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May 2017

## “VIA DOLOROSA #14-2017 NOW HIS-STORY”

Dear *Friends & Family*, “The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of 'Wounded Knee'?”



[4/12] Last evening was opening night for the public for our church's 14<sup>th</sup> annual **VIA DOLOROSA** production. As always, we encountered the various & sundry glitches, hassles, deterrents, etc. with personnel, equipment, staging, timing, etc., but, again, as always, our very faithful God ensured that the saving story of His precious Son was dramatized & proclaimed. This year was particularly hard for me personally. I was dealing with a very sore knee & foot throughout the production. This was a considerable distraction. Each evening before I headed to church I'd smear analgesic cream on it & tightly wrap it with a neoprene knee brace. At times the bottom of my foot would hurt too. I'm suspecting this is residual pain from my bout with GBS last October. GBS can remain in the body for 6 months to a year after you contract it. Unfortunately, for me, who needs to “feel” his part, re: emoting & pace, it was a huge detriment. In addition, due to some unknowing rookie cast members early in the week, the pace of the groups walking through the building was the fastest in 14 years. They were releasing groups to move on to the next station prematurely. This hugely affected me, again, re: not “feeling” the part. Those of you who know me know I'm emotionally wired. [Sigh-poor Kim.]. I was cutting out lines in my Dungeon episode so as to be on time in my Fort episode [I'm the only cast member of the 100 or so who does two different episodes. This happened out of necessity years ago as the Dungeon scene was too excruciating the way it was set up. Hence, I inserted a drama in there.] In addition to these encumbrances this year, I was still grieving the loss of my Dad in March. I

say all of that to say this: the testimonies that follow I'm sure "feed my vanity & flesh", but I post them to show how, despite the various & sundry weaknesses & struggles this servant of the Lord was going through, our God was still faithful to help, touch, & use me to minister to His people, & to those who didn't know Him:

## “CHRIST in the SPOTLIGHT”



“I brought 7 people with me this year & they all loved it. Every year it gets better & better! I can't get over how organized & professional this presentation is. Guerty, I thank God for your dedication & love.” [Sue]

“...we really enjoyed ourselves. I brought Amanda & our marriage mentors & also the pastor & his wife who married us. They all thought it was a wonderfully-done presentation & a great reminder of that great gift we got from Jesus dying for us & the sacrifice He went through.” [Rusty]

“Pastor Guertin, My neighbors came last night. Julius 10, his Mom Amy, brother 19 & girlfriend. On Sunday we took the scrip-tures & open them up for Julius, so he would understand what each room was & the people. I encouraged his Mom to read Matt. 25-28. Well, they came through at 6:30, I met them at the door coming out. Julius, as a 10 year old ran up to me and said, I want to go through again??? His Mom, Amy was so somber, she said, “You did not tell me it was like this, never saw anything like this, what are the difference between the disciples & apostles? It was so good, I want to bring my 15 year old Daughter, may I?” The girl friend, cried, she couldn't say much. [Her] 19 year old son, couldn't say a word. So grateful for the whole team of Via, we can not do this alone. All who take part are so needed. All the work we put into this the guests do so appreciate. Thank you, Via Staff. Eternally Thankful, Magdalene”

"I had the pleasure and great honor to take my family down to Delaware to see Via Dolorosa. It was by far the best re-enactment of Jesus Christ our Lord's sacrifice for us. Thank you Guerty and your amazing crew for blessing us. My wife & I went through last night & it was amazing! I can't believe all the decorations, set, actors, etc. It was great! I can't imagine how much work & thought went into it all. It is really a great witness for the gospel. You should have been an actor! You are a natural! Thanks for all the time & effort you put in to the production! I can't imagine. It made an impact on us & I am certain so many others!" [Jeff]

"I had an awesome experience last night at Immanuel Church in Wilmington, DE. An amazing cast & crew put on a walk through passion play called Via Dolorosa. It was very moving! I strongly recommend it! Apparently they have put on this production annually for 13+ years!!! Consider checking it out next year, you won't regret it! A dear friend of my family, Michael Robert Guertin, played Pontius Pilate and he was spectacular! We were sooooo impressed! It was a very professional & top-notch performance!!! Well done!" [Peggy]

"Hey buddy, just wanted to say it was awesome being in Via with you again, really amazing being able to see you act, you have a gift for it. I know it's a lot of work, especially for you, but it was worth it & many people are impacted from it! Hail Pilate!" [Will]

**.....Brought the whole family down on Thursday 7pm and had a really moving experience. You were great as usual. I really liked the new King Herod he was 10X better than me. Well done! [Stockton-the original "King Herod" ;0)]**

"Thank you Guerty again for an amazing night for my family and me. Very Spirit-filled with lots of mixed emotions, sadness, and anger to what the Romans did to our SAVIOUR. Even HIS own people. So you can tell the actors of your church they put on amazing reenactment of the PASSION OF CHRIST. Thank you once again for your professionalism in getting me in trouble with guards for questioning. I really thought I was in trouble. Hope to see you soon, I know my kids look forward to seeing you at Tel Hai this summer. Btw-which actress was your wife? Awesome Pontius Pilate...My wife said that you should have been an actor. It's amazing how the LORD can use our talents to the fullest. Blessings to you and your family." (Paul-a leader of men's ministry of PA church)

"...there is a man who has just begun to come to Immanuel - been here twice now - & really seems to be hungry for things of the Lord....He was on the Wilmington police force for over 30 years... He was overwhelmed by the entire presentation, & when he left, he asked if he could come back Friday & go in with the first group...He was bringing his grandson who he is trying to provide opportunities for spiritual input (grandson has had a pretty rough life)..." [Bill]

**"...got a call from a lady who was here several nights ago & was so overwhelmed by the presentation that she brought her elderly father back last night. Besides being overwhelmed by the presentation, she was overwhelmed by the love & care we showed to her father who needed a wheelchair. She said her father told her that our presentation of VIA was the most meaningful Easter presentation of the Gospel & the last days of the Lord Jesus Christ that he has ever seen in his entire life." [Bill]**

"A massage client of mine came through last night (Tuesday) with 7 of her Bible Study friends...she'd been there 2 years ago & loved it all over again, as did her daughter & the other friends she was with." [Julia]

**"EXCELLENT performance. My aunt & I are so moved. I'm bringing my cousin on Thursday at 8:30...just beautiful!" [friend of Julia, a cast member]**

"Man, the trip was definitely worth it, we all loved it, you guys do such a phenomenal job. Janet nearly lost it when they flogged Jesus & lost it when Jesus was crucified. Job well done, all of you. I'll be bringing loads of people next year to see it." [Jeff; came from PA]

**"I was blessed. And impressed." [Celeste-relative of cast member who came from VA]**

*My first Via this year, what an amazing production, we walked the steps of Jesus. A great job by everyone, thank you for a real labor of love. Also fun to see some kids camp friends performing as a disciple, a guard in the prison, a scribe in Pilate's palace & of course Pilate himself. [Walter]*

**"Dude, well done...as always!! Wherever do you put all of the props? The church is totally transformed. Love it I'm just always impressed. The "trip to Jerusalem" makes my Easter. Be blessed brother." [Dennis]**

"Dearest Immanuel, Just a note to, once again, express my heartfelt gratitude for the portrayal of Via Dolorosa. So much work, effort, time, dedication & love is put forth by everyone having a part whether in acting, in preparation, or behind the scenes, but may everyone know that the end result is so very meaningful & touches the hearts of us all. What you all do is beyond description, for when we who come are in the presence of that time of Jesus' life with, betrayal, suffering & death, we truly feel we are there. In closing, I understand the gentleman so wonderfully portraying Caiaphas has done it since the beginning of Via Dolorosa, but was also wondering how long has the gentleman portraying **Pontius Pilate** been doing it. Each year, when I'm in the room with him I'm overwhelmed by his presence & sense the realness of that time. Also, the gentleman talking to us in the very beginning does a wonderful job in his explanation & our preparation. Please express to each member my most heartfelt appreciation, thankfulness & love for what they have done & given, all in the Blessed Name of our Risen Lord & Savior Jesus Christ! Most Gratefully," [Dolly]



I will close, Beloved, with these thoughts-despite the above “praise”, you'll never know how many episodes of Via [I did 87 altogether] this Roman Procurator was repenting in my heart while in the middle of my dramas. I love to act-I was deeply affected as a 16 year-old in a movie theater watching “**The 10 Commandments**”- but I'm called *to preach*. Via is such an outlet for my creative & theatrical bugs that are deeply embedded in me. However, it also makes me more vulnerable to vanity, pride, fleshly desires, praise-of-men-coveting, etc., that I have to constantly guard & cleanse my heart. I know one day, on that **Great Day**, that every episode will be watched & reviewed by our Lord Jesus, before all who saw them. The thoughts of my heart during each episode will be exposed on that Day too-not for judgment, but for bequeathing or losing of reward. I know for many of the thousands of episodes I've done since 2004 in Via I will lose rewards for service I could've obtained. These sobering thoughts fuel a divine fire in me to strive for purity of heart as I “perform” for men-desiring to have in my heart The Godhead as my Sole Audience. If He graces me to do Via in the years ahead, & I hope so very much He does, I pray He will enable me to do so. Yours, “Pilate”.



## Caboose! On the Loose:

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

May 2: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//Network pastors' mtg.

May 7: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc fund-raiser

May 10: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: Hopewell Network affiliate ministries' presbytery/prayer night: worship leader

May 12-14: Herndon, VA: conducting my father, James Edward Guertin's internment service: ministering

May 28: Maranatha Christian Fellowship-Berlin Campus, West Berlin, NJ: Sun. a.m. service

\*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 you may click on the link below to give directly. Thank you!

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