

September 1, 2012

LAYING DOWN ON THE JOB

Dear Friends & Family,

(8/4) Last month I wrote about one of my five camps where I had the privilege of serving the Lord & His young. This particular one was in N.Y. It was the 2nd year of a community outreach day camp, hosted by a pastor who I attended [Elim Bible Institute](#) with & who happened to be the best man in my wedding. He's in his early sixties now, but a couple of years ago, he felt a new directive in the Lord to devote the next 20 years of his life to children. Some of you may recall [Dwight L. Moody](#), the 19th century evangelist from Chicago, a former shoe salesman. He is reported to have led 1 million souls to the Lord Jesus in his ministry. At the end of his life, he is reputed to have said that if he could conduct his ministry all over again, he would have devoted it exclusively to *children*. When my pastor friend told me of his new vision & burden for the latter part of his life, I recalled this story. My friend began to transform his church property little by little into a family-oriented facility. This dear friend, whose name is Peter Miller, by the way, gave me a huge honor by inviting me to be part of his inaugural camp last summer, & bequeathed on me a double honor by inviting me back this year. It is not uncommon for a church, group, or ministry which conducts a certain event on a regular basis, for them to invite someone new & different each year, & understandably so. I was quite humbled to be invited back. This year, unlike the previous, had a new challenge, however. The previous year, I had a week in between this camp & one of my own in PA. Not so! The N.Y. camp this summer was moved up a week, placing it right after two camps in a row in PA. I either directed or ministered at. The N.Y. camp has two chapels each day. I'm responsible for ministry in the morning chapel, which usually included Time Machine dramas & preaching. Then, for the afternoon chapels, I would embellish them for the afternoon speaker, by providing puppet shows, costumed characters, & Bible games. The days were long. The days were hot. The church has no A/C! This is one of the reasons I requested to sleep in the church basement both years. Having just finished two camps before arriving at this one, I was already exhausted. And yet, there isn't anything else I'd rather do. The basement, where my living quarters were, was filled with people throughout the day. In my desperation to fill up, I remember going into my room, locking the door [Yes! There were "little people" everywhere! J] & lying on the tile portion of the classroom floor, which was cooler than the carpet. I was desperate for sleep, but it has always been difficult for me to sleep during the day. I would lay there & go over certain portions of Scripture in my mind, as I was too tired to read. This little exercise was invaluable, as, the Lord's Word, along with His Spirit within, would refresh me in those precious minutes I took to lay down on the job, before Him! J

ROLLIN'W/THE MANY ROLES

(8/25)

I returned home late a week ago last night from my 5th & final camp of the summer. This was our annual kids' camp, &, if I was ever forced to pick only one to direct, it would be this one. I love all of them, but again, if I was *forced* to pick only one, it'd be kids' camp. Forgive the expression, but there is something "magical" about this one. Unlike the senior & junior high camps, this one includes puppets, Bible games, costumed characters, & just a bit more craziness & frenzy. I've often said one of the many reasons I love camp so much is that I cannot

think of any other ministry venue where the various & sundry gifts our Father has given me to bless His people could have as many outlets for them. Besides pastoring & directing the camp, which involved preaching 3X, teaching 7X [including staff devotions & Bible Study & Quizzing skill class], I also performed two "Time Machine" dramas, both as **Abraham** & for this particular camp, King Solomon's chariot-house keeper [my **Barabbas** Time Machine drama which I performed at the first two camps would have been too intense & violent for some of this age group] & two field dramas, one on horseback as a scout for Herod Antipas, & then the other as John The Baptist. During some morning chapels, I puppeteered w/my trademark ChipMonk, "Chip", & also played "Frontier Fred", an uncouth mountain man lookin' fur' a wife from among the campers, who, by the way, was quickly "dismissed" by the other directors! All of these "shenanigans" took place in a chapel littered with puppet stages, props, electrical gadgets, etc. that I had built years ago. The only two major giftings our Lord has given me which I didn't use at this particular camp were worship leading & drumming, both of which I love. But, as you can see above, I had more than enough to do. I can't thank the Lord enough for His kindness in enabling & allowing me to do this. Then, on top of it all, when you see the full counsel of His Word preached, even to the very young, & see them respond, there is nothing like it in all the earth. It truly is the best of both worlds— tons of fun & the power & adoration of God.

ONE ON ONE

I told our counseling staff during their Sunday evening orientation/vision meeting before camp started, that they were our front lines. They befriended the children, gave them lots of attention & affection, roomed with them, ate with them, played with them, prayed with them, wept with them, etc. throughout the week. I likened their doing so to both **Elijah & Elisha's** raising a child from the dead. Both laid on the child, with Elisha aligning his eyes to the child's eyes, his mouth to the child's mouth, & his hands to the child's hands. The text [II Kgs.4] then says that the "boy grew warm", & came back to life. I told the staff this, in essence, is what they are doing all week long as they minister to the child. I told them that this relationship-process softens & pre-pares the child for the life-giving ministry of the Word of God, & that it did.

A PLACE TO LAND

After the busiest summer of my life with five camps, I was really longing for some down-time to catch my breath, fill-up, de-program, get edified myself, etc. The only two people I want to be with after such intense ministry times are my "King" & my "Kim"! It was not to be, however. As is usual the day after camp, it was filled with unloading & unpacking, many emails [I don't check them at camp], grass-cutting, etc. I was also hit with some horrific post-camp warfare, like I hadn't had in years. Then, there was ministry at church the next morning, both in the adult service, then after the kids were dismissed, in children's church, leading worship & camp testimonies. When we arrived home from church, we had out-of-town company for a few days. On top of all of this, some of the interior of our house is getting a much-needed painting! I was look-ing for time & places to find respite, which, during the summer months, includes the garage & backyard shed. As you will see below, our God has graced me with three youth retreats in a row this month. It has been the prayer & longing of Kim's & my heart, that we

would always be abounding in the work of the Lord. So, I will endeavor to seek Him in the midst of all of this. There are so many young, who need to learn so much about Him, & so little time. I don't know how to convey to the Lord how very grateful I am for the calling & grace upon my life to do so. I pray my life reflects my gratitude, if only in a small way. Thank you for reading this, & for helping Kim & me to continue in this work as God leads you.
Sincerely,

Michael & Kim

Michael & Kim Guertin 3 Windsor Rd., Wilmington, DE 19809 (302) 764-0490
guerty@juno.com

Name: _____ Address: _____
Email: _____

***[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, or health insurance-yet this is their calling at this season of their lives. Michael preaches God's 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].**

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

Aug.19, 26: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: kids' church camper testimony & worship leader

Aug. 22: (2) hospital visitations; Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: Tab. of David: worship leader

Sept. 1, 2: Cape Henlopen, DE: Petra Christian Fellowship's Ignite Sr. Hi. Youth retreat w/ two senior

citizen visitations in Bear & Milford, DE en route

Sept. 4: Petra Christian Fellowship, New Holland, PA: hnc board mtg./pastors' mtg.-sharing re: camp

Sept. 7-9: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: Petra Christian Fellowship's Edge Jr. Hi. Youth Retreat

Sept. 11: NCCC, Wilmington, DE: jury duty

Sept. 14-16: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: Springton Lake Presbyterian Church youth retreat

Sept. 20: Medford, NJ: Elim area pastors' mtg.

Sept. 21: Cleveland, OH: picking up Kim & visiting our eldest son & family for the birth of their 5th child

Michael Robert "**Guerty**" Guertin
c/o **CABOOSE!** (302) 764-0490

3 Windsor Road
Wilmington, DE 19809-2144
www.CABOOSEMINISTRIES.ORG