



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

"And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, For he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21

Think of that first Christmas in Bethlehem. The "King of the Jews" (King Herod) a political ruler who sought information from the wisemen calling a secret meeting to gain insight on the birth of the Christ child. He had one

aim and it was to kill the messiah, Herod, an offspring of the serpent, according to **Genesis 3:15**, was a very evil man. King Herod issued an order to kill every male born child of two years of age and under to do his best to wipe out the future true heir to the throne and the only rightful King of the Jews, Jesus Christ; this according to **Matthew ch 2:1-18!** The Bible is full of Political intrigue and we look forward to the coming Millenial Kingdom of Christ for a literal 1000 years in the future, where Jesus Christ will rule from the throne of David from Jerusalem. We have been told far to long not to mix the bible and politics...why? The bible teaches us how a godly government should be run and it reveals what happens when sinful men rule their own way and do what is right in their own eyes and ignore what God has called us to do and how to live.

Line mates in Christ; Jesus was born to die, so that, when we put our whole faith and trust in him, we might live with him forever!!! Talk about a gift that outshines & outlasts all other gifts.

As Christ followers, we are to be on mission as Ambassadors to a sick and dying world that needs the hope and salvation found only in Jesus Christ.

Do you need encouragement today? Do you need to be reminded that Jesus is enthroned in heaven, & sovereign over all things? Let me start by saying, I need to be reminded of these things; so let's start with one of my favorite hymns, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus."

This hymn was written in 1922 by Helen Howarth Lemmel

TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS LYRICS

**O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!**

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.**

Thro' death into life everlasting,
He passed, and we follow Him there;
O'er us sin no more hath dominion
For more than conqu'rors we are!

His Word shall not fail you - He promised;
Believe Him, and all will be well:
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell

[Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus Video](#)

[He Drew The Line Video](#)

[Unto Us Video](#)

[A month by month review of the past 6 months.](#)

First of all, **THANK YOU** for your tremendous and faithful support. Our family is deeply grateful for your prayers and financial support as we serve the college and university hockey players and coaches.

May: I took a few weeks off after a grueling season last year to have a few weeks with family to be a husband and father and rest a little. In my rest, I worked for my dad around his house preparing for a long summer of big housing projects for them. I cut down many trees, and making room for a huge retaining wall and helping my dad get ready for new windows and siding for the first time in my parents home since they first built it in 1984.

They live in an earth sheltered home. Some of you know of my parents home. For them to have siding is no small feet. God has been faithful.

They have waited over 40 years for the outside of their home to be finished. They have been very patient. Thankfully the house is deep in the woods, most people don't even know it's there.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, the work of the builders is wasted." Psalm 127:1

June: I predominantly did marriage counseling and wedding preparation for the month of June with two different couples for weddings in July. I had been meeting with these couples all winter too. I met with these couples for the most part every week leading up to their mid July weddings. During this time, my dad's back went out, with frozen shoulder and it was so bad he could hardly walk; so I picked up the slack, fixing lawnmowers and taking over jobs dad did while he had to go to physical therapy to get his body back in shape.

July: I officiated two weddings the third week of July. I was in another wedding in Kansas City and was asked to read scripture. All three of the July weddings were for two St Mary's and one Augsburg player. These three weddings kept me very busy preparing and traveling. All three players came to faith in Christ through the chapel program...God truly is gracious! I am in the midst of my 19th year in ministry...whoa the time flies by. This is no job; it's a calling that the Lord placed on my life. As the years tick by my urgency for TRUTH, Gospel TRUTH, Genesis to Revelation has only grown with boldness and conviction.

August: Every time the month of August comes around I feel as if I am already behind, because chapels start kicking off the last week of August. The preparation for chapels comes into focus, contacting coaches, players, scheduling, praying, studying and ultimately finding a chapel theme for the season. This is a month of gearing up spiritually for all that the season will bring and then some.

September: The chapel theme for this season was from a book entitled "Who am I" by Martyn Iilles from Answers in Genesis. A book on our identity in Christ. The word Identity in our culture is so over used and abused but biblically it is so important. Little did I know is how God was preparing me for what was about to come that horrified the world 10 days later with the Assassination of Charlie Kirk. But it was through that horrific event that God has used to open the chapel doors wider this year than maybe any previous year...for that **I am so THANKFUL!!!** The one thing I learned about Charlie Kirk is that his identity was in Christ! He was ultimately killed for his Biblical Christian stand on the authority of God's

Word, which is also where is political beliefs came out of!

September started off with a bang...and I do mean literally. In my 44 years, there have been a number of important moments in my life (many more not listed) that are etched into my mind, that I will never forget. I am sure you can write your own lists of important events that changed your life. I would encourage you to remember and write them down and be reminded of God's faithfulness in your own life.

June 1988 - Max asked Jesus to be his Savior

June 1993 - Max's call into ministry at an HMI Hockey Camp

Oct 30th, 1995 - Max's wrist was cut, completely severing two tendons

Oct 31st, 1995 - No surgery required, God healed his tendon's

Nov 1st, 2002 - Max's college hockey career ended on a stretcher

Sept 11th, 2001 - Islam flew two planes into the Twin Trade Towers

April 25th, 2015 - Max and Mariana got married

October 7, 2023 - Hamas attacking Israel

Dec 6th, 2023 - Oliver Maxwell Erickson was born

Sept 10th, 2025 - Charlie Kirk Assassination

Sept 26, 2025 - Asked to speak at a Charlie Kirk Vigil in Stillwater

In light of recent events in our nation, we need a desperate turn around in REPENTANCE (starting with the CHURCH) back to Jesus Christ! People often ask, what do I do as a sports Chaplain? I can now give a better answer than just non-denominational Bible studies with 7 college hockey teams. People hear that and say, okay?? Now, after Charlie Kirk, I can say, I do what Charlie Kirk did on the college campuses...meaning???

I do exactly the same thing as Charlie Kirk; asking questions of these players about life, eternity and moral issues and everything in between. The bible covers every issue we face today. I serve much smaller crowds

of people 10-18 players per team once a week in small, confined, rooms, where I don't believe I will be shot (seriously, but that's not a certainty anymore).

Hours after the heinous Assassination of Charlie Kirk, I was getting messages from the St Mary's group text and read what happened. I called one of the players and he explained to me as I drove down to Gustavus that evening. When I was told what happened, probably like many of you, I thought at first it was Fake News and then the horror sank in and I started praying right away. The day Charlie Kirk was publicly murdered, I was in shock and it lasted for about 12 days. Every time I saw a video of Charlie, Erika and their kids; I just clung to Mariana and Oliver. I cried a lot, for a man I never new but knew of his impact. The two scriptures below really sum up Charlie's life.

Matthew 10:32-33 "Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven."

Mark 8:34-38 "Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If anyone of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his father with the holy angels."

The scriptures above flashed through my mind on September 10th, and I thought, I just left St Mary's and now I am on my way to Gustavus. Honestly, the fear of man gripped my heart. As I wrestled through this, I asked these questions out loud. Would I still be bold or shrink back and play it safe to not offend anyone with the truth of the Gospel? Would I please God or live to please man?? I already knew the answer, but, events like this sometimes hit differently, especially on the college campuses where I serve the Lord. The college campuses are not exactly a safe place to be these days and haven't been since the 60's.

I prayed a prayer something like this:**"Lord, strengthen my stand for you. Give me an even greater boldness & witness filled with compassion on those that don't know you and help me to not be fearful!"** You might have prayed similar to me. Something instantly felt different; it's as if God placed a steel plate up my spine to help me stand without fear in the public square. You see, it's very easy to be bold for your faith in your home or in Bible Study Fellowship or Church Sunday mornings. Take it to the streets??? Christians have joked over the years by saying, be careful for what you pray for, God might answer that prayer. My response now to that in light of Charlie Kirk's murder is, what's wrong with God answering our prayer of boldness to stand? Yes, it might cost you something in this life but the reward in the life to come is with Christ...**FOREVER**. I don't see any downside to this.

James 5:16b - "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and half years! Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops."

Three days later God answered my prayer. In all honesty, I wasn't ready for such a quick response from the Lord in this area. I am a chicken in the public square to be honest (I like to be left alone). But I received an out of the blue phone call from a former Chapel attender who played for both St John's and Bethel, who after graduation worked for Turning Point and personally knew Charlie Kirk. He said, he was feeling like he needed to do a Vigil for Charlie and bring the community together and honor Jesus and he asked if I would be one of the speakers. Without thinking, I said yes so fast, it surprised me. Over the next two weeks, I tried looking for every opportunity/ excuse to tell my former chapel guy a good reason as to why I was unable to do it...why...**I WAS AFRAID...I WATCHED TOO MUCH NEWS...I HAD FEAR OF MAN...I WAS A CHICKEN...I LET FEAR OVER RULE MY FAITH IN CHRIST AND HIS PROMISE THAT HE IS ALWAYS WITH ME**. After all, God had given me the opportunity I had prayed for; I needed to walk this out in obedience. The insanity that followed Charlie's death was so split in our nation and in our churches which is so sad; some praised his Christian witness (not enough by the way) and many rejoiced over his death. We are a sick nation with a sin of selfishness and Pride. Because I had seen stuff on the college campuses and watched countless

video's I had real concern speaking publicly for the Lord. But I was reminded through the scriptures that **Fear is not of the Lord at all and that in Christ I am NEVER alone.**

As the event neared for me to speak and encourage people in who Jesus is, God reminded me of this incredible verse from **Proverbs 29:25** "**Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety.**" The night of the event came and went and it's amazing to look back on that night and see how God gave me a voice to proclaim the true hope of the Gospel of Christ to estimates of 800-1000 people in attendance maybe more. It was the largest crowd I had ever spoken to. Never have I had the peace that I had that night with an audience and nation looking for people to pick up the banner of Christ and proclaim the truth of Christ. That night was a defining moment in my Christian life and ministry. I found out I could stand and deliver a very public message for Jesus during a huge time of crisis/pain across our nation. In my own strength I was a fearful human chicken and afraid but with God all things are possible. "**My trust and faith in God's purpose and plan out dueled the spiritual attacks the enemy tried to discourage me with.**"

October-December: The first Chapel at Gustavus was the day Charlie Kirk was murdered and that first chapel one young man showed up and said, "**I am ready to make Jesus the savior of my life**" and I led him to Christ along with the chapel guys in attendance. Can anything come from something so horrific...with a resounding YES & AMEN! Then on October 22nd, 4 young men at St Olaf prayed to receive Christ, they all stayed after chapel and said yes to joining God's team. Also in October, we took a week to head to the Answers in Genesis Pastor's & Leaders Conference, "Faith Like Noah" Upholding Truth in a Wicked World. What appropriate timing for everything that has happened and continues to with Christian persecution (like in Nigeria) and the continued rise of Heinous attacks on our** Jewish brothers and sisters (Sydney, Australia).

I thank the Lord for taking Charlie the way he allowed him to go. So much good has come from this, more than we will ever know, truly. Death is never good in this life unless it's a believer who dies and goes home to be with the Lord. I believe Charlie Kirk's death was certainly a defining moment for these 5 young men this year in bringing them to their decision in Christ. They saw a young man firm in his belief in Jesus and conviction

for truth and honesty. What a lasting Legacy Charlie left, perfect, NO, consistent, YES!!! This verse has been read and quoted a lot but it's oh so true.

Genesis 50:20a "You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good."

CHARLIE KIRK VIGIL - STILLWATER VIDEO #1

CHARLIE KIRK VIGIL - STILLWATER VIDEO #2

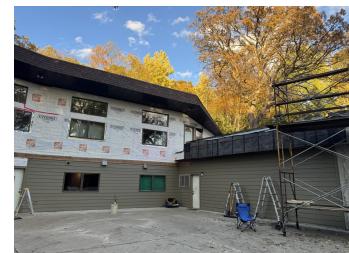
CHARLIE KIRK VIGIL - STILLWATER VIDEO #3

CHARLIE KIRK VIGIL - STILLWATER VIDEO #4

CHARLIE KIRK VIGIL - STILLWATER VIDEO #5

CHARLIE KIRK VIGIL - STILLWATER VIDEO #6

SNAPSHOT THROUGH THE LAST 6 MONTHS



16' TALL RETAINING WALL ON
WEST SIDE OF HOUSE

HOUSE IS FINALLY READY
FOR SIDING AFTER 40 YEARS
IN TAR PAPER

SMART SIDING GOING ON



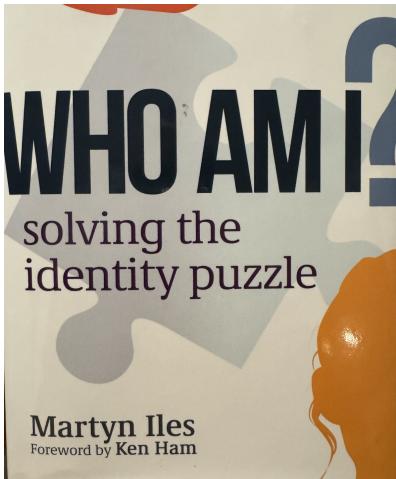
Kansas City wedding of St Mary's player Trevor Paradise and his wife Alisha (Max was asked to read scripture)



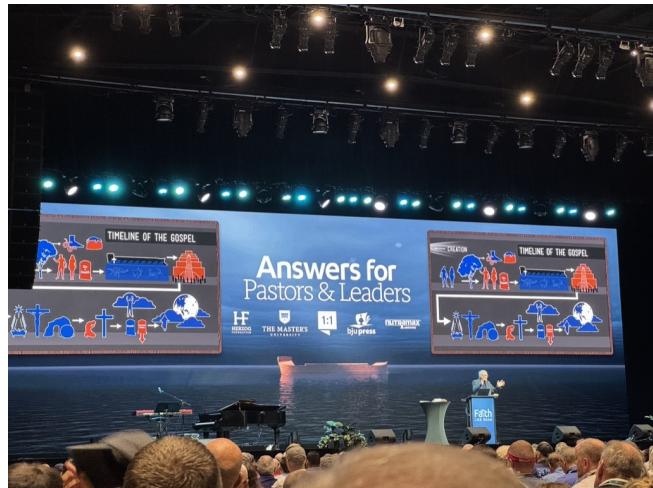
Former St Mary's player Nick Kiemel and his wife Haddy. 1st St Mary's wedding



Former Augsburg player Konnor Carlson and his wife Addy and two other former Augsburg players and their wives. I had the privilege of officiating all three weddings.



LEARNING WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST - MY PERSONAL READING - WILL GIVE THIS BOOK OUT TO ALL PLAYERS AT THE YEAR-END CHAPEL IN 2026



Ken Ham speaking the opening session to our Pastors & Leaders Conference in October



4 ST OLAF MEN AFTER GIVING THEIR LIVES TO CHRIST! AMAZING NIGHT!!

VIKI ERICKSON'S AORTA TESTIMONY VIDEO!



Why NOT me!!! This is For God's glory, purpose & praise!!!

Hello, this is Viki Erickson, Max's mom for those of you who don't know me. In Max's last newsletter this past May, he mentioned a little bit about me and my health. Here is my update on the testimony the Lord has given me. It has been 11 months since the Lord said it was NOT time for me to go home with him. He has been overwhelmingly faithful in every way. I want to say a BIG THANK YOU to all who prayed, those that know me and

those that didn't know me as far away as Kenya, Africa.

So....what put me in the hospital?? I had a sudden Aorta Dissection (no warning signs with this), basically a leak in the aorta that filled the sack around the heart and then it strangled my heart so it could not pump. I woke up on Jan 28th at 5:30 am to the life saving cry of our Grandson Oliver, who was asleep in the room next to us. I stood up and felt a pain in my neck. All I remember was holding my neck and waking up with the paramedics. I was totally unconscious on the floor, with no pulse and little to no breathing according to Mariana. I became conscious again, knew who I was and everyone in my family and phone number (thank you Mariana). I was then loaded into the ambulance. I was fully and totally alert. But the paramedics knew it was serious.

The humble cry of a 13 month old baby boy asking for help and comfort ended up saving my life and bringing comfort to us all. That reminds me of the humble cry of a babe in a manger who came to save us sinners and bring salvation to us. Wayne jumped into action, looked at me on the floor and knew it was serious as I lay motionless and pale on the floor. Oliver was crying and Wayne grabbed him and left me where I was lying, ran downstairs with Oliver, woke Max and Mariana up. Max grabbed Oliver and Mariana flew up the stairs into action as her wonderful nursing skills were on full display (no hesitation). I am sure you are all aware of how sometimes it feels as if time stands still. Wayne and Mariana were at my side as Mariana talked to me and slapped me around on the face to bring me back, but no response. Mariana could not find a pulse and she heard the last gasp of air coming out of my lungs, Mariana said, I was so close to death's door, very serious (they call it the death rattle).

Meanwhile, as this is happening, Max is on the phone with 911 because Wayne could not figure out how to use his phone with the crazy excitement going on in trying to get me to be responsive. A few years ago, Inver Grove Heights put in a new Fire Department 1-1/2 miles up the road from us and our police station is 2 miles away - what a blessing that they were so close (no chance in that, right - God knew). The Paramedics, Fire department and Police were there in less than 5 minutes. Oliver, loved the lights but knew Grandma was in rough shape.

Between Mariana and Oliver, they SAVED MY LIFE and I thank the Great

Physician, Jesus Christ for being my ever present help always. He used them to save me. For the life of the believer in Jesus, He is always there, He never leaves us nor forsakes us. I have heard way to many Christians say, "and then God showed up." God is either with us or He is not. His promise is, that He is always with us. **Matthew 28:20** of the Great Commission says this - "**Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**"

Many of you received a text message from Max back on Jan 28th/29th giving the details he knew at the time of my exciting event. Now as I look back on this amazing event of God's faithfulness, we as a family are still so humbled and filled with gratitude. Wayne still has me as his teammate/helpmate and Wayne for me. I have been back for many follow up visits with the doctors, whom all along said they expected certain complications, all of which have not occurred, THANK YOU JESUS! The doctors are astonished and very encouraged with how quickly I have recovered.

Part of this miraculous recovery I personally believe is our grandson Oliver. This young boy has the gift of empathy, truly. I really believe empathy is a gift the Lord gives to some people. Oliver's favorite T.V Show is the 70's show "Emergency." We think it's an appropriate show for Oliver for who he is naturally learning to be. He cares for people, he loves people, he wants to help people at every step. These are beautiful traits that as Grandparents we try to encourage in him. On August 8th, 2025, Max started writing this update. When Oliver saw the picture at the top, he jumped off Max's lap and ran up into my arms, and clung onto me and pointed at the picture with tears running down his face and then looked at me and hugged and kissed me. Oliver pointed to my chest where I was cut open, he remembered, he knew. It was traumatic for him also. This went on for about an hour, every time he saw the picture he ran to me and held me, trying to comfort me. He remembered, I am convinced of it. It was an emotional time for Wayne and Max as they watched this sweet little boy show love, compassion and concern for someone he loved and was in need of comfort.

Our family has had numerous miracles (Doctor's can't explain it), so what else do you call it?) that are only explained by God's sovereign and

miraculous hand. I ask the question often, why me or why our family? Why has God been so active in our family in such overwhelmingly and unexplainable ways...TO BRING GLORY TO GOD AND GIVE HIM THE PRAISE & HONOR HE DESERVES and to encourage others that need to be encouraged to put their trust and hope in Jesus!

Wayne's perspective on what happened and what he saw. "I know most of you reading this episode of Viki's life and death struggle, have seen or heard of many others in the same situation and this story is just another one, and that is true...except for certain details. That phone call I was trying to make to 911 just didn't register in my brain, and I think it was the first of many miracles that week. As God saw me not even able to dial my own phone, I am reasonably sure He said something like, "we need to send Viki back because Wayne can't even dial a phone, we can't just leave a guy like that alone without his wife" and Viki woke up a minute or two later. When the four to five hour surgery was over, the doctor said, "**of all the things that come into this hospital," "THIS IS THE WORST"!!!** The oddest thing that happened was her transfer out of I.C.U into convalescent care.

The next morning after surgery as the nursing staff was loading Viki and all of her hoses to be moved down a long hallway, maybe 100' feet, I asked if I should go along, the nurse emphatically said yes; then she added, "**you may hear some cheering"!!** I thought that sounded kinda weird, we're in a quiet zone, I.C.U. As we started down the long hallway, people were coming out of doorways on both sides of the hallway quietly clapping at first. As this small entourage moved forward, more doors opened and more people came out now clapping and cheering. I looked down the hallway in front of us at the nurses station and it was crowded with doctors and nurses, orderlies and I don't know who else. There may have been 50-60 people and balloons, now all cheering loudly like the Rosebowl parade...and Viki was the Rosebowl queen.

As I write a few of the details Viki was unaware of, I am overcome thinking back over the past year...I had my wife back and God was blessing everyone in that hallway. Most of Viki's nurses were believers and prayed with her often on their breaks and at night (mostly Bethel and Northwestern graduates). The next day I asked one of those nurese how often a parade like this happens. She looked at me with a look of bewilderment, awe and

praise for God Almighty and said: "**IT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.**" Viki's story had raced through the hospital in about 28 hours. She was a miracle and everyone knew it.

Her doctor said her stay in the hospital would be between 7-10 days. Viki came in the E.R on Tuesday morning about 7:30 am, she was well enough to leave on Thursday, only 3 days later. When I heard that she could come home Thursday morning, I needed hospitalization. I was not ready to take care of her yet. I trust God implicitly But I don't trust myself. Remember, I'm the guy who can't dial a cell phone. Viki came home the following Monday and I played a brand new intern nurse. Praise God for all the wonders I see."

(PLEASE READ AND PAY CLOSE ATTENTION) As **2 Corinthians 1:3-11** says - **"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation. For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer. We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the comfort God gives us. We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us. And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety."**



*GRATITUDE AND LOVE FOR GOD'S PERFECT
HELPMATE!*



ONE MONTH AFTER AORTA SURGERY!

THANK YOU for your ongoing prayer and financial support for this ministry to bring the light of Christ onto the college campuses. We need a desperate turn around in our nation back to Jesus Christ! People are talking about a revival happening in our nation just because our churches filled up again (for a short amount of time), just like they did after 9/11 and

then they emptied right back out and then went woke and apostate. So, my final thoughts are this, **"We don't need revival...WE NEED REPENTANCE and revival will take care of itself."**

**Keep your eyes on Jesus and your stick on the Ice. God Bless you all,
In Christ.**

DONATE TO I SOUGHT, I FOUND HOCKEY CHAPELS



HAPPY 2ND BIRTHDAY OLIVER! EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFT!



NOT SURE WHO IS MORE EXCITED!

**In His Grip,
Max, Mariana & Oliver Erickson
Thanking and praising the Lord for you!**



Ark Encounter Pastors & Leaders Conference in October

I Sought, I Found is a ministry under the leadership of International Ministerial Fellowship which is a clearing house for donations and a 501(c)3 missions credentialing ministry. **I Sought, I Found** ministries also partners with Hockey Ministries International. We are deeply grateful for your partnership. 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!

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