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NOTE: important update from [Elim Fellowship](#) re: giving. See at the end.

OCTOBER 2023

Dear Friends & Family,

“ELECTED HEADS” OF (the ‘eternal’) STATE @ ‘SIGHT AND SOUND’



[9/12] Late last month, Kim & I attended *Sight & Sound Theatre’s* annual “INSIPRE” event. Pastors & leaders of ministries are invited to come for the afternoon to participate in worship, communion, an interview with the producer of the particular dramatic production to be performed that day, the actual performance (this year it was “Moses”), & a meal following. All of this is provided free-of-charge by **Sight & Sound**. As Kim & I sat through the performance, a number of times the special effects of the production required that bright white spotlights flash intermittently upon the audience. As I sat there, my focus turned from the show to the audience. My heart sank inside from brokenness & grateful awe. I felt tears starting to come. “How so, Michael?” I feel as if the Lord gave me a small glimpse of how He saw His people. All I saw was the back of human heads. But as I watched, what I realized & was reminded of struck deeply inside my soul. Every one of these precious people were, ultimately, sitting there for one reason, & one reason only. God, for His Own unknown but holy & wise purposes & good-pleasure, chose them in eternity past, before the foundation of the world (Eph.1:4), to be His own. He chose, way back then, to predestine every one of them, to be adopted as His sons (children), to Himself (Eph.1:5). Of the massive lump of fallen humanity (Rom.9:21), these were some whom He chose to be His vessels of mercy-whom He prepared beforehand for glory (Rom.9:23). These were some of those whom the Father, at some point in eternity past, gave to His Son Jesus Christ (Jn.6:37, 44, 65 10:29, 17:2,6,9,24; Heb.2:13; Acts 13:48).

“AWED-YET SAD”



Moments later, this tender compassion that I was feeling for God’s was followed by an acute sadness. Why? I would dare say that many of them have never heard, or at the very least, have never understood these precious, God-glorifying, soul-melting truths, which are spread throughout the entirety of God’s Word. How very sad, how very tragic it is, that so many of the Lord’s sheep will never realize the precious truth, “You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you” (Jn.15:16), until they are in glory with their “Chooser”. As I’ve written before, once a Christian realizes this, they are never the same. And, NO Christian understands this until well after their conversion. I’ve often likened it to the scene in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) re: **Dorothy Gale** of Kansas, upon her arrival in **Munchkin Land**. It is only then, that her life goes from black & white to color! That is a very good analogy to describe what happens to a Christian when they realize that ultimately, the sole reason they are in Heaven, is--*pure mercy*.

“HELD CLOSE TO HIS ‘CHEST’”



“He will feed His flock like a shepherd, He gathers the lambs in His arms, & carries them close to His heart...” [Isa.40:11]. Speaking of God’s chosen ones, His “treasured possessions” [Deut.7:6],

last month I ministered at a combination youth/men's retreat @ **Tel Hai Camp**. In my preparation, I felt to "dig out of my treasures old & new" [Mt.13:52] a **golden treasure chest** I had used at camp many years ago. I have also used this same chest as an object lesson for the Ark of the Covenant, minus the cherubim! When I opened it up to retrieve certain documents in it, I noticed there were several small slips of paper lying on the bottom. They were the names of former campers & staff from many, many years ago (my guess is 2005). I took pictures of many of the names & sent them to said former campers & staff. Every one of those who received it had their hearts warmed by the memory.

"VITAMIN 'B-3' PRESCRIPTION FOR POST-CAMP SEASON HEALTH"



[9/11] Oftentimes, on Friday morning of camp, before the campers give their testimonies re: what God did in their lives during the week, I prescribe for them **vitamin B3** to take on a regular basis until camp next year. "B3"? Yes. The first B is the "**Book**", vis, **the Bible**. Man shall not live by food only, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God [Mt.4:4]. The second B is the "**Bird**", vis, the **Holy Spirit**. He is our daily sustaining power. He produces the life & health of God in us. By Him, we put to death sin on a daily basis, worship & intercede, & are conformed into the image of Jesus. The third B is the "**Body**", i.e., The **Body of Christ**. I tell the campers that

Jesus has so ordained it that we need His Body, His people, in order to make it in this life. He has knit us together by His Spirit. If an arm is severed from the body, it dies. I tell the campers Jesus “wants” them depressed, full of sorrow & troubles, etc., if they avoid fellowship with His people. If He *blessed them* while they avoided His people, they’d probably never come back! It’s His faithfulness that He has ordained it so. Hence, regular attendance in youth group & church is a must in order to their soul’s health. Take your **B3!**

“MY 3 ‘CONES’ THAT SAFEGUARD MY LIFE & MINISTRY”



Speaking of spiritual health & guidance, I told the campers at Sr. Hi. Camp this past summer about the “**3 Cones**” I have had in my life for many, many years that keep me “on course” on a daily basis-3 guide-posts, 3 guardrails, if you will. The **1st cone** is that **the whole world is going to Hell**. Jesus said in Mat. 7:13,14 that wide is the gate & broad is the road that leads to destruction, & *many* are those who find it. If He had stopped there, there could be (& sadly are!) those who could argue, “Yes, Jesus did say many would end in the eternal destruction of their souls in Hell, but there will be more souls in Heaven than those who wind up in the Lake of Fire. But, Jesus *didn’t* stop there. He then said, “Narrow is the gate, & constricted is the path that leads to life, & *few* are those who find it.” He couldn’t have been more clear in His soul-

stirring & sobering words. [Note: I'm very well aware that the multitude of the redeemed in Heaven for all eternity will be a number that no one can count (Rev. 7:9)]. However, based on our Lord Jesus' words above, compared to the entire population of the human race from **Adam** until the last human being is conceived, the total number is "few". The **2nd cone** that daily regulates my life is "**Judgment Day is coming**". "God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness, through a Man Whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead" [Acts 17:31]. "...God will bring every deed into judgment, whether good or evil, & every secret thing [Ecc.12:11]. Nothing is hidden that will not be revealed [Lk.8:17]. Every minute of every day of my life, I will give an account for, when I stand before the Lord Jesus on His glorious throne. He will ask for an explanation for each day re: what I did with my time, health, energy, resources, gifts & talents that He gave me, etc. And, our Lord also said, "To whom much is given-much is required" [Lk. 12:48]. Countless Christians, including myself, on That Great Day, will wish then they had yielded & surrendered more fully to the Lord's Word, Spirit, & guidance during their very short tenure on planet Earth. The **3rd cone** is that **the gospel must be preached**. There is only one God, Who only has one Son, Who died once & for all, for all who would believe in Him. All who don't believe in & obey Him will certainly perish eternally, having offended an eternal God. There is only one message that relates this indescribable truth of Divine rescue—the gospel. The Devil hates it, & attempts to block, hinder, & thwart it at all costs. He does so by diluting & polluting its message via a vast array & plethora of false teachers. In addition, the evil one, the hater of men's souls, also constantly & relentlessly attacks faithful bearers of this glorious message of how to escape from the wrath to come. These 3 cones constantly help me keep focused, on task, & greatly help me keep my hand to the plow-not looking back.

"THE 4TH CONE"



[9/25] If I added a 4th cone to the above 3, it definitely would be the “**I Cor. 2:2 Cone**”, namely, **“I am deter-mined to know nothing when I am with you, but Jesus Christ-& Him crucified.”** This is my compass, my daystar, my guiding light to my doctrine, life, & ministry. This Christ-centered thrust is my own personal “tip-of-the-spear”. I wish it was everyone’s, particularly ministers. Tragically, it is not. It is not. If it were, the unending glut of false, aberrant, tangential, peripheral, mystically-based, etc., doctrines would not exist. And, oh, what a glorious thing that would be! This precious Scripture verse, when deeply embedded in one’s soul, keeps them from the limitless “doctrinal fads”, & may I say, “Christian causes”, that come down the Church pike at a seemingly increasingly rapid pace these days. Yes. This has always been the case. But, one can’t deny that the internet & social media factor has exponentially compounded the matter. Paul was exponentially more spiritual than any of these “internet influencers”, so many of which are super-spiritual with constant “new revelations” they keep purveying. Yet, Paul said his only concern was the Person of Christ-& that He was crucified. This truth is definitely a golden railroad spike driven deeply into my soul’s soil. May it never be unearthed!

"FROM A 'CRAMPED-CAMPER' TO HAVING A CAMPER OF HIS OWN!"



Of countless camp memories over the decades, one of the most unique & memorable is my locking my arms around an 8-year old boy who was screaming hysterically for his mother as she drove away to leave him at camp for his inaugural year. Let me reassure you that it was his mother's will that he stay! 😊 In fact, his mother wound up coming back to camp to counsel that week as I unexpectedly lost a female staff member! By the way, this "mother" was the same woman I wrote about in last month's newsletter article, re: "This One Floored Me", etc. "Chris", after hearing my Jr Hi Camp message this past summer re: all that Jesus saves us from, lay on the floor for a while before the Lord. Well, this little guy "Josh" is married now, & has a potential "little camper" of his own! And, Josh made it through that week of camp! Of course, I'm sure it helped that his Mama came back to counsel!

"FROM A COUNSELOR IN MY EARLY YEARS WHO ALSO TEACHES THE YOUNG"

Not that long ago, shortly after this past summer's camp season, I posted a picture of a certain place at camp & how precious the summer was because of the Lord once again visiting us there. Below is what a former counselor from my 2nd year at Tel Hai (1992) commented re: it: {btw-he has been a jr. hi. teacher for several years now}.

"...& Summers going back decades before this one. I'll never forget those summers of my last few high school & first couple college years being there as a counselor. My life was impacted just the same as those campers. Seeing that picture warms my heart, Michael. God is good."
[Kevin]

“CHARLES HODGE, ELIM BIBLE INSTITUTE & MY 2000 NISSAN FRONTIER ?”



[9/30] Ever since I lived with my maternal grandparents in Missouri during the summer of 1974, just a few months after the Lord apprehended me in a convent there, I’ve wanted a **Chevy** pickup truck. Why? “Pop” bought a brand new 1973 white Chevy truck while I was there & I immediately fell in love with it. Pop would *reluctantly* let me drive it to town on rare occasions, & I don’t blame him! Well, after several decades I bought my “dream truck” from a friend nearby here in DE in November 2021. Upon doing so, I offered my previous ministry vehicle, vis, a **2000 Nissan Frontier**, which I had owned for 15 years, to my home away from home, **Tel Hai Camp**. When I did so, I assumed they’d make it a camp vehicle for around the campgrounds. I was surprisingly amazed when I learned they soon made it “road-worthy” in the state of Pennsylvania! The Frontier served me well for those 15 years in my itinerant ministry, & it would probably take another whole newsletter to share all of my adventures in “new frontiers” in the Lord’s work. Well, let’s go back 21 years. I was preaching at an Elim-connected church in the Princeton, N.J. area, & after the service, my host took me past the once famous theological bulwark of the Christian faith-**Princeton Seminary**. It long ago went liberal, which prompted J.

Gresham Machen to move on from it in the early 20th century to form today's present Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia. During Princeton's glory years, a master theologian named **Charles Hodge** taught there for 56 years. When I embarked in the ministry in 1986, at my church back then, I was given a book budget. I saw Hodge's 3 volume "magnus opus" of theology on sale. I knew nothing of him, but when I saw the offer, I remember thinking to myself, "Huh-he taught at Princeton for 56 years-he must know something." And, I bought the set. I had no idea of the gold mine I had purchased. My jaw was on the floor, so to speak, several times as I gorged upon Hodge's insights into grace & sovereignty. I have never been the same. The Lord used Hodge to "deliver me" from many unscriptural notions I held, &, along with them, many fears. Well, when we drove past the building at Princeton where Hodge's office was on the top floor, my host told me it's been said that when people go into his office, a powerful presence can still be felt in the room. Wow. I was in awe. **Elim Bible Institute**, my alma mater, has had the same reputation for many decades too. Elim is famous for missions, & *worship*. Countless alumni & visitors over the years have said you can feel the Lord's presence when you walk onto the campus. I would concur with that experience-several times. Back to my Frontier. **Dean Weiler**, a dear brother in the Lord, sent me a text yesterday with a picture of my former truck in his shop. He was doing work on it. This is what he told me after sending the picture: "...working on this today...very cool... many unique **Guertin** upgrades!...you can still feel the Spirit when you get into it. Goosebumps!" [Dean Weiler, Tel Hai Camp board member] Beloved, I don't even know what to say to this. My first reaction was that Dean, being the kind, sweet, & humble brother that he is, was just trying to encourage me. Believe me, I'll take every drop of encouragement I can get! I have my doubts re: his precious comment, but, if our Lord touched him while working on it, I am forever grateful & humbled. Wow. Jesus! It is my most sincere, heartfelt prayer that our Lord would give me several more itinerant excursions for Him in my new (used) truck. May it be so. Amen. **Michael**



***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 longer you adore (re: time in God's Word & presence), the stronger you abhor (idols, substitutes, glory of God robbers, the things of the world, etc.)."** [M.R.G.]



Caboose! On The Loose!

Ministry/events for *OCTOBER* & those not listed in last month's newsletter:

Sept. 28: Converge Church, Moorestown, NJ: EF local pastors' mtg.

Sept. 30: Haddon Heights, NJ: hsc camp personnel mtg.//Catholic grade school 53rd reunion

Oct. 1: Wilmington Community Evangelical Chinese Church, Hockessin, DE: Sun. English service

Oct. 13-15: Camp Haluwasa, Hammonton, NJ: Converge Church, Moorestown, NJ: youth retreat

Oct. 16, 23, 24: Michael's birthday, Michael & Kim's 46th anniversary, & Kim's birthday (respectively)

Oct. 18-31: "Triangle Trip": Daphne, AL, Cleveland, OH: visiting our 2 oldest children & their families



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NOTE: UPDATED GIVING INFO FROM ELIM FELLOWSHIP-ELIM IS UPDATING THEIR GIVING PAGES!

***Any recurring gifts will carry over BUT once the new system goes live this month, you will need to set a new password on your first entry into the new system. All donors (current or**

previous) will be able simply to make a new password, & all your info will be carried over. Once in the new system, donors will be able to manage their pledges, see history, access statements, etc. This also means that from this month onward, you'll want to use the following updated link to access my giving page: <https://elimfellowship.org/give/4100-GUEMC> Thank you so very much! Michael & Kim

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*Michael is an ordained *Elim Fellowship* itinerant Stateside missionary & *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 this link to give directly: <https://elimfellowship.org/give/4100-GUEMC> Thank you!

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