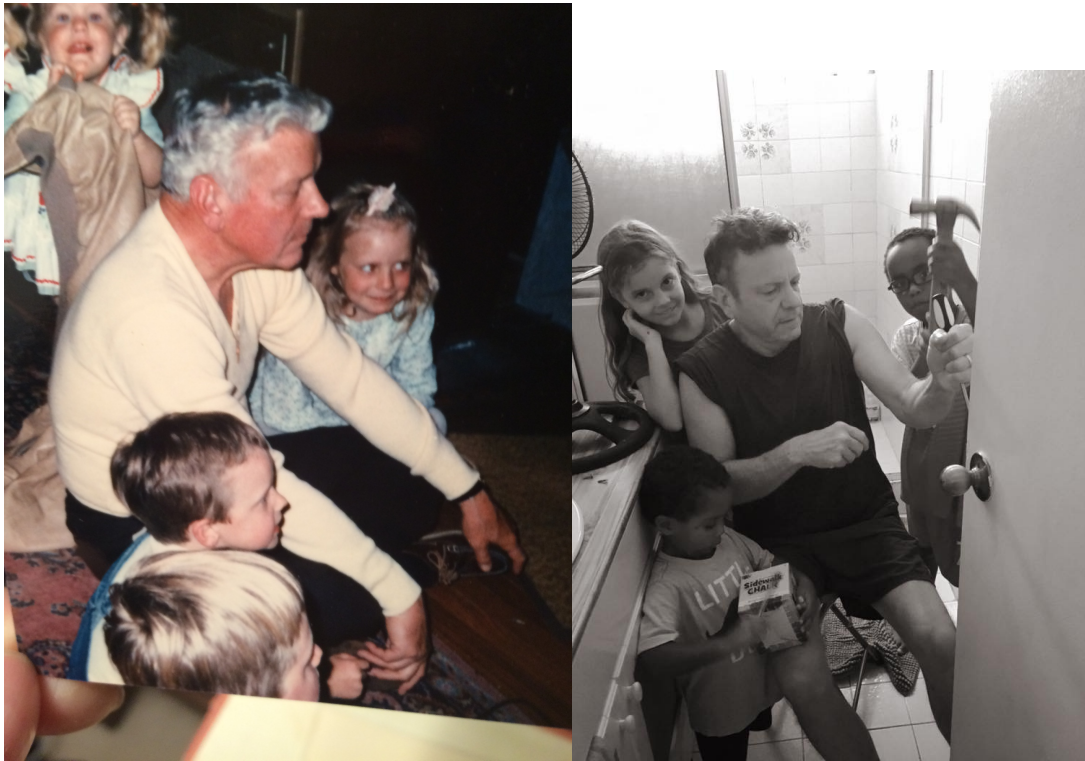


Audio sermons & newsletters: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministriesaudiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>

November 2016

Dear Friends & Family,

"61-LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON"



[10/16] I turned 61 today. Yes-I can't believe it either. I feel like I'm 13-no-12. Emotionally & psychologically I feel like I'm ready to maybe turn 40 but-time doesn't wait. Today is Sunday too. I was born on a Sunday. I met Jesus on a Sunday. I got baptized on a Sunday. I got married on a Sunday. Above is a pic of my dad, James Edward, when he was 61 [He turned 91 last month]. He's surrounded by kids. I am right now too at a youth retreat as I write this. I can think of few gifts I'd rather have on my birthday than that-to be about Jesus' business & in His presence with the young. [10/18]

"FROM COSTA RICA TO HALUWASA-IN 2 WEEKS!"



In the short span of 2 weeks I've gone from preaching in the outskirts of Liberia, Costa Rica using an interpreter, to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey at Camp Haluwasa ministering to a group of teenagers!

"IT'S A 'SETUP'!"





The retreat I mentioned in the previous paragraph is over now. The dust has settled-or, should I say “sand”? The retreat was at a camp in the N.J. Pine Barrens! Everyone has gone home. The chapel is quiet. This was not so just a few days ago. These precious teens, about 30 of them, very racially mixed [a beautiful thing considering the throng around Jesus' throne for all of eternity will be very “racially mixed”!] with about 30% of them not being saved [so the head pastor informed me], have all returned to their daily routines. This retreat was a highly- “concentrated” one in every way. Given the massive game the kids play on Saturday night, the chapel schedule was moved up. Translate? I preached 3X in 18 hours! [ministering 4X overall]. However, it is so much more than preaching. As the pic above shows, setup & tear-down often take more time than the actual ministry time. The worship leader & I spent about 3 hours setting up on Friday, due to “logistical glitches”. After ministering for an hour or so, after all have left the chapel, as tired as I am & want to go to bed, tear-down of the object lesson table must begin, followed by set-up of object lessons for the next chapel's message. I'm very aware the creativity I have is a gift from the Lord-to further display His glorious perfections, illustrate His Word, & enhance both understanding & retention of His Word on behalf of my audiences, both young & old. Perhaps their greatest benefit is to *me*. They are my “sermon notes”. I was poignantly

reminded of this on the opening night of this retreat as we had an object lesson table “glitch”. It really threw me off, not unlike it would to a “normal” preacher whose notes were mixed up & not in the right order. While I was personally disoriented inside, praise The Lord, the audience didn't seem to notice & our Lord stirred the hearers.

“HEAR NO GOOD, SEE NO GOOD”



“Hey Michael, isn't supposed to be, “Hear no *evil*, see no *evil*”? Yes. But at this retreat for some of the teens it was as titled. I had never seen such a phenomenon before in over 30 years of ministering to kids & teens. While I preached to the kids re: the value of their souls, re: the gospel story from Creation to the Consummation, & the huge chasm between adoration & idolatry, a number of them would actually put their hands over their faces or intentionally try to go to sleep! Oh God. I couldn't help but wonder if this was a small microcosm of what would happen in the End Times at Jesus' return, when men would try to hide in caves & holes in the ground, & cry out “Fall on us, & *hide us from the face of Him Who sits upon the throne...*” [Rev. 6:16]. Even the Seraphim, those terrible awe-inspiring creatures who hover over the throne of God & cry day & night, “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty!”-even *they*, who are perfect in holiness themselves, with two of their six wings, *hide their faces from Him Who sits upon the throne*, not being able to look at the intense splendor of His holiness! [Isa.6:1ff] Could this be what some of these kids were experiencing as this

preacher expounded to them the truths re: the holy, sovereign God? I could not help but wonder.

"THE 'CLOUD' OF HIS GLORY"



And yet-as at the dedication of Solomon's temple, God's "cloud" would fill that small retreat chapel basement after the excellencies of His Son were proclaimed. No-not a literal, visible "cloud", but certainly a deep, rich, sweet outpouring of His presence. As the weekend progressed not only did the hands come off the kids' faces [at least one kid I noticed doing so], but one of the older girls who "tried to sleep" during previous messages would look at me in the face while preaching. God's seed & His Spirit's "watering" presence were having effect. This is why I do what I do. This makes all of the work, stress, warfare, & fatigue worth it. One retreator wrote on my birthday card: "Guertin: Thank you, you made preaching unique & entertaining & you [inspired?-sp.?] me to step out of my comfort zone." As I've often said, "If Jesus doesn't give it-I don't get it!"

“WEDDING WEEPER- PREACHER”



Earlier in the month, less than a week after arriving home from Costa Rica, I had the honor, blessing, & privilege to marry two former campers of mine. I hadn't performed a wedding in 5 years, & this would only be my 6th one at that! [Believe it or not I was given 7 minutes to do so! I did it in 9.] As with my last wedding, I went to Eph. 5:25ff for my text. Once again, as in past contemplation of this very sacred topic & portion of God's Word, I couldn't go any further, as I saw afresh a very small glimpse of the Savior's love for His Bride, viz, His choosing of Her [how unbecoming & improper it would be for a bride to ask the groom to marry her!], from among all of the possible women he *could* have! God did this with His Bride Israel in the O.T.: “Behold, the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth, & all they contain {the context demands this “all” be *living beings*, both angelic & human!}, *belong to* The Lord our God. Yet, it was *on your fathers* that He *set His affection, & chose* their descendants after them...” [Dt. 10:14,15]. In the N.T. As well, the Father chose Christ's Bride for Him [Eph. 1:4, Jn. 6:37, 10:29, 17:2,6,9,24], which precipitated Christ's choice of Her [Jn. 15:16]. Yes-the Church's marriage to The Lamb is an *arranged* one! By the Father Himself! Praise His Name! As I tried to convey this to the audience, I had to pause & weep. I

mean, why would He want ME to be part of His Bride? My sins, as the Psalmist said, are *over my head*! Then, to adorn Her, He gave Himself up [to death], in Her place, to make Her worthy to marry Him. Yes, He, Jesus, “bought & made” Her wedding dress [Viz, His righteousness]! The cost? His Own blood! Once again I cried. The next verse says, wonder of wonders, “that He might present Her-to *Himself*”! Oh God. To *Himself*! Not to “Heaven” primarily, but to *Himself*! Just as the Father predestined us to be adopted-to *Himself*! [Eph.1:5]. I couldn't take in this overwhelming love any-more. I certainly couldn't preach anymore. In preparation before the wedding, the thought came to me, “Besides the cross, I know of no greater display of the love of Christ, than the marriage of Christ, to His Bride.” This is basically as far as I got. Time was up. I wept a lot, but the mission was accomplish-ed: Christ's excellencies were proclaimed & the couple was wed. Amen.

“THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME”



***Nov.1-Why this newsletter is late: since the last time I wrote the above, I was suddenly, in a matter of hours, cut down by a virus that many believe was induced by my flu shot received on October 20th. On the evening of Kim's birthday, October 24th, after having done one of my regular strength-training/football workouts, within hours I was a devastated man. Fever that made me shake violently, constants throbs of pain to the side of the head & ear that made me cry out in pain [this was happening up until yesterday!], double-vision [as I type this I have to keep one eye closed!], swimmy/faint/dizzy head, body aches, & then numbness in my feet & legs that required me to use a walker! Went to hospital for 2 days. I had so many tests taken: catscan, MRI, several blood tests, 2 spinal taps, etc. Conclusion: Miller/Fisher Variant GBS. It's a mono-phasic syndrome, meaning it only happens once if it does. This has been the worst sickness of my entire life! I shall write about it in more detail next month. I can say at this point that I'm slowly improving, praise Jesus' Name. Our trust is in the Lord and we are believing for complete recovery. Thank you for all of the love, prayers, and encouragement. Sincerely, Michael**

Ministry/Events for NOVEMBER & those not listed in last month's newsletter:



Caboose! on the Loose!:

****NOTE: Because of my illness some of my events I had scheduled to serve at were either postponed or canceled.**

Oct. 19: a.m.:New Covenant Community Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area pastors' mtg.

Oct. 19: IC, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David: worship leader

Oct. 23: Maranatha Christian Fellowship-Berlin Campus, West Berlin, NJ: Sun. a.m. service: leading worship & preaching

Nov. 11,12: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: Immanuel Church men's retreat: speaker

Nov. 19: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: Immanuel Church Warehouse youth retreat: 2 services

Nov. 20: New Life Church, Egg Harbor Township, 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.[https://www.denarionline.com/DONORSERVICES/TEMPLATEPAGE.ASPXCOMP_REF= ELIMFEL&SID=vjywxzcot0d5c5pnrq1f0rnl&CONTENT=MISSIONARY&MISSION_REF=E8668ABEC7](https://www.denarionline.com/DONORSERVICES/TEMPLATEPAGE.ASPXCOMP_REF=_ELIMFEL&SID=vjywxzcot0d5c5pnrq1f0rnl&CONTENT=MISSIONARY&MISSION_REF=E8668ABEC7)

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