

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

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JANUARY 2020



“*CABOOSE!* END OF YEAR REPORT FOR 2019”



“Elementary Truth For Adults, Kids, & Youth”

Dear ***Friends & Family,***

This week will mark the completion of **34 years** of full-time ministry, & **20 years less a month** of living-by-faith itinerant ministry as an ***Elim Fellowship*** home-missionary. Once again, as in previous years, **2019** encompassed traveling thousands of miles to minister in various states, which included **DE, PA, NJ, MD, NY, & OH**. I traveled approximately **2,588** miles just for preaching ministry. This did not include many more miles for non-preaching ministry-related meetings & events. Venues of ministry included Sunday morning whole-family services, 2 youth retreats, 3 youth & children’s camps, Christian school chapels, an addictions’ recovery ministry, a home church, & a 5-night “Passion of Christ” drama. Expressions of the Body of Christ I ministered to were **Elim-related, Hopewell Network, Southern Baptist, United Methodist, EA [Evangelical Association of churches], Evangelical Free, Dove Fellowship, Sojourn Network of Churches, Independent Pentecostal, Interdenominational, & a Seeker Sensitive Church**. As with **2018**, this past year showed occasional involvement in **worship**

leading for adults. In addition, on the Sunday mornings I am at my home church, “Immanuel Church”, I strive to provide puppet shows for the nursery, toddlers, & elementary aged. I have found these short puppet shows are one of the biggest thrills for the children that day. As with camps, I strive to make sweet childhood memories in the House of God among His people. Amen. **NOTE: my preaching/traveling load was significantly limited in 2019 due to my hip replacement this past February. I encountered unusual complications that required extended medical treatments.** I am grateful for what I was able to accomplish by the Lord’s grace despite this encumbrance.

“IN THE RIGHT SPOT AT THE RIGHT TIME”



[12/4/19] Kim had to receive a medical procedure this morning. When she went into the treatment room I proceeded to head to a nearby **Wawa** convenient store for gas, coffee, & something for us to eat as we had left the house relatively early for the appointment. I had no sooner pulled out of the doctors’ complex & up the road just a bit when I came upon a police vehicle parked behind an SUV. When I looked to my left I saw the officer had a man on the ground. I immediately assumed it was an arrest, guessing he was handcuffing him while holding him on the ground. However, when I came up alongside of him, I saw that the policeman was giving the man CPR! I pulled over & backed my car up to the man on the ground’s vehicle. I got out & told the policeman I was a minister, laid my hand on the man he was trying to bring to & also on him, praying aloud for the Lord to spare & restore the man. He was turning purple & was breathing funny. The temperature was in the 30’s & the man only had a t-shirt on & it was pulled up, so that he was bare-backed on the asphalt! The paramedic came & put the chest pads with wires on his chest & was about to shock him when the device he was using “told him not to do so”. The man’s eyes rolled back in his head. The cop kept pumping his chest. The paramedic kept talking to him. The cop told the paramedic it was a heroin overdose. I’m not sure how he knew that-obviously by experience! The policeman also said that man had passed out with his car in drive! I assumed he must have also frozen his leg & foot upon the brake. The officer told me later he pulled him out & laid him on the ground. One of his feet was still propped up in the car. I noticed there were a lot of cash bills near his foot underneath the brake pedal. Amazingly, the man started to come to-the paramedic was telling him to get up-of all things! The man’s name was Gilbert. I heard that from the police & paramedic talking. I mention that for those of you who might feel moved to pray for him. I put my **Caboose!** business card on his dashboard & prayed to the Lord that He would have Gilbert get ahold of me. When I finally got to Wawa, lo & behold-that same policeman was also in there getting coffee! I

went right up to him, laid my hand on his shoulder & told him what an amazing job he did. You could tell he was still a bit shaken up. When we both went to leave, he was parked next to me. I scrambled to get another **Caboose!** card & gospel tract to give to him but I didn't get to him in time. ☹️ I did however get his squad car #: **6769**. I hope to contact the bureau of police to get his name & notify his superiors what a stupendous job he did caring for those in his jurisdiction.

“MY OWN CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION”



[12/11] This coming Sunday I'm ministering at a church in the Gettysburg, PA area where I've never been before. When the pastor asked me to come months ago, it was clear a Time Machine drama was desired. At the time of this service it would be the Christmas season. Of the dozens of Time Machine dramas I have produced over the decades, I only have two that pertain to Christmas: *The Bodyguard of the Magi* [viewable on my YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/uyJvrPw_1e0 & *Simeon* [which, I've actually never performed with my Time Machine]. My first thought & plan [A] was to perform the Magi Bodyguard drama, but the more I pondered it the more I realized it wouldn't be feasible. It involves several characters that I would have to supply with costumes, armor, weapons, etc. & also train them. Plus, this particular drama is on the lengthier side & my time allocated for the service was limited, though the pastor was super gracious in allowing me as much time possible. **THE PRESSURE IS ON** Hence, I needed to develop a new drama from scratch, with little time to do so, given various trips to NY, OH, & PA & numerous medical appointments both Kim & I had. I love *The Living Bible Series* from 1951. I have owned it for years & have watched it repeatedly, even transferring its audio to my devices to either listen in bed or in the car. In one of its episodes, vis, "The Holy Family", which I was recently watching, believe it or not, the series' producers for the Nativity program, reenact Sennacherib's invasion of Israel from which, in the Scripture, Isaiah's famous prophecy of the coming Divine Redeemer originates. King Ahaz, Judah's monarch at the time, is filled with fear via a confederation of his enemies impending attack. The Lord sends Isaiah to reassure his king that said invasion will be thwarted. When Ahaz refuses to ask the Lord for a sign as proof, Isaiah says, "The Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive, & shall bear a Son, & you shall call His name, 'Immanuel'-God with us." [Isa.7:14] Eight centuries later the Holy Spirit would inspire the apostle Matthew to refer this prophecy to the Messiah Himself. Hence, this episode became the seedbed of my new Time

Machine drama. After doing some online research via Wikipedia, I wrote the Time Machine drama narration, which airs over the sound system to inform the audience what they are about to see.

"MUSIC, MAISTRO?"



Next, is the music, which is oh, so very important for this very feelings/emotionally-wired preacher. I went to *The Prince of Egypt* score & also to *The Nativity Story* soundtrack to inspire me. As is not uncommon with developing these dramas, I do best when I'm alone. Kim was at the gym, so it was easier for me to crank the music & come up with the monologue & dialogue. [Years ago, while developing my "Columbus" camp field drama monologue, I was doing this same procedure in my living room with the door to the outside screened-in porch open. Columbus would raise his voice at times in his monologue. While I was practicing, I noticed my next-door neighbor's son was on the back porch! I feared he might think I was yelling at Kim! I made sure I explained to him what I was doing. 😊] In the 1951 production mentioned above, Isaiah is briefly seen with his scribe/recorder. Wow. I had never pondered such with Isaiah, but of course we know from Sacred Scripture that Jeremiah had his own recorder, a.k.a., "Baruch". Seeing this gave me the idea to use a brother/friend from the church, whom I was planning to have in the drama with me, as I don't particularly enjoying doing "1-man" Time Machine dramas anymore. This brother had come out of my Time Machine at the annual Elim May pastors' conference as "Adam". It was for my "Vision For The Young" workshop I did for some pastors: <https://youtu.be/Z64GyT6fWVI>. That was 2000. Back to Isaiah. After compiling the various music tracks for the drama playlist, then I have to listen to it a number of times & go over the drama & the lines in my head so that it's "down" in me. Then, via emails, texts, & eventually in person this coming Saturday, I will try to "convey the vision" to my fellow "time traveler" & church sound-man.

"IT'S ALMOST SHOWTIME & I HAVEN'T A THING TO WEAR!"



Once the drama idea has materialized & its characters are fixed, costuming the actors is a huge task: tunics, headbands with ponytails, sandals, accessories, etc. all come into play & must be amassed & collected from various locales where I keep my vast array of costumes [many of which are homemade], viz, my basement, backyard shed, & church storage rooms. Realistic era-looking props must also be gathered & packed. I've always striven for realism in my dramas-to the point of one of my pastors teasing me I was obsessed by it. He was right. Few things in life drive me crazier than cheesy, plastic, etc. biblical costumes, armor, & props! Here is the link for the "Isaiah & Ahaz" Time Machine drama I did last Sunday. Sadly, the only recording I could get of it was via a phone, but I'm grateful for anything! <https://youtu.be/H4Qv1FMjRqM>

"I REMEMBER IN **DECEMBER**"



[12/18] While listening to a very popular Christmas song from a very popular Christmas movie from the 1950's I once again found myself in my heart envying one of the chief actors in the production, "wishing I could be him". But, again, as I listened, my mind, as it often does at such times, raced back to Jesus' worldly-day-dreams'-shattering words: "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul?" [Mk.8:36]. This actor & his co-star had it all: fame, money, comfort, luxury, accolades of men, pleasure, travel, adoring fans, etc.-for *decades*, but as far as I know both died in their sin. Our Lord's words bring me back to my senses quickly when in my heart of hearts I find myself envying such men. I have tried to make it a yearly habit,

ritual, etc. to go on the internet in December & view all of the celebrity deaths of that year. One might think, "Wow, Michael-that is kind of morbid, isn't it?". On the contrary, it is one of the most soul-prospering endeavors I do each year. It sobers my soul, reminding it of the brevity of life. It stirs me to faithfulness to our Lord, as I see how others have lived, & more often than not, have *wasted* their lives.

"DO LOOK BACK-YOU'RE BEING FOLLOWED"

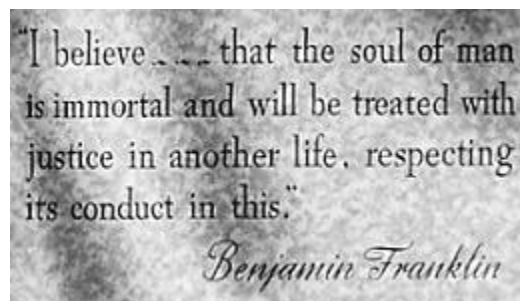


If only these lost souls would realize that when they die, *it is not over*. Our Lord Jesus said they "wake up" instantly in flames & torment [Lk.16]. And, the Scriptures declare that "their works follow them" [Rev.14:13]. This particular text is in reference to the righteous dead but nonetheless if there is one doctrine that Sacred Writ teaches it is that of a judgment of all men by their works & deeds done here while on Earth [Mt.16:27]. Men's *deeds* will reveal if they truly had *saving* faith or not. When I perused some of the celebrity deaths I wanted to shake in my boots. O God! One man in particular was "known" for his prolific production of "horror movies & TV programs". Can you imagine, Beloved?



We are given the gift of life on this Earth, since there were **250-300 million other souls** who could have existed *instead* of us [that is the average # of sperm present when a man & a woman reproduce]. **ONLY ONE OF THEM** fertilizes the woman's egg! [I cried when I was first told this by a Dr. at The Cleveland Clinic years ago]. And here, this gentleman spent his one life-only one-producing *horror movies*. Another star who died spent his one life graciously given by God "starring" in soap operas, which are always filled with human vices! Through these productions, these two men, like the two movie stars mentioned above, "got their reward": fame, wealth, accolades of men, etc.

However, they will give an account for every movie/TV show they produced-what they were “rewarded” for up on the Earth with “earthly” pleasures, they will be “rewarded” with eternal punishment-a punishment whose severity will be determined in one respect by how many other humans they *influenced* for evil with their “works”. Works & accomplishments men are so very proud of up here on the surface of the Earth they will hang their heads in shame over when they stand before The Lord of Glory Who alone dwells in unapproachable light [1 Tim.6:16]. Few things spark more desire for God & prayer & faithful living than this yearly practice of mine, vis, looking back over the past year of the death of the unrighteous. “Beyond Tomorrow”, from 1940, has become one of my favorite “Christmas” movies. Yes-the theology is quite sloppy, & yet, the movie always has the same effect on me, i.e., to “number my days, that I might become wise” [Ps.90:12].



At the beginning of the movie, during the opening credits, right before the picture begins, a quote by Benjamin Franklin is shown on the screen, ***“I believe that the soul of man is immortal-and will be treated with justice in another life, respecting its conduct in this.”*** I shudder to think that as far as I know, despite this personal philosophy of the great American statesman, inventor, & philosopher, that he died in his sin-& this even despite sitting under the powerful preaching of evangelist George Whitfield! Like the main character in “Beyond Tomorrow”, James Huston, Franklin ignored the wise, godly warnings & advice of others. Huston paid with his life [I will not share more so as not to spoil the movie should you want to view it], but Mr. Franklin paid the ultimate price-his soul!

“TWO SISTERS WHO FOLLOW GOD’S PEOPLE”



I mentioned above that the text cited in Rev.14:13 specifically refers to God's people's works following them. While that can be terrifying in some respects, there are two more daily "followers" of God's people, who "follow" them more closely & consistently than even their closest **Facebook** friend or fan: "**Goodness & Mercy**" [Ps.23:6]. O, Beloved! What hope would we His chosen have if this were not true? All of us would surely faint like the Psalmist had we not believed we would see the goodness of the Lord in the Land of the Living-all due to the death & righteousness of Another Person-the Lord Jesus. May we fall before Him in our hearts & lives as we ponder this wondrously gracious promise in the New Year. Yours for Him,

Michael & Kim



PS-My heart still burns within me to continue my itinerant work for the Lord in the coming year. We have been praying for new open doors of ministry to all ages, either separately or combined. If you know of those whom our ministry might be of benefit, we'd be grateful if you'd share our ministry info with them. However, we are in desperate need of another ministry vehicle. Kim & I have been praying for several months for a **truck**. Mine loses power when the R.P.M.'s go to 3000+ when accelerating or climbing hills. My mechanic of 20+ years, who has been working on vehicles over 50 years, has given up on it. It's 20 years old this year. It has served me well. God knows. [fyi-my preferences: **2WD, 4-door, 6 cyl.**].



***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:
"Unlike the holy angels who said, 'Don't do it!', when human being went to worship them,
the devil will *never* say that!" [Lk.4:7] M.R.G. 2/9/2015



Caboose! On the Loose:

****Lookin' out for the little guys...***

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

Jan. 5: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: new elders' ordination service: elder candidate sponsor

Jan. 7: Petra Church, New Holland, PA: hsc board mtg.//Network pastors' mtg.

Jan. 19: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: Sun. a.m. service: pulpit fill

Jan. 22: New Covenant Community Church, Audubon, NJ: Elim area credential holders' mtg.

Jan. 26: Immanuel Church, Wilmington, DE: Sun. a.m. service: pulpit fill

Jan. 29-31: Coral Springs, FL: visiting our daughter & family. We haven't seen her family in over a year! ☹️

*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 **[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. Any gift no matter how small would be greatly appreciated! Thank you! [click here](#)

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