

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

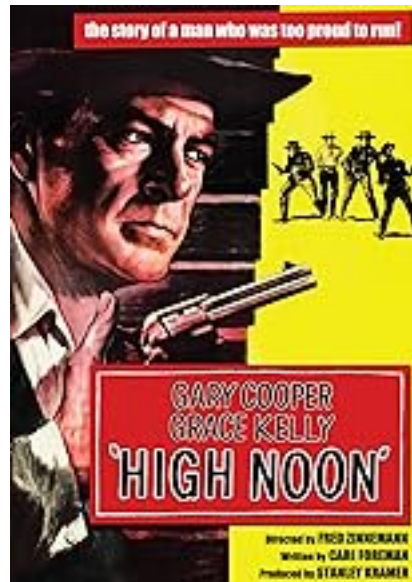
Website: www.cabooseministries.org Facebook: "Michael Robert Guertin"

March 2024 "CONVENING WITH GOD-IN A CONVENT-50 YEARS AGO"



Dear *Friends & Family*,

“*HIGH NOON!* on SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 1974”



There was a young man, 16 years of age, who, along with his parents & 3 younger sisters, moved from a newly-built, five-bedroom house in a very nice suburban South Jersey town to the basement of a liquor store in the mountains of southeastern Missouri! He was following his father, who had made a major career change in his middle-aged years. About 2 years went by. The young man was now 18 & a senior in high school. He decided to attend a retreat for junior & senior high school boys. His Catholic diocese was hosting it in a small town nearby at an *Ursuline Academy*, where retired nuns lived. He went just “to do something different”. He hung out with some guys who smoked pot & who may have done so at the retreat, but this young man was too afraid to do it there. He “eyed out” the girls who served the food in the cafeteria, & pretty much just followed the crowd & the scheduled order of activities. On Sunday morning of that weekend, the group had a prayer meeting around the altar in the chapel, where an older man who was a chaperone stood in the center. The man wept as he asked for prayer for a certain burden he was carrying. The young men around him all held hands & prayed. As they did, this young man felt what seemed like an “electric current” flowing through his hands & arms. He looked up out of one eye to see if anyone else might be experiencing the same sensation. Around *noon*, when the meeting was over, the young man felt as though the chaperone’s request was granted. The young man also felt as if it were the first time in his life that he really thought someone’s prayer was answered! As the retreaters left the chapel to go to lunch, the young man was the last one in line. When he got to the side exit of the chapel, “something” stopped him. He watched the rest of the guys walk down the long hall that led to the cafeteria. He turned around & went back into the center aisle of the chapel. He stared up at the life-sized crucifix hanging there, & began to weep profusely. He never said a word. This was the Lord's Spirit using godly sorrow to bring him to repentance. After a few moments, his tears

turned into those of deepest joy, & he was regenerated, filled with God's Spirit, & bathed in a love he had never known before. It felt as if scales dropped from his eyes, & he saw the world in a whole new light. From that point on, he began hugging all of the other guys at the retreat. One of them even referred to him as “the hugger”. It was the only way he could think of to express the deep love that God had just poured into his soul. After the retreat, he went home & told his father what had happened. His father shared that he had had similar experiences when he was his son's age, but that it would “wear off”. [His father eventually became very glad for his son that it didn't wear off for him]. This young man also told 2 nuns at his Catholic parish in town. When he did so, one of the nuns looked over to the other with a big smile on her face & said, “It's the Holy Spirit”. The young man told his girlfriend & she looked at him as though he were a ghost {in a way, this was true—he was now filled with the “Holy Ghost”!}. Needless to say, his new experience led to the dissolution of that relationship. The Lord would have the perfect helpmate waiting for him in another state. The young man couldn't articulate very well what had happened, but there was one thing he was certain of—he had met God, he was different, & nothing else mattered now but knowing God & making Him known! That “young man”—was me. I told the story to the best of my recollection. If you go to my **YouTube** channel [**Michael Robert Guertin**] that shows a very brief video (less than 3 minutes) of the actual convent where all of this happened with some explanatory captions. I hope it blesses. Here is the link for "**Apprehended! In A Convent!**" :

https://youtu.be/LYOIL_htHpE

“CHARLIE BROWN' MEETS JESUS CHRIST?”

or

“FROM A STAGE, TO AN ALTAR, TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD-in 36 HOURS!”



[2/21] Every year at camp for many, many years, I have done a Friday morning chapel routine before the campers give their testimonies of what the Lord did for them that week. I wear a “Charlie Brown” t-shirt my mother had bought for me decades ago for Christmas. Then, my camp soundman plays the “Christmas Time Is Here” instrumental version from the “**A Charlie Brown Christmas**” special. Why? Well, about 36 hours before my conversion experience related above, I took part in our high school musical production, “**You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown!**” This show ran on **Broadway** for many years, starring **Orson Bean** in the lead role. I'll never

forget when Miss Cathy Farmer, our music & drama teacher, asked me to play the part of **Charlie Brown**. I had wanted to play **Linus** or **Schroeder**. She insisted I do the lead. My girlfriend at the time, whom I mentioned above, the one who looked at me as if she had seen a “ghost” after my conversion, was asked to play the part of **Lucy Van Pelt**. This made things somewhat awkward, as we were in the midst of going our separate ways. I didn’t know at that time, of course, that our Lord was saving me for **Kim**! I mention the above for two reasons: 1. It relates what was going on in my life just prior to being “summoned into another Kingdom”. 2. The Lord was preparing me to meet Him, so to speak. How so? Though I didn’t realize it as an 18 year-old high school senior, I was trying to find “a love like His”, i.e., a love that was faithful, consistent, & dependable. I was painfully discovering that this kind of Divine love was not even remotely possible in a human relationship. So, in the providential orderings of our Lord, I went from “a stage to an altar”, in the space of about 36 hours-all praise be to His Name.

“HSC 2ND (ANNUAL?) ALUMNI WINTER CAMP REUNION IS NOW HISTORY”



[2/22] A very significant event took place early last month that is so very worthy of mention. We held the 2nd of what I hope will become an annual tradition for the camper & staff alumni of **Hopewell Summer Camps**. We conducted an “hsc Alumni Winter Camp Reunion” at **Tel Hai Camp** in that very sacred building, “**Hemlock Hall**”. “Sacred”, Michael? Yes-very definitely “Yes!”. Hemlock Hall is nothing to write home about, but, to me, it has become the most hallowed place on Earth. Why? Because our Lord continues to bring His “manifest presence” there each summer to both young & old as they seek to focus their attention on & elevate **Christ Jesus** in their midst. Hence, the Lord birthed in me years ago the desire to summon the alumni once again to this wonderful meeting place. As Kim & I would pace & pray in our home about this event, I would ask the Lord to “bring the alumni to it from out of the woodwork”, so to speak. And, that, He did! I was both amazed & humbled how many attended who had not frequented Hemlock Hall in many years-for some, it had been decades! I listed below some of the comments I received re: the event to show you the impact it had on these alumni. Jesus be praised.



"...so glad they could attend & for Aaron [her son who had not been to camp in decades] to connect with you after all these years! Also, such a small world, there is a family in our church [in VA], The Smuckers, whose kids have attended "Guerty Camp" & she said camp was the first place they tangibly encountered the presence of the Lord!!! Rebecca Smucker's brother is Ben Horning, his wife Emily [Got saved in Reading Hopewell's Caboose! kids church] & another family member Katie Hess [counseled for the first time last summer] I believe you know them well...[T.H.-former counselor from 1999!]

"Awe so sorry I missed this. I would have loved this!! Best memories ever!" [C.M.-former **Caboose!** kid & camper who couldn't make the reunion]

"So good to have 'chapel' TONIGHT! It's my kids' favorite part of camp-was mine too! It was so good to be there-to soak in the sweet presence of Jesus! And to see you & Kim, of course." [M.H.-former camper, counselor, & camp nurse]

"Truly happy to be there! What the Lord does at Tel Hai is so special to us. Jordan [her husband who had never been to camp] last night remarked how cool it was that though we [camp alumni] may only see each other once a year, how genuine & kind the connection between people was." [R.L.-former camper, counselor, & girls' purity talk speaker]

"...I have just come to realize how much I have been choked out by the thorns in life & how much I need to take down the high places [two elements of my message at the reunion] that I have given too much attention to...& as to why my desire for God & His Word has waned. I remember back in the early 2000's talking w/you after one of the (camp) staff chapels sharing what I was going thru & what I was experiencing made me feel like I wasn't even a Christian due

to the pain & hardship & mental dealings etc...you listened to me, spoke to me & prayed over me...the presence of God @ camp & through your ministry has definitely aided me through my hellish journey of which I am coming to truly see the end of more recently thankfully...". [T.S.-former camper & counselor]

"It was awesome to be back in that room & experience it again, thanks for hosting the evening! Looking forward to it next time." [I forget who sent this to me]

"I'm so glad I could make the drive & see everyone; Tel Hai is my favorite place in the world." [R.T.-former camper & current counselor who drove from MD by herself that night to attend]

"It was very good. The props {my sermon object lessons} really help make the point clear & stick better. Sorry we had to leave so quickly." [B.T.-Kids camp 2023 asst. Camp Mom]

"I wish we could be there!" [S.R., whose child camper was too young to attend this particular event, vis, ages 12 & up]

"Oh man, if I still lived in PA, I'd be there!" [K.C.-former camper & Caboose! kid]

"I never saw it (the reunion promotion) I wish I would've known! I'm glad it went well. If you do another- even if it's not 'til next year, I'd love to know!!! Camp was an amazing time for me!" [C.E.-former camper]

"While you were preaching, I saw a light on you & when you picked up your object lessons they came to life." [J.L.-former camper & current counselor]

"I wanted to share this with you. We are having dinner tonight & I love it how [our 2 sons] were sharing about all the good times at Camp...sharing about all your preaching. Ever since the first time they returned from Camp they have been sharing their experiences around the dinner table. We thank the Lord for putting you in our lives. We love you Guerty !!!" [L.A.-the mother of two former campers & current counselors. Their oldest son attended the reunion but she sent me this quote after I preached at their church the following weekend.]

Given the precious time we had in the Lord that night, I pray it is His will to continue this wondrous event for many years to come. Thank You, Lord!

Sincerely,

Michael



****Caboose! Commentary Corner***: Our daughter Laura once said she'd love to have my old Bibles when I pass 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: **"A high place can be anything or anyone that saps your adoration of God."** [MRG Nov. 2023]



Caboose! On The Loose!

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

Feb. 24: Hopewell Church, Elverson, PA: Hopewell Elverson/Hopewell Reading recording session

Feb. 28: Converge Church, Moorestown, PA: Elim area pastors' mtg.

Mar. 3: Hopewell Church Telford, Telford, PA: Time Machine drama narrator for children's church

Mar. 5: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg., Hopewell Network pastors mtg.

Mar. 6: Linville Hill Christian Academy, Paradise, PA: elementary school student body chapel

Mar. 23-27: our daughter Laura & family visiting from AL

Mar. 31: Easter Sunday & my 50th spiritual birthday



*Michael is an ordained Elim Fellowship itinerant Stateside missionary & 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 this link to give directly: <https://elimfellowship.org/missionary/michael-guerty-guertin> Thank you!

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