

May 1, 2009

“Happy Mothers’ Day!”

Dear Friends & Family,

“VIA DOLOROSA ‘6’ NOW ‘HIS-STORY’”

(4/17) I brought the last of my costumes home yesterday from church, which were used for our church’s annual production of “Via Dolorosa”, inspired & based upon Mel Gibson’s *Passion Of The Christ* movie from 2004. It is the biggest event of the year for our church, by far, encompassing over 70 of our church people. Estimated attendance this year over a period of three nights (a “first”; we added Wed. night of Holy Week this year for Immanuel people only, as sort of a “dress rehearsal”, “dry run”, etc., which also included two “toned-down” episodes for younger children) was over 700. For those of you unfamiliar with Via, it’s a “walk-through” dramatic/reflective tour of Jesus’ final hours on earth. Several rooms in our church are transformed into 1st Century A.D. Jerusalem. For those of you who have seen Via, you know the great attention we give to detail, realism, authenticity, etc. Given the new rooms we added & the biggest crowds ever, we discussed possibilities of moving Via out of the church next year, to a bigger facility, Lord willing. As I’ve often said, “half of my house” gets moved to church for Via each year. This Via “tonnage”, is comprised of costumes, weapons, breastplates, helmets, Roman signs & banners (I added at least 10 more (!) to my collection for Via this year!), lights & other electrical equipment, etc... It takes 8 days or so just to set up for it, three nights of actual performance, & several days of tear down as well. It has become basically equal in time, planning, effort, energy-expenditure, etc. to doing a camp for me. I’ve never been so overwhelmed by Via as I have this year. And yet, as always, it is a labor of love. My responsibilities for Via this year, as always, included: actor (having performed in 80 episodes this year, involving two different Via Stations), drama coach, costumer (no small task! I either costumed entirely or in part at least 18 actors), Room Captain (of 3 different rooms), stage/set director, set design, erection, & tear down, janitor, etc. In the light of this, as always, I was desperately craving some post-Via “down time”, but none was to be had, as during Via Season, we had a houseful of company—a full eight days of it, & yet, we *loved* having them! I’ve often felt like 3CPO, the golden “droid” of Star Wars’ fame. He asked his master, Luke Skywalker, if he could shut down for a while, to which Luke consented. At another point in the movie, if I remember correctly, someone pulled his power pack out, just to shut him up! ☺ I’m sure Kim has dreamed of being able to pull my power pack out! So, by our God’s great grace, another Easter Season of Via Dolorosa was completed. The gospel was presented, both verbally & dramatically. Our goal as actors was to “make the Scriptures come alive”. We pray that goal was attained.

“On The Road...Again?”

A curious phenomenon that has happened through all of this, is that I have not had one preaching invitation/engagement since this past February. I think I can honestly say, that this is the longest I have gone without preaching since I started in full-time ministry in January of 1986! Most of you know by now that in 2000, after I finished my 4th & final children’s pastorate, that we felt after much prayer & consultation with our Elim brothers, to begin serving as Elim Fellowship itinerant home-missionaries. We have done so & lived by faith the past 9+ years. Noticing this dearth of invitations to minister, one’s mind races to possible reasons why. The economy? Am I in some way displeasing to our Lord, & need His faithful & loving correction in my life in a particular area, so that He has caused invitations to cease until He does this work in me? Could it be that my work as an itinerant minister to all ages is coming to an end, & this is how our Lord will do so? Is the Lord changing my “venue” of service to Him, i.e., “how” & where I serve Him, re: the gifts, graces, & calling He has placed on my life? Or, could it be, since the desire & love of doing itinerant work is *still* inside of me, that our God is being gracious & merciful to me, knowing how immense & draining Via Dolorosa this year would be to me, & that to have outside ministry on the horizon would only

serve to overwhelm me? My heart's desire is that this final reason is HIS reason. It awaits to be seen. In the absence of outside ministry, I have tried to make myself available to our own local church, not only re: Via, but in other areas as well. This has been my common practice throughout all of these years. One other factor weighs heavily into this discussion. Via was two weeks later this year than last year. Also, our first camp of the summer, like last year, is one week earlier. This translates to me that it's already time to head full-steam into camp preparation. The "gap between" the two is shorter this year than it has ever been—the two busiest times of the year for me, now, literally, "back to back"! I shall keep you posted re: what the Lord reveals to me.

"A TINY 'TREATISE' RE: THE TRINITY"

Having come from some fresh theological debate re: a very popular book that came out last year with very unbiblical & controversial "intimations" re: God's Holy Trinity, I thought I would share some thoughts, insights, etc. that have greatly enhanced understanding of this awesome mystery. The Trinity, given that it involves our God, MUST be mysterious & unfathomable to an extent, or, He isn't "GOD". However, I've been recently grieved re: others' comments & quickness to run to the Trinity's "mystery" in defending unbiblical representations of Him. Despite its mystery, our God has revealed a considerable amount of information regarding this awesome truth. Perhaps no greater confusion regarding the matter has arisen than that of God being "One". However, tremendous clarity comes into view when one realizes that the Hebrew word "echad", rendered "one" in English: "Hear O Israel, the Lord, the Lord our God is "One", is never used in the entire O.T. to mean "one *in isolation*", but rather, "one in unity". "All Israel gathered as 'one' man". It was **one** "group" of many; or, "**one**" cluster of grapes", Adam & Eve became "one" flesh, etc. The "one-ness" is one of unity. I first read of this eye-opening insight in Foundations Of The Christian Faith, © 1986, IVP, by Dr. James M. Boice, p.111. [An aside: for those of you who know me, this won't surprise you. I was gone for about 45 minutes as my wife called & asked if I would come to our daughter's apt. to see our two granddaughters dressed up in costumes. I recently bought some tap shoes online (No. I can't tap dance) to tap dance with our oldest granddaughter, Reagan. That is where I just came from! Shhh...I think I need lessons!] Hence, our God is not one Person with three different personalities, or manifesta-tions, or "three heads", if you will. There are three *separate* Persons. Jesus was not praying to Himself while He was on earth, but to His Father Who was *in* Heaven. Many through the millennia have decried, "Polytheism!". This would be true if, the Father's main characteristic was "holiness", Jesus', "love", & the Holy Spirit's "wisdom", for example. *That* would be polytheism, virtually equal with the gods of mythology, a.k.a., Venus being the goddess of love, Mars, that of war, Minerva, that of wisdom, etc... But the Trinity's Three Members all are comprised of the same substance, essence, etc...i.e., divine Spirit, with *all Three* sharing **the exact same attributes, both in number & degree**. Since the Incarnation, Jesus, unlike the Father & Holy Spirit, is & forever will be the God-Man, with glorified flesh & bone. The Father nor the Holy Spirit were ever incarnated. Hence, it goes without saying that the Father was not "made flesh", did not die on the cross, & is not coming again, but Christ alone. I pray this too short discussion clears some things up for you as it has me over the years re: this glorious truth. Kim & I thank you for your love, encouragement, prayers, & support during this "waiting season" for us. We press on...now, *towards my 1st camp!*
Michael & Kim Guertin 3 Windsor Rd., Wilmington, DE 19809 (302) 764-0490 guerty@juno.com
Name: _____ Address: _____ Email: _____

[Please make all tax-deductible gifts payable to: **Elim Fellowship**, 1703 Dalton Rd, Lima, NY 14485. Thanks!]
[Michael is an ordained Elim Fellowship itinerant home missionary, endorsed by his local church. He makes his living & supports his family & ministry by preaching God's Word & through faith in the Lord & His provision through His people.] **Ministry/events for MAY & those not listed in last month's newsletter:**
Apr. 19: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: Flashpoint Young Adult Group: worship leader
May 3: Hopewell Christian Fellowship, Elverson, PA: camp board mtg.//pastors' mtg.//directors' mtg.

May 9: Hopewell Network Pastors' Spring Banquet: Kim & I attending