

October 31, 2013 [All Hallows' Eve]

November 1, 2013 [All Saints' Day]

HE SPARED ME FROM A DAM & THE DAMNED

(10/16) 40 years ago today, on my 18th birthday, I was a senior in high school in Missouri. My parents were out of town on business. My best friend & I skipped out of school and went to the lake my dad & uncle owned that we lived on. It had a 35 foot high dam at the end of it. We were on top of the dam throwing trees & branches off left there from high water. While doing so, one of the trees' branches came up behind me as it was sliding over the dam & took me with it! I fell 35 feet. If I had died, my "plunge" would not have ended at the bottom of *Lake Killarney's* dam, but would have continued into Hell. I didn't know Jesus then. I knew a lot about Him, going to church every Sunday. I would have died in my sins while going to church. He spared me. About 6 months later, He apprehended me for Himself & His work in a nearby convent, where retired nuns lived, while I was on a retreat. "He Who didn't spare His Only Son" chose to spare me twice. Thank You, dear Father, Son, & Holy Spirit-thank You.

A.D.D. HEALED BY OIL IN DEM DERE HILLS!

(10/28) I returned home yesterday from our church's annual mens retreat. I got some of my own medicine, so to speak, courtesy of *George Bowen*, the guest speaker, who, happens to be a dear friend & one of my mentors & go-to-guys theologically. Anyone who knows me well knows that I evidence symptoms of A.D.D., otherwise known as Attention-Deficit-Disorder. With me, this is a no-brainer-literally! Our Lord has chosen *not* to heal me completely of this, for His Own wise, loving, & holy reasons. And yet-I tasted His sweet healing this past weekend. How so?-by His rich anointing on our brother George. George repeatedly opened up to us the mountains of God, as the late theologian *John Murray* once put it, by his verse-by-verse expository/exegetical teaching & preaching. The vast deposits of God's truth came to the surface as George again & again dug, or should I say, drilled deeply into the written text of God's Word. I sat enthralled as *sound* theology that was God-centered & Christ & His gospel-exalting kept bubbling up. He also explained the Greek words, tenses, & moods behind our English renderings which opened up more insights for us. I'm reminded of *The Beverly Hillbillies* Jed Clampett's discovery of oil: one day he was shootin at some food, & up from the ground came a bubblin crude-oil, that is, black gold,

Texas Tea. I, who frequently struggle with a wandering mind, whether its when **Kim** is talking to me or sitting in church, was held spellbound. Even after George had spoken for an hour or so I found myself sitting there absolutely starving for more. Only GOD can do that with **Michael Robert Guertin**! Its the same way when Im in a meeting. I can tell when God shows up because I dont want to leave. I mentioned above that I got a taste of my own medicine from George. Sitting there fixated upon his words, I was later reminded of a meeting I conducted this past **June** with senior citizens. There was a **10 year-old boy** in their midst, as he was home-schooled & his mother was the church secretary. After I had preached for an hour or so, he turned to his mother & said, I wish he wouldnt stop. A higher compliment could not be paid a minister, when a **child** says thus after sitting & listening for an hour! This phenomenon above, re: the inexhaustible depths of **Gods Written Word**, I had tried to illustrate a few years ago, through an object lesson a friend bought me. It was a **walking I-beam horse-head oil rig**. Ive heard & you probably have too, re: the vast resources of untapped oil that lies underneath the earth in our country. Be that as it may, it is *not* inexhaustible. However, the latent truths in Gods Word are. This is why you can return to a much-studied **Scripture** passage years later & glean truths you didnt see before.

BOUND, BUT BLESSED

Leprosy-perhaps the most feared & dreaded disease in biblical times. Flesh rotting & falling off, fingers curling in, your appearance gruesome to behold. Yet, the Son of God comes up to one & *touches* & heals him. Can we assume when the Creator of all things seen & unseen touches such a one, that his skin was turned to that of a teenager? Can these typed words convey how ecstatic the leper must have been?! **Demon**-possession: tormented, confused, oppressed by another being that is now not outside of you doing so-but *within* ! But, here comes **Jesus**. With a word, the **vile presence** within is gone. The victim knows freedom for the first time in who knows how long? Can you envision their eyes sparkling & faces beaming with joy? **Darkness**-complete **blackness**-since you left your **mothers** womb. Then you feel a hand touch your eyes. Your first sight is the Swiss Alps, or, better yet-the face of the Son of God. Can you imagine your euphoria? Silence. Deadening silence. Thats all youve ever known. All of the sudden, you feel fingers in your ears-Jesus fingers. Then, imagine if the first sounds you hear are John Rutters

I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes from his *Requiem* masterpiece. You weep with a joy that your lips, mouth, & teeth cannot widen enough to express. A withered body with collapsed legs-since you were a child you had to be carried everywhere. The years very, oh, so very slowly pass. Now you're *an adult* with that same body. You've given up any hope for a life like so many others know. Then, four of your friends pick you up in your bed one day, without asking you, & take you to a house & lower you through the ceiling. A Man you've never met before then tells you to pick up your bed & walk. *Someone Else's* strength then surges through your legs. You walk for the first time. Though you've just used your legs for the first time, it's your arms & hands that everyone is noticing, as they're waving exuberantly through the air with joyous excitement. All of these cases above Jesus described as blessings to the two disciples of *John the Baptist* who came to Him from John to inquire if He was The One, or should John look for Another. Why so? John, Jesus forerunner & relative according to the flesh, had lived an ascetic life since he was very young: no lavish surroundings, no sumptuous fare for food, never to have the caress & softness of *a wife*, etc. He had preached & announced that Jesus would come & make low *the mountains, raise the valleys, make rough places smooth & crooked places straight*. From the context we know that John was referring to *human beings*, not *geographical topography*. John proclaimed that Jesus would also baptize with *fire* & be armed with a winnowing fork to sift the righteous from the wicked & an axe to cut down men who didn't bear fruit. And yet, with all of this *Messianic* power & fervor, & countless displays of His dominion over the forces of *the demonic world*, He left John in *Herod Antipas* prison! [John had *the message* right, but with so many in the Scripture & with us today, his *timing* was off] But Jesus doesn't stop there re: His list of those who were blessed. He then adds another for John: And-blessed is he who isn't offended-because of: Me. That is, given that Jesus has all power & authority & sovereignty in Heaven & on Earth, & does or *does not do* whatever He pleases whenever He pleases, happy is the person who realizes this when Jesus decides to allow, & hence, ordain things in their life, that are less than desirable. He could have easily freed John from his isolation & suffering at the hands of his wicked captor. He did not. John had expected Him to. He still did not. Jesus said accepting such things from His hand as God's will *was just as much* a blessing as lepers being cleansed, the blind seeing, the deaf hearing, the lame walking, & the *demon*-possessed being set free.

HAILED-WHILE IN JAIL

In addition, while **John** was feeling abandoned & forsaken by his **Relative** while he was in prison, on the contrary, Jesus was on the outside *bragging* about him! More than a prophet, this was he of whom it was written, no one greater born among **women**, etc. came from **GODS** lips about him. Yet, John was feeling just the opposite. His circumstances & surroundings & I'm sure his emotions *screamed* the exact opposite! O, the wondrous irony of it all! Remember that, dear **saint of God**, the next time you're feeling the same. Go to **Eph.1:4-6 & Rom.8:29, 30** to see what God is thinking of & ultimately doing with you.

UNPRIORITIZED FEAR

In a recent newsletter, I had written re: What I Learned From A **Demon**. They were *good* lessons, re: their recognition, fear, & quick & bold response to **the Son of God**. On the contrary, in the same portion of the Word, a.k.a., **The Gadarene Demonic**, what I learned from **humans**, was a pathetic lesson. The demoniac had terrorized their region for years: screaming, running around naked, being exceedingly violent, breaking chains, fighting off human restraints & bonds, & choosing for his living quarters a **graveyard**! Can you imagine his hygiene & the lack thereof? Can present-day **horror** movies come close to this real-life event? I doubt it. And yet, after the all-gracious & powerful Son of God comes there & frees him from his dark nights (& days!) of the soul, surely at the behest of His Father, Whom He did nothing without, the Scripture says the townspeople were gripped with fear & asked **HIM Jesus**, to leave! Can there be any more pathetic display of the feeble, fickle, fallen, & fallacious human sinful condition?! I think not! I cannot convey the discombobulating feeling I have as I ponder & type this. O, but as I type, how I *long* for more displays of this in my ministry, that is, of the power of the Son of God & His gospel pushing out the power of **Satan & his** influence over people's lives. O Father, please make it so!

Kim & I sincerely thank you all for the birthday & anniversary greetings, cards, wishes & gifts last month.

Michael & **Kim**

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*[**Michael** is an ordained **Elim Fellowship** itinerant home 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 full-time. Since 2000, he & Kim have lived by faith, having no salary, retirement to speak of, or health insurance-yet this is their calling at this season of their lives. Michael preaches Gods Word & systematic theology, using both visual aids & drama, to all age groups either separately or combined, as the Lord opens doors. To help support this work, please make all tax-deductible gifts payable to: [\[Elim Fellowship, 1703 Dalton Rd, Lima, NY 14485\]](#), denoting it for the home-mission work of [Michael Robert Guertin](#). If your church would be interested in ministry or helping to support our missions work in the U.S. to both old & young please feel free to contact us. Thank you!



Ministry/events for *NOVEMBER* & those not listed in *last months* newsletter: **Caboose! on the Loose:*

Oct. 4, 18: Schorn Residence, Hockessin, DE: IC home-fellowship group

Oct. 13: IC, Wilmington, DE: Fathers House childrens church: puppeteer & worship leader

Oct. 16: IC, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David worship leader

Oct. 19: IC, Wilmington, DE: DeHop worship team drummer

Oct. 22: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: THC association members annual mtg.

Oct. 25-27: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: IC mens retreat: attendee & worship team

Nov. 2: Gatepost D.C. Kids Konnection Inner-city outreach, Washington, D.C.: outreach service

Nov. 5: Petra Christian Fellowship, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.

Nov 5: Towerville Christian Church, Parkesburg, PA: Keenagers seniors group

Nov. 20: New Covenant Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim pastors mtg.

Nov. 21: Bethel Baptist Church, Wilmington, DE: local EMF pastors mtg.