

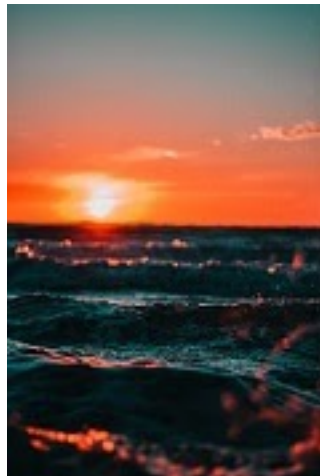
Audio Sermons: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/caboose-ministries/audiopodcast/id506049887mt=2>

YouTube Channel [for dramas, sermons, & puppet shows for kids]: Michael Robert Guertin

Website: www.cabooseministries.org **Caboose!** Facebook Site: “Michael ‘Guerty’ Guertin”

November 2021

“THE ‘**GOLDEN GUERTIN TRIANGLE**’ or FROM **SEA TO SHINING SEA?**”



Dear **Friends & Family**,

[10/29] Kim & I returned from a two week, **2,520** mile trip the night before last [The past three Sundays, I have been in **MD, AL, & OH!**]. I had estimated that the trip would encompass about 40 hours in the car together. It turned out to be much more than that, given traffic jams, highway construction delays, stops, etc. Kim & I would say to each other, “At least we’re together!”. And, that was true. And she still loves me! 😊 Because of Covid, we had not seen our daughter Laura’s children since February of 2020! And, we had not been to our oldest son Matthew’s house since November of 2019! It was time. We were wary of flying, re: crowded airports & planes due to the pandemic-hence, we drove. I preferred to drive. I’ve always enjoyed it & we would drive roads & to places we had never been. It was truly a getaway. Sometime before the trip I realized something I had never thought of before. Kim & I are less than 2 miles (as the crow flies) from the **Delaware River**. Our daughter Laura & family live very close to **Mobile Bay** which is an inlet of the **Gulf of Mexico** (40 minutes away). Our son Matthew lives in Cleveland, OH, just a couple of blocks from **Lake Erie**. Hence, our trip encompassed a massive triangle, so to speak, of going between each of these major U.S. bodies of water. Of the

15 days we were gone, 5 were spent on the road, 5 with Laura & family, & 5 with Matthew & family.

"OUR THIRD 'PASSENGER'"



Kim & I weren't the only 2 people in the car. We had a 3rd passenger who rode in the trunk the entire, 2,500+ mile trip. Yes-in the trunk. It made the voyage so much more enjoyable. Before you call the police or child services, let me tell you who it was-"Chip". My perennial 4-year-old puppet whom I've owned for 30 years. Why? It has been my deep aspiration for over a year to film a ***Chip Sunday Show*** with Laura, Nate, & family. I've had the script in my head (& in email format!) for many months. It took some coaxing, but I was finally able to shoot the scenes-about ***35 of them*** in all! I love it how a guest star is often reluctant to be in the show, but as filming proceeds, they typically get into it. Filming a Chip show with family is like making home movies-*on steroids*. If you ask the average parent how often they actually *view* their own family home movies, if they were honest, I'm sure it would be seldom to rarely. On the other hand, when the family members interact with a puppet, with a plot & a script, I'm sure the frequency of said views increases significantly.

"LOST 'N FOUND"



Chip Shows with family is so much more than fun-it is preserving family history. One of the 1st things I try to do after I film the various scenes for a given show, is to transfer them out of my phone to my computer for post-production. For one thing, this keeps limited phone storage free as videos take up *a lot of storage*. It also further preserves them. We recently watched one of my favorite top 5 movies of all time, "**The Human Comedy**", 1943, with **Mickey Rooney**. He is a messenger boy for a telegraph office. His boss tells him, after giving him various & sundry instructions "Whatever you do, never lose a telegram". This is my philosophy re: Chip Show footage I shoot.

"THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENED!"



After a wonderful time with Nate, Laura, & the kids, we headed from southern Alabama not far from the Gulf Coast up to Lake Erie, where again, our son Matthew & family live. I was anxious to work on Laura's Chip Show family footage I had shot while in Alabama. When I opened up my video program to edit & produce the shows, all but 2 of the 35 scenes I filmed in Alabama were *missing*!! To this day I have no idea why. And, why would a couple of them still be in the program but not the vast majority of them?? My heart sank to the floor. I became instantly sick in spirit, realizing I could not drive back down the 15 or so hours to Alabama to shoot the scenes again. I prayed again & again from the bottom of my heart for the Lord to have mercy & help me find a way to retrieve them. They were family treasures lost forever if not! They were pieces of footage capturing all of the members of our daughter's family in this space in time in their lives. I cannot begin to convey how sick at heart I was. I emailed the website I use to transfer the files from my iPhone [which I film with] to my email account which I use to download them to my computer for post-production. The website told me the videos had expired on their website. They were "scrubbed" as they put it. I searched in all of the places I could think of where possibly, even remotely possible, they might have been saved. Nothing. Then, the recycle bin came to my mind. What made this unusual is that I'm typically a stickler when it comes to my recycle bins. I'm a zealot to keep them clean & empty. Hence, I assumed this would afford little hope. Yet-when I opened up the bin-there they were! My heart leaped for joy & I repeatedly thanked the Lord-again & again. And yet-it was for at least another whole

day that I felt sick in my spirit as if I had lost them! That's how priceless these videos were to me! I quickly retrieved them & reinserted them back into my video program AND I backed up & exported them this time to also store in my home desktop computer! Thank You, thank You, thank You, Lord-again! [Some of you may wonder why I could have such a gamut of emotions re: this-if you see the final product you'll understand why. I hope I remember to insert the **YouTube** link of the shows in my newsletter when they're finished. It could take months as many other shows are in post-production now.]. Speaking of **Chip**, our 76 year-old neighbor up the street, whose birthday is today, texted me yesterday after watching the **Chip Sunday Show**: "**This little show is the highlight of my Sunday; great job**". When our 90 year-old neighbor across the street saw her comment [she was in the same text thread], she responded: "**It's mine too**", et al.

"A PUPPET REUNION"



As I said above, I have owned my trademark puppet "Chip" now for 30 years. Around that time I was also given a **Donald Duck** puppet. Our oldest son Matt, who is a lead pastor now of a church plant, animated Donald's puppet when Matt was only about 12 years old, having learned it from an older friend of his down the street, a.k.a., **Bill Kulp**. Matt still "has it". In **Caboose!** kids church decades ago, while I would be out in front of the kids as the emcee, Matt would pop up & do Donald. It would crack me up so much that sometimes I'd have a hard time talking with the kids. Well, for Matt & family's **Chip Show** which I also filmed on this trip, for the 1st time ever, **Chip & Donald** filmed some scenes *together!* Yes-as I wrote above, these **Chip Shows** are so much more than a silly puppet show-they are preservations of family history, not to mention their original purpose-to bless kids [& adults!] in Covid-quarantine. **"THE WEeping PROPHEt"** No-I'm not talking about Jeremiah-I'm talking about me. While in OH at our son Matthew's, he once again gave me the honor of preaching to his church, a.k.a., "Local Church Cleveland". The last time I did two years ago this month said church was meeting in his living room! Now, they rent a nearby church building. He was currently in a series in Exodus. Some months ago I covered a number of the plagues levied on Egypt in my "The Adorable Wrath of God" **Cab!Talk** series. And yet-I almost immediately felt I was to give his congregation my Sunday night "**Camp Staff Vision 2021**" message from this past summer.

“SUPER-SUPER MARIO”



As I shared with his people that night, just as in the video game *Super Mario*, when Mario would run along the maze, he would occasionally come up under a steel plate. He would stop, & start jumping up & down, causing his hardhat to hit the steel plate. Upon doing so, gold coins would come shooting out of the top. Mario would keep striking the plate until the gold coins stopped coming out. This is what I felt with this message. On the evening of this service, I had preached this basic message 5 times since last June. And yet-& yet-it still burned in my spirit, causing me to feel crushed inside, to weep, to so deeply long for more of God that I could barely contain it. I would lay in bed at night thinking of it. Its truths seem unattainable in this life. [Video link: <https://youtu.be/1zvfEdnMt88>]. There are so many things I could share with you about this message but one of the main foci of it is the prophet Isaiah crying out to the Lord, “Where are the stirrings of Your heart?” [Isa. 63:15]. The Hebrew is “the agitations of Your intestines”! Oh God. Oh God. Beloved? Have you ever pondered re: the depths & infinitude of the Divine essence? To help grasp it even in only the most minute way, consider the vast expanse of the light years of the universe. Yes, it’s mind-boggling. Now, consider that the both the idea of it & its actual materialization came from the essence of God, i.e., what He is “made up of”, i.e., “spirit” [Jn.4:23]. Infinite, absolute, perfect Spirit, which contains all of the Divine perfections & attributes. And Isaiah was asking for God’s “deepest parts” to be stirred for the sake of His people. Oh God. I can’t even type it without being stirred again. It’s an ache, Beloved. It’s a sickness that is never cured-to have more of God. “And the boy grew, & the Lord blessed him, & the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him...”. This was spoken of **Samson** [Jud.13:24,25]. God has stirred many of His servants over the millennia. And yet, & yet-here Isaiah is wanting **GOD** to be stirred! I have begged & entreated the Lord in prayer repeatedly, “O dear Lord-what does it take, what do I have to do, what do I have to be, to STIR YOU like Your servant David did??”. David is the only man in the Bible whom God described as one “after His Own heart”. There was something about who David was that “moved” the Lord’s heart. O, how I want to be that man. Yes, I know our Lord boasted greatly re: the character of His servant **Job** [& this right before He allowed Satan to severely try him!]. Jesus also said that among women, “there was no one greater than **John the Baptist**”. **Daniel** was “highly esteemed” in the sight of

God. Is there any higher quest in life, Beloved, than to stir the heart of God, as He stirs ours?? I think not.

“PHASERS [PREACHERS!] ON STUN”



Some of you **Star Trek** fans will remember when **Captain Kirk** & his comrades were threatened by an alien enemy who was potentially harmful, Kirk would say, “Phasers on stun”. Once again, with this particular message, as I have often prayed before, “Lord? Would You please stun Your people hearing this message now as You stunned me in receiving it? I would be a contented man. Amen.”. At **Local Church Cleveland**, I showed a slide of a little boy “stunned” on the front row of a chapel service at a Christian camp in the 1950’s, around the time I was about to be conceived or perhaps a toddler. Ironically, it was just miles from where I would get saved in a convent as an 18-year-old in 1974. Other kids in this picture in the audience were either shouting or laughing, but not this little boy. He was stunned. His look is priceless & it is always what I ache for in the audiences the Lord graces me to preach to in my travels. As I looked out at the people of **Local**, I was not sure how to read them. They just sat there. There was very little *visible* reaction from what I could see.

“I GOT WHAT I PRAYED FOR”



And yet, after the service, a seasoned saint of God said to me, “I could go for another half-hour”. He later messaged me: *“It was good to see you! God’s given you a very unique & special gift...I was moved by the Spirit to deeper levels of longing for God...thank you! May the Lord continue to use you mightily for His kingdom.”* I couldn’t ask for more, Beloved, when I preach. And yet-it gets better. At our son’s house two days later a mother of an 11-year-old boy who was in the service told me, “Our son was stunned”, et al. And it gets even better-my 11-year-old grandson **Kylan** who manned the cameras that night came up to me & gave me a hug & said how much the message meant to him. I had him ride back to his house with me that night. I told him as we were pulling away from the church, “I’ve often said that if I won every kid in the world to the Lord but lost my own children, as far as I was concerned, I failed. It means the most to me when my own family is touched by my ministry.” And that is still true for me. Amen.

“PROVIDENCE VIA A PUPPET SHOW”



[10/31] This one is fresh off the press, so to speak, as in just happening a few minutes ago! Remember above where I wrote that **Chip & Donald** did their first puppet show together? Well, I decided yesterday to send one of their scenes to Bill Kulp, who again, taught our son Matthew how to do Donald’s voice. Well, when I sent it to Bill via text, the only reply I got was “who dis”. Bill would not reply like that, given that he knows full-well who Chip & Donald are! I

immediately messaged his wife, Jodi. She confirmed that Bill had changed his number. Well, when I got up this a.m. around 6:30 I checked my phone & discovered a voice message on it from an unknown number. I was taken aback. It was from a very concerned father re: his son whom "I texted" last night! Argh! The sender of the "who dis" text reply to my puppet show video was a 12-year-old boy who had Bill Kulp's old phone number! Of course, I got an immediate knot of fear in the bottom of my stomach. In these days of massive & pervasive cultural perversion, I easily understood why said father would be so concerned! I saw that he had left his phone message at 10:42 last night. Hence, I was anxious to call him right away & get this situation all cleared up but was afraid to call him too early as he was already upset as it was! I waited until I had sent out my weekly **Chip Sunday Show** to my various & sundry recipients as I do every Sunday a.m. I prayed that the Lord would turn this potentially disastrous (?) situation into a good one. When I called the father, he told me that his son had deleted the puppet show video! Hence, this poor man & his wife when they went to bed last night had no idea who was texting their son nor what VIDEO(!) he had sent him! To further thicken the suspense, when I called the man, it turns out he was a **COP!** I gently & quickly as possible explained the situation. I was so grateful he had an understanding heart about it. And, it turns out, he was a Christian brother in the Lord! He repeatedly told me how relieved he & his wife were to have it all explained to them. I sent him my www.cabooseministries.org website as well as the www.hopewellsummercamps.org one. I even sent him a sample of a finished product of a **Chip Sunday Show**. I told him our oldest son who did the voice of Donald in the video I (unknowingly) sent his son was 41, had 5 kids, & was a pastor! I was trying to share all I could to alleviate his & his wife's apprehensions re: this awkward situation. He later texted me & said, "... we'll be sure to tune in to some of your videos..."

I told him we were firm supporters of **the police** & thankful for them for which he was also grateful in these authority-despising days.

"POST-MINISTRY ATTACK"



For many years at our summer camps, I would warn the camp staff to be aware of the likelihood of being attacked after camp was over- "**After blessing, comes testing.**" Well, that principle came to mind when I heard the phone message first thing this morning. In the recent past, our Lord had used me by His kind grace in many ministry locations with His people of all

ages. I cannot thank Him enough for turning this potentially disastrous situation into the discovery of a new Christian brother, whom I hope to meet this side of Heaven. May it be so.

Sincerely,

Michael

PS-**Bruce Gregory**, the program director of **Tel Hai Camp** since 1995 recently sent me this text below re: this past summer's kids campers he ran into. I thought it would bless. 😊

"...Was at Hopewell Church Elverson last Sunday representing camp for their Missions Sunday.

Talked to several kids who came up to my table. I had put a few photos from Hopewell Camps on my display.

A couple of them pointed out themselves. I was asking the kids (who had come to Kids Camp), what their

favorite part of camp was. *They all said the same thing and said it immediately - "Chapel!"*



***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]: "I want to lay, stay, pray, & then say" (re: my philosophy re: ministry/preaching progression) [M.R.G. 10/6/'21]



[Caboose! On the Loose!](#)

[Looking Out for the Little Ones](#)

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

Oct. 16, 23, 24: my birthday, our anniversary, & Kim's birthday

Nov. 2: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.

Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24: Cab!Talk verse-by-verse Bible exposition video postings

Nov. 7,14,,28: Chip Sunday Show productions/posting

Nov. 21: Family Life Center, Lagrangeville, NY: 2 Sunday a.m. services

Nov. 22: TLC Addictions Ministry, West Park, NY: a.m. class

Nov. 23: Upton Lake Christian School, Clinton Corners, NY: student body chapel



*Michael is an ordained *Elim Fellowship* itinerant Stateside missionary & is also licensed to preach the gospel by *Immanuel Church*, Wilmington, DE. *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. Thank you! [click here](#)

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