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September 1, 2015

### KID GLOVES IN MY SILVER ANNIVERSARY



Dear *Friends & Family*,

[8/25] Two weeks ago we were well into my 3<sup>rd</sup> camp at **Tel Hai**-my 25<sup>th</sup> year-my silver anniversary there, if you will. It was our last camp of the summer, & as always, it was bitter-sweet. Sweet, because it was kids' camp-my favorite of the 3 [though I love them all], & bitter, as it would be the last camp for another 10 months, if the Lord so wills. And, as I always do each year at camp, on that dark road that leads between the chapel & my lodging-place, after another chapel filled with God's sweet presence, I look up into the star-filled sky [we don't see stars like this in Delaware], & ask the Lord, Father, may I please come back next year? I never take it for granted. I remember way back in 2000, hoping I could make it to serving 10 years at Tel Hai, & here it was my 25<sup>th</sup>. So very kind of the Lord.

**"CHUCK E. CHEESE: SANCTIFIED"**



Once again, as at every camp, but especially at kids' camp given their age, we strove to make it a wonderland for them in every way. I told my assistants helping me to setup the chapel [the setup for kids' camp is quite unique apart from the others] that Saturday before, I want to make it look like a 'Christian **Chuck E. Cheese**'. And-we did. Then, my next goal for the week is to give the kids as many things/experiences as possible that they don't have the rest of the year. To do so, we supply a Time Machine, a robot, candy dropped from an airplane, various costumed characters, puppets, Bible games, a cage ball [6' in diameter!], a huge water balloon fight, royal courts to lead them, complete with a king, queen, war chief, jester, flag-bearer, medic, super-heroes, & treasure chest clerks, & a field drama that always includes horses.

### "THE FINAL(ity) of FRONTIER"



[I was a young boy at **Frontier Town** {Opened in **1963**, I was very sad to recently learn it is closing} in VA with my siblings & cousins. I shall never forget sitting there in the audience mesmerized watching a Wild West show. On stage a cowboy & cowgirl danced as they sang, I'm an old cowhand, from the Rio Grande, & I came to town, just to hear

the band.... In a similar way, my ache is to put the kids in awe, as they watch the Scriptures & history come to life in the various field dramas I produce. This year it was *Lincoln & Grant*. [See attached pics for all of the above].

### THE PIED PIPER-SANCTIFIED



Then comes the best part. After a day filled with the above amenities & more, the time for evening chapel arrives. It is music to my ears each year that despite what we provide mentioned above, by far the campers' favorite part of camp is the evening chapel. I would have to concur if it was not that we're doing something wrong. Each year we have a vast array of teachers & preachers come, from various Christian backgrounds/affiliations, who pour God's Word into the kids. On the final night of camp, after worshiping the Lord in song [I held the little boys' hands at one part & we danced in a circle], a man from our church who has a powerful testimony, a.k.a., *Eric Nordin*, led the children [literally] into the presence of the Lord. Eric had had every Christian education venue growing up as a kid: in church every time the doors were open, Christian school, youth group, missions trips, camps, etc., but, at the end of it all, *he didn't know God*. He became a \$500/day cocaine addict, a biker, a renegade, if you will. One day, he came to the end of his rope & was about to take his life. He told the Lord, Jesus, if You're real, I need You to show up real soon. He then heard a small choir of children, audibly(!), singing, *Jesus Loves Me*. He broke, surrendered to the Lord, & his life has never been the same since. After he preached a very convicting sermon re: Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego, who, *unlike all of their peers*, didn't bow to the spirit of Nebudchadnezzar, Eric put a gold plastic crown on his head. He told the kids, I'm Jesus. Who will follow Me? As he walked around the room portraying *Jesus*, kid after kid got up from their seat & began to follow him. To an outsider, Eric may have looked like the *Pied Piper*, but he was leading the kids to *Jesus*. As they passed me in the back, I gave each of them a hug & told many of them I loved them. They began to weep-many of them-uncontrollably. Several minutes passed as the vast portion of the camp was up front, crying, holding

each other. God's Spirit, leading many to repentance was in the room. Yes-given that they're young, surely, many were emoting & didn't know why. That's OK. I'd rather have kids emote after hearing The Word of the Lord & being in His thick, sweet, presence, than *not* emote! My trust is that the Lord will bring understanding to those particular campers at a later time, both directly & through their counselors. A major goal of mine all of these years in conducting camps is that the campers, years down the road of life, will look back at their camp years & they will be *sweet* memories to them. So many I have heard from through the decades have said just that.

### FLOORED BY A GIRL



Some of you may recall an article I wrote about a year ago at this time after my jr. hi. camp. It was entitled **Floored By A 12 Year-Old**. It related my experience with a very emotionally troubled 12 yr. old boy, who at the time I seriously wondered if he was going to manifest the **demonic**. The Lord gave me His words & wisdom to impart & it changed the boy's heart & attitude to want to stay, when just moments before I was fearful he was going to come at me. He went to lunch comforted but I went up to the front of the chapel, laid on my face, & wept & broke. Well, I was somewhat floored the other night, but this time by a **girl**. A man from our church called me out of the blue since I lived nearby & was a minister. He said his daughter was sensing a presence in her room that made her afraid to sleep in it. In myself, if a demon was the weakest one in existence, & an invalid in a wheelchair, I'd still be afraid of him. But in Jesus? Now that's another story. I felt a confidence going over there not my own. Satan & all of his forces owe their existence to the Lord Jesus Christ. Their power is delegated by Him. Though it is all malicious on their part in their hatred of God & humans, The Lord uses their every scheme & machination for His Own glory & purposes. When He is finished using them, their fate is first **Judgment Day**, then the **Lake of Fire**. Amen. But for now? He uses them. When I arrived however, my plans to pray for the house fell through. After giving his daughter a hug, I sat at the top of the stairs of their house, the girl standing at her door



of her room, with her father crouched down beside me. I felt to ask her re: her relationship with the Lord. It wasn't long before I realized the need wasn't re: the demonic-the need was in the girl! I was somewhat dumbfounded to hear the questions she asked, all exuding doubt & skepticism re: the foundations of the faith. She questioned the existence of God, the veracity of the Scriptures, the omniscience of God, the virgin birth, creation, & the authenticity of The Church [challenging my surety that it was not a cult]. On the other hand, she posited for the validity of evolution & homosexuality. Ladies & Gentlemen? This girl was *12 years old!* I proceeded to give her a very condensed crash-course in theology, for about an hour, that most adults in America will never get. I spoke to her tenderly, as I would my own daughter, prayed for her, hugged her, then went on my way. Folks? This is one of the many reasons I do camp like I do. Though they are children, the messages are **intense**. They are never kiddie-kiddie. Often, campers get heavier messages than the average adult in America. Beloved? It *must* be that way! As you can see above, the plethora of forces teaching them otherwise on a daily basis are powerful! I heard John MacArthur say years ago, **This is not the time for weak preaching**. O God. Help.

### **Caboose! On The Loose:**



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

Aug. 5: IC, Wilmington, DE: Tabernacle of David: worship leader

Aug. 19: New Covenant Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area pastors' mtg.

Sept. 1: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//HN pastors' mtg.

Sept. 11, 12: Tel Hai Camp, Honey Brook, PA: Petra *Edge* Jr. Hi. Retreat

Sept. 13: a.m. :St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Douglassville, PA:family service; 6 p.m.: Abundant Life A/G: worship

Sept. 14,15: Herndon, VA: visit my Dad for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

Sept. 17: a.m.: BVBC, Wilm., DE: EMF pastors' mtg.; p.m.: Petra Christian Fellowship, New Holland, PA: Hopewell Network adjunct ministries' prayer night.

\*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 via [https://www.denarionline.com/DONORSERVICES/TEMPLATEPAGE.ASPX?COMP\\_REF=\\_ELIMFEL&SID=vjywxzcot0d5c5pnrq1f0rnl&CONTENT=MISSIONARY&MISSION\\_REF=E8668ABEC7](https://www.denarionline.com/DONORSERVICES/TEMPLATEPAGE.ASPX?COMP_REF=_ELIMFEL&SID=vjywxzcot0d5c5pnrq1f0rnl&CONTENT=MISSIONARY&MISSION_REF=E8668ABEC7)

If your church would be interested in ministry by Michael, please feel free to contact us. [www.cabooseministries.org](http://www.cabooseministries.org) Facebook: Michael Guerty Guertin























