

**Audio Sermons:** <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministries/audiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>

**YouTube Channel** [for dramas, sermons, & puppet shows for kids]: “**Michael Robert Guertin**”

**Website:** [www.cabooseministries.org](http://www.cabooseministries.org)

**Caboose!** Facebook Site: “Michael

‘Guerty’ Guertin”

*June 2020*

### “BEHIND ENEMY LINES”



Dear **Friends & Family**,

[5/15] I’m still shellshocked re: the recent decision that camps have been canceled this summer. I can’t get over it. As if my heart wasn’t broken enough in April when, after 16 years of performances, our church’s annual production of **Via Dolorosa** had to be canceled because of **Corona**. Without a miracle, this will be the first summer in 38 years I will not minister to old & young in the camp-ministry venue. Kim & I have been pacing & praying around the bottom floor of our house entreating our Lord, as one sister in the Lord put it, for a “reversal”. He is definitely able. While doing so, I was playing the soundtrack from *Saving Private Ryan*. I did a Time Machine drama at camps & in my travels in 2004 reenacting the **D-Day Normandy Beach** scene from that movie <https://youtu.be/wwkkWhdHssl>. For those of you not familiar with this movie, which won Oscar for Best Picture in 1998, a special unit of men was assigned to go deep behind enemy lines to rescue one man-**one man**. Many of them didn’t make it back alive, including their leader. But, that one man was saved. That is what I was entreating our Lord to do with me. I want to be that “special unit” that goes deep behind enemy lines-to rescue

children & teens from the evil Axis powers [the world, the (sinful) flesh, & the Devil] that have invaded their lives, taken occupation, & taken them captive.

### “SWIMMING IN A CESSPOOL”

Why are summer camps so very vitally important for our young? Because each day, every day, every one of them swims in the cesspool of our vile culture. Said culture ignores God, [if you don't think just *ignoring* God was serious, just ask the prophets of Israel! Just to *ignore* Him is a *high* offence, given the supreme dignity of His Person}], & dishonors Him while at the same time, acclaims the vile & perverse. “Former” “Christians” with huge followings parade all over social media to millions their now-present detestation of Christianity. Videos & music venues of every kind shamelessly broadcast around the world sins which are an abomination to God, having no fear of Him, etc...THIS, Beloved, is why we need camps! Camps are just the opposite-each one is an incubator for the campers & the staffàthe warm light of God's love, the “soft straw” of His Spirit's comfort at the bottom, the food dish constantly filled each day with the nutritious, sumptuous fare of God's Holy Word, & the glass terrarium of protection from the forces of sin, *Satan*, & the world.

### “A ROOM WITH 3 VIEWS-& 3 KINDS OF SINNERS”

As Kim & I continued, proceeding through our living room, dining room, & kitchen, when the weather allows we also include our backroom in our prayer circuit. Interestingly enough, as we went through the backroom outside our many-windowed walls I saw 3 different young people at 3 different homes, each doing something different. One, was sitting on his back patio. If it's the young man I think it is [& not his brother], he's preparing for medical school. A noble profession. The 2nd? Out working around her house. She lives with a man who is not her husband. The 3rd? A young woman who at her tender age has been ravished by drugs, illicit sex, cigarettes, her body wasting away, etc. None of them are Christians. All of them lost. What tears me up even more is O!, what a waste it is when you have not known or walked with Jesus in your teenage & young adult years. O! As I kept praying, once again, the words of *Paul Johansson*, the former

president of *Elim Bible Institute*, rang in my mind & heart. These words were spoken decades ago to me in Romans class. “Bro Jo” as he is affectionately called by thousands, said there are 3 kinds of sinners, “El Grosso” sinners from the dregs of society, “Good” sinners, who lead noble, moral lives, & “Religious” sinners, who have a show of godliness but deny its power. All 3 of these classes are so very different but all share the bottom-line denominator: they’re all *sinners*. I sat down at the computer & told Bro Jo what we were doing & that once again, his words from decades ago, were as sharp & poignant as if spoken this morning.

“ARMED & DANGEROUS”



Shortly after I got up from the computer from emailing Bro Jo, I felt moved to go to my basement & get out of its case stashed up in the rafters, my antique Russian sniper rifle that a dear little brother in the Lord [Billy Kulp] gave me many years ago. The rifle doesn’t work, but I have used it a # of times in dramas in churches & at camp. As my heart swelled with the *SPR* soundtrack playing, my eyes filled with tears, I strapped the rifle over my shoulder, as a visual prayer to our Lord. “Father? I want to be that unit who goes behind enemy lines to rescue children & youth. Father? My heart burns with fire O Lord to do this. Father? I need a truck. Lord? I need open doors & ministry venues. Lord? And I need my health. O God. O God.”

“THE MOST SACRED PLACE ON EARTH TO ME”



The young need to be reached, dear saints. Now. I cannot conceive of life not being around them. When I did my “D-Day” Time Machine drama at Jr. Camp in 2004, I shall never forget it as long as I live. After expounding on the helplessness of humanity because of their depravity, I extolled the Three Persons of Trinity/ Godhead-all 3 Persons. Specifically, I shared how They, in glorious concert, based on Their eternal plan formed in the recesses of eternity past, “invaded” the human race. The sons of men were under Satanic “occupied forces”. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Captain of our salvation sent by the Father, “landed on our shores”, to rescue His own. Jesus did so by allowing Himself to be taken captive & killed in His people’s place. The Holy Spirit then came & “made good” God’s eternal plan. How so? He enabled dead-in-trespases & sins human beings, to believe & receive the gospel-without Whom they never could [Jn.6:44,65; I Cor.2:14]. When I finished preaching that night, I was so broken & my heart so tenderized [as grace was designed to do!] after having elaborated re: the sovereign grace of God, that I laid on the floor before the Lord along with the children. If there is a “Heaven-on-Earth” to Michael Robert Guertin, this is it. It is a sweetness I cannot convey, dear ones. I have said for decades, **“There is no other place in Christendom that I would rather be, than at the altar with a broken kid or teenager.”** May it continue. May it continue-for the Lord Jesus’ glory alone. Amen.

**“WHY COVID-19?-THE BIG 3”**



The **Corona Virus Pandemic**, along with all other events in God's eternal plan, both world-wide & molecular in size & scope, are ordained & used by Him for **3** basic reasons: **1.** To promote His glory, vis, God always, without exception, in everything He either allows or directly does, does so to display more of His glorious attributes & perfections than if He chose not to do or allow said event. Our God, in *everything*-always takes "the Most Glory Route", i.e., "**Route 1**"-& never "**Route 66**", i.e., "man's route" [see Rev.13:8]. **2.** In the context of His people-& His people exclusively-He does these things to make them more like Jesus [Rom. 8:29]. **3.** Again, for His people exclusively, He does or allows said events for His people's good [Rom.8:28] There surely are more reasons for our God's moves, dealings, ways, etc. with man, but these 3 are always the top 3 reasons, in every situation-with no exceptions (again, the last 2 only in respect to His people). I say all of that to say this-God's people are no different than all of the rest of the world's population in that they too desire this pandemic to be over as soon as possible. They miss each other. They miss getting out. They miss family, etc. "However", as we say at camp all of the time, this season of confinement *is* producing its fruit. **David Jeremiah** said this so astutely & concisely in his 4-minute video on **YouTube**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ghUW4WM0Tg> Of everything I have read, heard, & even said myself nothing has placed more faith & hope in my heart than David's insights re: the Covid-19 pandemic.

["MR. ROGERS & MY DREAM COME TRUE?"](#)

When I was a children's pastor years ago here in DE at my home church, Immanuel Church, one activity I enjoyed doing on Friday mornings, which was my day off, was to watch the "Mr. Rogers" television program. I loved his tenderness, his slow pace [unlike mine], his gentleness, his simplicity, & the security I felt by entering his little world in his studio living room. Also, his show tended to slow down my constantly-racing A.D.D. mind! In addition to this, while watching the show, I often daydreamed of actually succeeding Mr. Rogers on his show when he either retired or passed, & when I "got off the road" re: my itinerant ministry travels. I envisioned a children's TV show as my next phase of ministry. In fact, one of my many dreams never realized [we dreamer/visionary types have TONS of dreams that never happen but need to be given our space to have them! It has taken Kim decades to learn this & not to be terrified when I'd spout off something I was dreaming of doing. 😊] was that of producing a children's TV show right in my office at Immanuel! My office was upstairs in the educational wing of the building in the far-left cubicle of the 6 cubicles that made up the room. I envisioned making each of the other cubicles a different "set" for the TV shows' episode. I dreamed of having various people from the church as "guest stars". A typical agenda & format for each show could be similar to [though not include every item] my Sunday a.m. children's services at the church: Welcome & Chat, a puppet interruption, an opening prayer, a Bible game to review the previous week's lesson, a costumed character guest, Bible Memory Verse time, maybe a Time Machine drama, worship, & an illustrated message. Due to the quarantine I'm pretty much stuck at home like everyone else. Being an itinerant minister for the past **20+** years, this surely has been a difficult adjustment. And yet, as with the Apostle Paul in prison, who surely was the "king of itinerant missionaries", God used his confinement to produce the fruit of the pastoral epistles! I wouldn't dare place my name anywhere near the great Apostle, but I do see a Divine pattern here. Being "quarantined-confined", I have seen it has caused me to produce things I would not have done otherwise. Some of you may have seen some of my **TabTalks** which I produce each week on my **YouTube** channel & **Facebook** pages. Presently they are a verse-by-verse exposition of **Hebrews chapter 1**. It has taken me 4 weeks just to get through verse 3! And yet-given what a "white hole" [versus black hole] of Divine truth it is, I could have easily spent several more weeks in it!



They're about 15-minute devotions, "Videvos", maybe? Huh. Just made that up.



### "A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK?"

In addition, I've been producing puppet shows weekly with my faithful sidekick "Chip" the ChipMonk. It's spelled chipMONK & not chipmunk because he wears a monk robe! 😊 Chip has been with me for **29 years** but I am able to keep him a perpetual **4-year-old** by placing him 3X a week in my *Time Machine* out in the garage! So, only our God knows but these two weekly productions could be the seedbed of that "Mr. Rogers-like" TV show dream come true! 😊 Trying to come up with a new script idea each week for Chip is not easy, as true-to-form, Chip all of these years typically gets in trouble & exudes the opposite character trait we've tried to inculcate into the kids. He's a "Barney Fife" of sorts. 😊 To see our two grandsons watching an episode [our daughter-in-law videoed them watching Chip] & break out laughing & excitedly anticipating what will happen next makes it all worth it.

### "WATSON' YOUR WALLET?"

Another blessing Kim & I have derived from the **Covid-19** debacle is that of much more regularly spending time together in the mornings versus what we've always done, communicating with & calling upon our Lord on & off throughout the day. A few years ago I remember **John MacArthur** commenting in a Q & A panel discussion his love of the Puritan **Thomas Watson** from the 17th century. He cited a classic work by Watson called "A Body of Divinity". The volume is a corpus of theology, involving the value of Scripture, to knowing God, to the Person of God, to Creation, the Fall, the Redeemer, etc. Countless times while reading it I have fallen on my face in my heart. The insights our Lord has given our brother Watson are striking-literally. I've bought the book for more than one little brother in the Lord. I tell them that virtually every page is a **gold** mine [Hence, this article title]. I have been reading through it with Kim. I will highlight in yellow Watson's Words that deeply pro-found me while I read aloud to Kim. Then, later, I try to go

back to the portion that I read to her & go over the yellow-highlighted sections & rewrite them above & below the pages in ink to further inculcate them into my mind & heart.

### **“REWARDS or REGRETS”**

Another very noticeable characteristic of the *Corona Pandemic* for me & how much more quickly the days go by versus the time when we weren't quarantined. You would expect the opposite, vis, “Time flies when you're having fun”, etc., or at least when one is more active. I have found the opposite to be true. I've often told Kim during the quarantine that it seems before we know it we're going back to bed at night. With my decades-long habit of numbering my days, which I have written about many times in my newsletters, I noticed a prayer I uttered this past week before I began to read Thomas Watson to Kim. I thanked the Lord for granting us another day. Yes-“granting” us. No tomorrow is a given. Each one is an undeserved gift from God. **54 million** people die each year-**150,000** every 24 hours. All of us could easily be in those statistics tomorrow-or today! Hence, in my prayer, after thanking our Lord for granting us another day to live & bear fruit for Him & His Kingdom, I prayed that it would be a day that would count towards **rewards** before His throne on Judgment Day, instead of **regrets**. “How does one do that, Michael?” Jesus told us-“If you abide in Me, & My Word abides in you...”. I'm reminded of our camp theme from 2014, vis, “**Static Cling**”, which I was sweetly reminded of while listening to last Sunday's sermon given by my friend, brother, & elder from my church, **Jim Dibiaso**. He quoted the exact text which was the Scripture of that camp & on the t-shirts all Kings 18:6: “He [King Hezekiah] held fast to [clung] to the Lord; he didn't let go [static]”. I pray this unprecedented season of Covid-19 is resulting in you doing that too, dear Saints, until “our deliverance comes”. [Michael](#)

**\*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 Bibles I have studied from: "When we put God in a box,  
we're really doing it to ourselves." [12/6/1995];  
"Nothing is worse than revelation without application." [11/24/1996]

**Caboose! On the Loose:**

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

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

May 20: Elim Fellowship area pastors' zoom mtg.

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: "TabTalk" video productions à Hebrews chapter 1 expositions

June 7, 14, 21, 28: "Chip's Sunday A.M. Children in Quarantine" video productions

June 24: Elim Area pastors' Zoom mtg.

\*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 gift no matter how small would be greatly appreciated! Thank you! **[click here](#)**

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