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Guertin”

Caboose! Facebook Site: “Michael ‘Guerty’

MAY 2020

“THEY HAD THEIR TURN”



Dear *Friends & Family*,

[4/16] This past Sunday, which was Easter Sunday, Kim & I left our weeks-long quarantine in our home to go for a drive to see what Springtime blossoms & blooming we could before said “flowerings” were past. This has become one of my favorite annual “markers”, if you will. I must admit it was significantly sadder this year, as for the past several years we would do so after having had accomplished another *Via Dolorosa* season. Yes. I admit it. I’m still in mourning re: Via. May He help me. Nevertheless, we did our annual *Spring* drive. 😊 Regrettably, the trees were well past their “peak”, but nonetheless beautiful. Once more I said to Kim that I hoped Heaven was a perpetual Spring. For decades *Autumn* was my favorite season of the year, but Spring surpassed it many years ago because of it being the season of our Lord’s passion & of course for being so diverse in color & beauty. Having been sequestered from our relatives like everyone else during this Corona conundrum, we decided to head over to our youngest son’s

home to see him, his wife, & two sons, whom we wanted so much to hug & kiss them but couldn't. (we stayed in our car)☺

"A GRAVE SITUATION"



{pic of actual cemetery}

En route, we came to a traffic light. Kitty-corner to where we were situated at the intersection, there was a cemetery-a cemetery replete of course, with gravestones. I said to Kim, "They had their turn. They had their turn. Now-it is ours." Then I prayed, "Lord? Now it's our turn-O Lord-help us to live everyday for You." The people [their bodies, i.e.] laying there were still now. During "their turn", they were busy, active, vocal, preoccupied with the cares & worries of this life-as we are. And, like us, they all had sinned-countless times in their lifetimes. I then quoted to Kim from the **Sacred Text**, "Behold, those who are in the graves shall hear the voice of the Son of God shall come out..." [Jn.5]. O, Beloved! What a day that shall be! Since 1997 when I first started preaching & teaching re: Judgment Day, which occurs after the resurrection of the dead, I have striven to live with that sobering doctrinal "golden brick" in the forefront of my mind.

"FROM HERE TO ETERNITY"



Kim & I during the quarantine have had our own little “pacing & praying” prayer meetings around the house. Actually, I have done this for years, often when Kim has been at the gym in the evenings. It’s nice to have her “follow me” around the house! 😊 [The 17th century theologian Thomas Watson in his stellar work “A Body Of Divinity”, said Christians’ homes should be “little churches”. I have striven to do this for decades]. While doing so last week I had composer Jonn Serrie’s instrumental song playing, vis, “From Here To Eternity”. The title to the song put the thought in me as we prayed that Kim & I are in our “last quarter” of our lives. This does not presume on our Lord that we will have another 25 years to live, but on average, in America, a person after 60 years of age is in “their last quarter”. In the light of the song playing I told Kim that the next stop for us is “eternity”. She & I are living right now “from here [2020]-to eternity”. As with viewing the cemetery above, thoughts like this prompt & stir me to live for Jesus with all I have.

“DEATH KNOWETH NO BOUNDS”



Speaking of the Corona Pandemic, in a matter of days our globe has come face to face with their mortality-with their lack of control of things which they too often presume they have. Hebrews 2:14 says human beings are held in slavery to their fear of death. Fear & panic have ruled much of the world as Covid-19 has spread. People are much more apt to turn to “things spiritual” in such times because of such fear-but make no mistake, Beloved. Natural disasters *never* regenerate people. 9/11 proved that. Yes-during that time as well churches filled [During this pandemic churches are “filling” via online streaming]. But as soon as the danger was over, they emptied. And yet, our Lord can & does use such times & circumstances as one of His many means of gathering in His chosen. In this particular season of reaching the lost, we are in a race to reach them-a race against time & Death. While recently reading my iPhone app “**Bible Hub**”, which I use quite frequently, but virtually confine said usage of it to its “Commentary” feature, I once more read this sobering quote: “ **What woes are caused by Death in this world! They are seen everywhere. The earth is "arched with graves."** In almost every dwelling Death has been doing his work of misery. The palace cannot exclude him; & he comes unbidden into the cottage. He finds his way to the dwelling of ice in which the [Eskimos] live; to the tent of the Bedouin Arab...to the wigwam of the Indian, & to the harem of the Turk; to the splendid mansion of the rich, as well as to the abode of the poor. That reign of Death has now extended near 6,000 years, & will travel on to future times - meeting each generation, & consigning the young, the vigorous, the lovely, & the pure, to dust. Shall that gloomy reign continue forever? Is there no way to arrest it? Is there no place where Death can be excluded? **Yes: heaven - & the object of the Redeemer is to bring us there.**” [Barnes notes on the Bible; Heb.2:14; paraphrasing & editing mine]. While in prayer with Kim the other day, she prayed that

despite the restrictions & confinements imposed upon us by this pestilence, the Word of God must still go out & is not confined-just as Paul cited in II Tim.2. In the light of that, the following is our endeavor to do so:

"TAB-TALKS"



Having been an itinerant minister for the past 20+ years, this Corona pandemic has certainly affected me in that area, just as it has for so many others in their callings & occupations. What is one to do? Well, our church's elders were part of the solution. They asked me if I would produce a short **Good Friday video**<https://youtu.be/TNpcVkc5OyY> devotional for our Immanuel Church family, which I was happy & humbled to do. A few days after doing so, while studying my Bible, a thought dropped into my mind re: making said short videos on a weekly basis for our church family-at least until the Covid-19 crisis is over. The idea was to make them for posting on Wednesdays. Why so? Well, many years ago our former pastor instituted "Tabernacle of David" at our church on Wednesday nights. It was a unique meeting-no sermons-only worship & intercessory prayer. I have been attending "Tab" since my forties. It has always been one of my favorite events our church has held. I hate missing it. Our church leaders have been faithfully feeding the sheep on Sundays via pre-recorded & live-stream ministry. I thought, "Hey? Why not give them a little midweek feeding & 'touch-base' connection?" Hence, my submitting the idea to some of our elders who replied, "Go for it." A few days after I named them "Tabtalks", the

thought occurred to me re: Martin Luther's "Table Talks". When he would have guests over for dinner they would discuss all kinds of issues & matters, often, of course, theological. A number of them were recorded for posterity. In honor of them, R.C. Sproul's ministry "Ligonier" has published *Table Talk* magazines for decades. 🙄 Hence, my "TabTalks". Here is my first one, produced the other day, which relates how they got started & also includes an exposition of Hebrews 1:1,2. https://youtu.be/naMU_gQ5hes Here are the 2nd & 3rd "TabTalks": <https://youtu.be/Tp7-C7sQ3dw> <https://youtu.be/KJDkiIWCPok>

"I WANT TO CROSS OVER-INTO CAMPGROUND"



I've owned a compilation of hymns called "Hymns Triumphant" for decades, volumes I & II. Via this collection I was introduced to an old spiritual I had never heard before, vis the title of this article. "Deep river, my home is over Jordan, I want to cross over, into campground...", meaning, of course, that the author was anxious for his ultimate Home, Heaven. To be honest, I am not. The deepest fibers of my being want to live long upon the earth, & do as much work for our Lord as I can possibly do. And yet, I say that to say this-with the month of May upon us, once again, as I have been for decades now-I'm on the precipice of another season of camps. In the light of the Corona pandemic, will they occur? If so, all 3 of them? Only 1 of them? Only our Lord knows. I will be honest again-it is hard to be "up" to prepare for them, when you don't know if they are going to happen. And yet-prepare I must. This will be my 38th year in camps altogether-my 30th at Tel Hai Camp, should they occur.

May the Lord do His pleasure in this annual spiritual highlight for so many-both campers & staff. We wait, & watch, & hope to "cross over into campground" again. May it be so. Amen.



****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: "The only time it's even too late for GOD to intervene, is when someone has blasphemed His Holy Spirit." [4/25/20]

"After I preach a message, I want the people to be so stuffed & blessed that they 'burp spiritually' after the meeting." [4/25/20]



Caboose! On the Loose:

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

Ministry/Events for [MAY](#) & those not listed in last month's newsletter:

April 9: IC Good Friday Devotional video production: "THE Conspiracy of Conspiracies"

April 12, 19, 26: "Chip" Sun. a.m. puppet show productions for quarantined kids

April 14: Inaugural "TabTalk" video production-Hebrews 1:1,2

April 15: Converge Church, Moorestown, NJ: Children's ministry "Zoom Conference" w/"Chip"

April 19: Cornerstone Church, Broomall, PA: Sun. a.m. service: church airing one of my sermons

April 21: TabTalk #2 production: Heb.1:3

April 29: TabTalk #3 production: Heb.1:3b

April 29: Elim Fellowship area pastors' Zoom conference

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: "Chip" Sun. a.m. puppet show productions for quarantined kids

May 5, 12, 19, 26: TabTalk Lesson video productions [Hebrews chapter 1]

May 17: Abundant Life Church, Birdsboro: 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 [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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