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March 1, 2016

Dear Friends & Family, **"WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST!"**



[2/1] Last evening I headed to downtown Wilmington to the **Sunday Breakfast Mission** to minister to the **women & children's division**. I have been to this site a few times in the past to minister to the men's side, via drumming & preaching, but this was my first time with "the other side". As I knelt at my youngest son's bed in his former bedroom which now is one of my "offices", I entreated the Lord to help me lavish His love & grace on these precious women & children. I wanted to preach 1st, as unto the Lord, & then, as if these precious mothers & their children were the only people on earth at the time. Can you imagine, Beloved-children-many of them, at the most precious & sacred time of their lives, when psychologists say most of their basic values are formed-children, who at this precious time of their lives should be in a warm, comfortable home-living *in a downtown mission*. Ah! But to our Lord? How precious they are to Him! I wanted to convey that to them. As I sought Him, it felt as if He imparted His very Self to me [as II Cor. 3:18 says He would!]. When women & children were present at the feeding of the 5,000, He "felt compassion for the crowd", fearing they would "faint on the way" home, not having eaten for 3 days while with Him. After the miraculous meal, it says "they all ate & were satisfied". This is the heart He gave to me for this meeting & from the reports I got back, these precious women & their young did eat & were satisfied-praise His Name.

"A WORSE FATE THAN THE BOTTOM OF THE MARIANA TRENCH!"



This trench, at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, is the deepest part of any ocean on earth-7 miles down. Dark, gloomy, water pressure that is unimaginable & would instantly crush a human-it is horrifying just to try & envision it. As if this cavernous liquid inferno were not terrifying enough-imagine yourself in it, with a very heavy piece of stone tied around your neck! "Michael?! Why are you painting such a gloomy picture??!" I didn't. Jesus did. Let me explain. When I walked into the mission's gymnasium where our service was to be held in order to start setting up, immediately I was approached by a little boy who couldn't have been much more than 1 year old. He toddled right up to me with his arms outstretched, wanting me to take him up in my arms. He had never seen me before. I had to be 4X his height & 9X his weight. Yet-there was not a hint of hesitation or fear on his part. O God. O my God. Father. It's hard not to weep as I type. How so? When Kim & I were leaving the mission driving through the city I told her of this precious little one, & Jesus' terrifying, stern warning to anyone who stumbles one such as this. *O Lord of the universe! Powerful, terrifying **demons** would begin to scream in terror of YOU just by Your entering a place-begging You not to throw them into the **Lake of Fire** before their time-& yet, here You are hovering over & defending tiny sons of **Adam**. How great You are! How great You are!*

"A SCENE FROM 'SHANE'"



Speaking of little boys-in the classic 50's western "Shane", starring Alan Ladd, a young boy who loves & admires him earnestly entreats him not to go to the town, where there is a gang of bad guys waiting for him. His famous line-"Shane! Shane! Please don't go! *There are too many of them!*" This comes to mind as I ponder last night's audience. I knew I'd be with women & children before I went, but I was a bit taken aback by how *many* young children were present. I asked my host shortly before we started, "Hey bud? Are the younger children going to be escorted out?" [as he had told me beforehand]. He replied, "They already have been." Gulp. They were every-where. To make matters worse(?), there was a little boy in a wheelchair who had some kind of infirmity which would cause him to blurt out emotionally at any time.

“YOU COULD HEAR A PIN DROP”



I explained to the audience, who, by the way, watched us setup for 45 (?) minutes or so before I began (!), who I was, & why & how I “do what I do”. I also gently asked them that if during the presentation their child began to be “restless”, if they would kindly take them out for the sake of the rest of the audience to be able to hear The Word-sadly, a rarity in these media-saturated days. I preached for about an hour. Yes-an hour, using many props & my Time Machine, out of which came ***Adam & Eve, AND...THE GRIM REAPER!*** [I checked with my host 1st!]. Amaz-ingly, for the most part, for the entire time, you could hear a pin drop. These were small, restless children, Beloved. [Yes, there were a few minor disturbances]. But for the most part, the mothers & children just sat there-riveted, listening, taking it in-the gospel of grace. I knew it was Jesus. No man can do such. The Holy Spirit's presence “swelled” in the room, as Jesus' wondrous Person & redemptive work was explained & illustrated. This has happened many times in my travels, but if there were ever a ministry site where it was be a challenge, it was last night. Even after I finished, just as I do with every service I am able to, I didn't immediately dismiss them. I told them the Spirit's presence that we were engulfed in is what I live for-that we should start “enjoying Him for-ever” [Westminster Confession]-now. And we did. Praise Jesus' Name. I can't think of anything else I'd rather do. Amen.

"CHIP, MOSES, & THE 4 'GLORYS' OF GOD"

[2/8] Last week I had the pleasure again of ministering to young children & teens in the same small town but in two different locations, as I had a few months back. Once again, my trademark puppet "Chip" accompanied me. He always exudes the opposite behavior/character trait that we're trying to teach the children. After him, "Moses", came out [Gulp-w/o my Time Machine to do so!], relating his experience on Mt. Sinai asking the Lord to show him His glory. This drama led into a teaching re: the **"4 'Glorys' of God"**, viz, His "resplendent glory", viz His radiance He exudes: Jesus on the mount of Transfiguration, Jesus' appearance to Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus Road, the glory of the Lord "shining round about" the shepherds, The Lord God being the source of light in eternity via His glory leaving no need of the sun [Rev.22:5]. Next, I related the glory of "His power". At the wedding feast of Cana Jesus did His first sign/miracle/wonder/work of power, & thus "manifested His glory". When He returns, He will deal out retribution to those who don't know Him & don't obey the gospel. They will be shut out from the presence of the Lord & from "the glory of His power". Then, there is that aspect of His glory which encompasses the glory, honor, laud, & praise we render to Him when we worship Him. Finally, & by far the most important aspect of the glory of the Lord is the glory of His perfections. I told the children & later on that night the teens that of all of the aspects of God's glory, the one we should seek & desire the most is to see the revelation of His nature, character, & perfections. When Moses asked to see God's glory the Lord's immediate response was, "I will cause all of my *goodness* to pass in front of you..." [Ex. 33:20ff]. I've never seen God's resplendent glory, nor have I witnessed *many* miracles, but beholding His glorious perfections via His written Word by His Spirit's illumination should be a regular experience of Christians, & their daily food.

"MINISTERING TO 'MINI-MENNONITES'"

[2/19] I returned home this afternoon from a 4-day trip to Lancaster County, PA to the tiny borough of Hinkletown. Off the beaten path, out in the country, just down the road from a one-room Amish schoolhouse, is **Hinkletown Mennonite School**. I had never been there. I had been corresponding with my hostess, the school administrator for several weeks. She was ultra-sweet & flexible & strove to meet my many requests given "how I do what I do". When I arrived the first day to setup, I was pleasantly surprised as to how many of my summer campers attend there! These children were taught re:

Creation & The Fall, & the resultant devastating depravity, met by God's unfathomable grace. They were also challenged at their tender age about idolatry in their lives. They responded so very sweetly. So many came up to me after my last service, both old & young [3-8th graders]. One older boy trying to both thank me & also not to cry at the same time as he related how the Lord had touched him deeply. Four 8th grade girls came, as well as much younger girls. Two of the younger children handed me notes. One 10 year old boy, who asked me several questions re: my Time Machine the afternoon I arrived to setup [he reminded me of the super-inquisitive neighborhood boy in the movie "Home Alone"], wrote [with some help from his mother who was a teacher there]: *"[Dear] Michel, will always encourage me. I'm so Thankful How he taught us how we should respect God and how we should avoid sin and how we should let Jesus's love come inside of us. I'm so happy That you were able to come and that you did a very good Job."* [spelling his. :0)]. Another little girl came outside to my truck where I was loading up to head home. She handed me the following note [again-I left the spelling just as she wrote it, which is precious]: *"Thank You. I was so inspired of what you said this week. I always sing and I am so happy. I sing for the right reason to worship to God & Jesus all the time. I made a Covenant that "Every song I sing goes to heaven." Thank you, Michael! Thank you, this is something to try! Have you ever been in a dark place go to a light place and pray and the dark place will be small. From, Savannah 4th grade"* I've had fewer sweeter ministry experiences in my 30+ years of ministering to children. I can't wait to go back. I still believe it's the highest calling God could give a man or woman-to minister His Word & life to children. My deepest ache is that it will continue. Amen.

"THE '21st ' CENTURIES"

[2/21] This morning in our Sunday a.m. church service, we reenacted my summer camp field drama from last summer, a.k.a., "Lincoln & Grant". I played the role of *Ulysees S. Grant*. Today is February 21st. In exactly one month, on March 21st, I will make a giant leap backwards, almost 20 centuries, & play *Pontius Pilate*, for our church's annual "Via Dolorosa" event-the biggest event of the year for us. This is our 13th year of doing it. Our church is about 400 in size. Last year approximately 1,300 people were either a part of or walked through Via. If possible, I encourage you to make an effort to come & walk through it. We run it 4 nights. You can come anytime between 5:45 & 8:45 p.m. Admission is free but you must sign up via the church website. [See attached flyer.](#) Sincerely, "*Pontius*". 😊

Ministry/events for MARCH & those not listed in last month's newsletter:

Caboose! on the Loose:



Feb. 10: IC, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David: worship leader

Feb. 13: Holloway Terrace Baptist Church, New Castle, DE: funeral participant

Feb. 20: IC, Wilmington, DE: DE House of Prayer: worship team drummer

Feb. 21.28: IC, Wilmington, DE: children's ministry Sun. p.m.-puppeteer & musician

March 1: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.// HN pastors' mtg.

March 17: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: Hopewell Network affiliate ministries prayer mtg.: worship leader

March 5-28: IC, Wilmington, DE: Via Dolorosa setup, performances, & tear-down

***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**

If your church would be interested in ministry by Michael, please feel free to contact us. www.cabooseministries.org