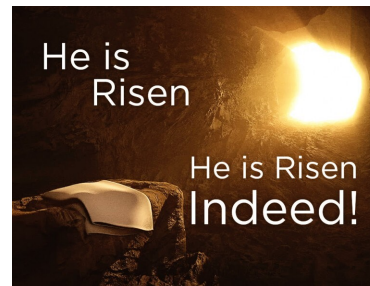




**It Will Always Be Resurrection
Sunday!**

Don't let our bad gov't leaders fool you; He's alive and we joyfully proclaim his sovereign victory over death and the grave! Without going into what our "President" declared over Passover weekend; we need to be reminded that Satan hates everything that God loves. Satan hates the resurrection, he hates the blood of Christ, he hates you if you have repented of your sins and surrendered and put your faith in Jesus Christ! Satan hates Jesus! Satan also hates the fact that he lost the war when Jesus walked out of the grave! So be encouraged, we have a living hope, a living Savior, a living Lord, and a reason to go to the highest mountain top and proclaim the truth that Jesus is ALIVE FOREVER! Talk about a reason to live and share the Gospel!



Because of this victory in Jesus, we have been given the gift of repentance. Listen to what the apostle Paul says, **"For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to Salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death."** 2 Corinthians 7:10

Jesus makes certain of our future based on his work on the cross for all who believe and follow him. Jesus rose from the grave bodily and he is coming back again to take his bride home...Are you ready???

Greetings to you partners in the Gospel!

"The world is not falling apart, it's falling into place" (Jan Markell Olive Tree Ministries). I agree and that's why I love serving the Lord where he has called me. I am finishing my 17th season serving in full-time ministry as a hockey chaplain in the MIAC Division III Men's hockey league. I can hardly believe it. In these years, I have learned many lessons, here are a few:



2nd Annual I Sought, I Found Inspired Evidence Tour with St Mary's - Meet & Greet with Ken Ham

1. I
have
learned
how
to
effectively
share
the
saving
Gospel
of
Christ
and
I
am
still
learning
everyday!
2. Often
times,
people
don't
realize
the
deception
or
error
in
their
beliefs
until
they
are
confronted
with
the
truth
of
the
Gospel.
It's
amazing
to
see
young
men
repent
and
put
their
trust
in

Jesus!
3. Young
men
(hockey
players)
want
to
know
the
truth
about
Christ
and
his
Word!

In August, I was able to take 4 hockey players from St Mary's University to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in Northern Kentucky. For 4 days we toured through both attractions (pictured below). I was their tour guide and was able to teach along the way. A few of our Answers in Genesis friends led us through some special behind the scenes adventures, such as a private planetarium showing, lunches, dinners, a private meet and greet with CEO and founder Ken Ham, and a Virtual Reality ride taking us back in time to what it might have been like during the days of Noah building the Ark (super exciting). It has been a desire of mine to be able to bring a small group of hockey players to the Ark and Creation Museum. It was a joyous time of helping bring the reality of the history of the bible to life while encouraging the next generation to share the reliable history of scripture and the saving message of the Gospel. We Thank you for partnering with us.

Two days after I got back from our Ark Trip, I was at St John's for chapel which started the last week of August 2023. As the chapels started to get lined up in September, I got a message from a fellow Hockey Ministries chaplain and he asked if I had heard about the Gustavus women hockey team and the tragic car crash and the one young girl who lost her life; I hadn't heard. He was checking in to see if I was doing chapels down there. I had not been. Here is a little history of how the door opened up this year at Gustavus; 23 years in the making. Article on Gustavus women's player who tragically lost her life:

[**Gustavus women's Hockey player Jori Jones**](#)

CONNECTIONS!

My life as a hockey chaplain in the MIAC started while I was still playing hockey at Simley high school for Dennis Schueller. I graduated in 1999. In 2000 I received a call from Dennis Schueller's son, Doug whom I had grown up with (who also played for Bill Butters at White Bear Lake high school), who was at

that time an intern with the MN Wild. He asked me if I would be interested in being the personal valet for the players and their families?

How could I say no; this was the closest I was ever going to get to the NHL. During the year I had gotten to know Darby Hendrickson. In the spring of 2001, Darby was coming out after a game holding his 6 week old son Mason, I handed Darby his truck and he handed me his son. Fast forward to fall of 2023. My fellow HMI chaplain had a mutual connection at Gustavus, the same chaplain that asked if I was doing chapels at Gustavus. He said he had a young man that attended Chapels with him in Juniors and his name was Mason Hendrickson, Darby's son. Wow, "I held Darby's son when I valeted for the MN Wild." This was truly a godly connection. This chaplain exchanged our phone numbers and Mason called me to set up chapels in November. It had been literally 23 years since I had seen him. Only God could make a connection like this. Mason is my chapel leader at Gustavus and doing a wonderful job with the guys. We average about 8-12 guys per week. Some of you might have seen this video from early February with three guys surrendering to follow Jesus Christ. God used a tragic car accident as a means to bring me to Gustavus knowing in his providence that three young men would be coming to faith in Jesus Christ! From tragedy to triumph! See video below.

In October two young men at Augsburg also surrendered their lives to Christ (see picture below). The chapels continue to grow in number of teams and players that attend. This is the promise of scripture:

Isaiah 55:10-11 - "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

On December 6th, 2023 @ 9:28 pm, Mariana gave birth to **Oliver Maxwell Erickson** and we became parents! Life will never be the same, that's for sure, only better and more complete. My heart has softened in ways only a son or daughter can do to a parent. Knowing that God has brought him to us in the miracle of birth which is God's miraculous act for **OUR BENEFIT** as husband and wife. We are learning just how much our Heavenly Father loved his son when we look at our son, but I could never send him to die for you. I love our son more than I can imagine, but compared to God's love for us it's a drop in the ocean. What a gift and responsibility it is to nurture, care, love and lead ultimately into right relationship with Christ. What an awesome and huge responsibility this is! Go and hug your children, reassure them and tell them you love them. Remind them of the Love of Christ for them - we can't be reminded enough about the Father's love for us!

Going to chapels with college age young men is one thing. I have told all the chapels for the past 17 years, God had been preparing me to raise a son and he has used over 500 players over 17 seasons to do just that. I guess it has taken at least 17 years, no wait, 43 years to get ready for the greatest blessing of my life out side of my wife and my personal relationship with my Lord and Savior. **Chapels have been a training ground for marriage and to raise a family.** Now that my family is growing, it is having a tremendous and profound impact on the ministry and in how I minister the Gospel. There is greater care, compassion and conviction than ever for the sake of the Gospel and the young men who hear it - THANK YOU for praying and supporting us!

Your prayers and financial support have been vital. You send me to 6 MIAC Men's Hockey teams September - April every week. **The Teams I serve:**

Augsburg University
Bethel University
Gustavus University
St John's University
St Mary's University
St Olaf College

This is on top of 1 on 1 Bible study breakfast and coffee shop meetings, which keeps me moving and tired. I am learning now that I can't say yes to everything and everyone, because I have a family to lead and serve! I have a prayer request that as the ministry grows and moves along that I will NOT forsake my family and my roles and responsibilities to lead my family to Jesus. Please pray for wisdom that I won't over commit but still serve where I know God is leading and opening doors.

One last thing, I Sought, I Found ministries is planning another trip to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum (Lord willing) in late July/early August. If you would be interested in going please reach out. I am booking rooms for up to 20 people this summer and will update details soon. Stay Tuned and thank you.

3 Gustavus Hockey Players surrender to Christ!



Fearfully & Wonderfully Made Exhibit @ Creation Museum



Patriots Landing (Supporting our Vets) - 3 minutes from The Ark Encounter



The Door on the 2nd Deck of the Ark - Have you entered through the Door??



Lunch at the Creation Museum



Main Exhibit Hall at Creation Museum



Top Deck on The Ark - Overlook

THANK YOU FOR SENDING US TO THE ARK ENCOUNTER/CREATION MUSEUM! THIS WAS THE 2nd ANNUAL I SOUGHT, I FOUND INSPIRED EVIDENCE TOUR.



Mason Hendrickson with Oliver!



Two men gave their lives to Christ at Augsburg this past fall!



ST OLAF WINS MIAC PLAYOFF CHAMPIONSHIP - 2 OUT OF LAST 3 YEARS!

The pictures below indicate a move of the Lord amongst these teams. For decades Bethel (and St Olaf under Whitey Aus) for the most part has been the team that has typically taken a knee to give thanks to the Lord after games. This year it exploded to at least 5 different teams either praying on their own or joining the other teams to give thanks to the Lord. I have been impressed in the last couple years of the character of the young men that the MIAC coaches have been bringing into the league. I believe that is why we are seeing an earnest desire to step up and step out in faith to publicly pray and honor Jesus. I do believe these young men are not afraid of the Gospel of Christ! Many are meeting Jesus in the Chapel program, some for the first time and other's are being strengthened in their faith. It's encouraging to see as the world gets uglier

as a whole, that God is using a bunch of tough rugged hockey players to pause, pray and honor him. As I learned recently about the book of Proverbs, as one pastor put it, **"Proverbs means pro verb, in other words - put it into action! These players are doing just that.**



St Mary's praying with St Olaf.



Augsburg started praying after games this year too!



Gustavus started praying on their own to start the season!



Bethel praying with St Mary's.



NCAA first round St Olaf vs St Norberts



St Olaf & St Norberts finishing giving thanks to Jesus! Win or Lose - honoring Christ!



Saturday morning chapel at Bethel!



St Mary's Twin brother's after their last game in college

In His Grip,

Max and Mariana Erickson

&

INTRODUCING

OLIVER MAXWELL ERICKSON



[Donate to support the hockey chapel ministry](#)

I Sought, I Found chapel ministry is in partnership with Hockey Ministries International (HMI) and International Ministerial Fellowship (IMF).

Thank you for your support in helping us take the Gospel onto the MIAC Universities and to the Men's Hockey programs. You are helping bring young men into a right relationship with Christ as not only their Savior but also as their Lord! To God be the glory!

If you wish to support us, you can donate on-line through the link above which goes directly through IMF which is a registered 501(c)(3) or if you wish to mail a check, please send it to the address below:

International Ministerial Fellowship

PO Box 98

Minnetonka Beach, MN 55361



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