly* purposes! So many buildings which in time past echoed with praises of the faithful now house religious groups who preach doctrines of demons, denying the Christ Who bought them. Others have become **breweries, pubs, antique stores, thrift stores, private homes, Islamic mosques, Mormon “temples”, & office buildings**. How does this happen? **Al Mohler** rightly said recently that the normal bent of religious, educational, & governmental institutions is to always “go left”, go “liberal”, etc. Many once deeply conservative groups are now bastions for liberalism, in every sphere & discipline of life. It happened over time, little by little, one small compromise after another [Hence, the proverbial “frog in the pot”] via a neglect & diminishing of the authority of the Word of God. The founders of these once thriving, evangelical, gospel-proclaiming institutions would turn over in their graves if they knew what had become of what they had founded. Esteeming & reverencing God's Word, coveting the presence of His Spirit, & providing viable ministry to the young will keep such institutions from becoming monuments to “what once was” as far as the blessing & purpose of God is concerned. May He help us.

### **“CAN THIS TREE LIVE?”**



Last week I noticed our elderly neighbor across the street watering a holly “branch” that he recently planted next to his driveway. While this was a noble idea, the branch steadily showed no sign of growing, but each day continued to die a not-so-slow death. Nonetheless, our neighbor continued to virtually drown it with his garden hose, dousing it, surely, with gallons of water in the hopes it would revive & come back to life. It was both irrational & sad at the same time. This brought to mind a family I know

of, who likewise have “poured” several thousand dollars [perhaps over a million?] over the decades, into their children's religious education. This religious institution they have been so loyally devoted to for so many years, “watering it” with their \$, attendance, & time, has utterly failed them. Their marriage has been strained for many years, none of their several children knows, loves, or serves God. Two of them have lived in illicit relationships, another has been sexually promiscuous. And yet-they continue to support this bankrupt religious institution. Jesus said, “A tree is known by its fruit.” My neighbor refuses to face the fact that his “tree” is dead, continuing to pour his resources upon it. In like manner, this family cannot, because of their religious loyalty, give up this denomination that has left them spiritually destitute. Tragically, this is such a common phenomenon in American religious life. My prayer is that by “power-encounters” with God this summer via His Word & Spirit, this tragedy will not re-occur with our campers.



**Ministry/Events for JUNE & those not listed in last month's newsletter: *Caboose! On The Loose:***

May 18: a.m.: New Covenant Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area pastors' mtg.

May 18: p.m.: IC, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David: worship leader

May 20: Richmond Hall, Philadelphia, PA: Belizaire/Melendez [camp staff] wedding

May 21: IC, Wilmington, DE: DeHop: worship team drummer

May 22: Hopewell Christian Fellowship, Telford, PA: Sun. evening service

June 7: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//Network pastors' mtg.

June 20-26: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: hsc senior high camp

\*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)

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