



**I SOUGHT
I FOUND**



I SOUGHT, I FOUND BYTES:

Greetings friends,

It's June 22nd; where has the time gone? A lot has happened since the Christmas update. I apologize for not sending this sooner. 2023 has been filled with many encouraging moments. As you can see in the pictures in this newsletter, the players in the MIAC are eager to learn about Jesus, and that fires me up to continue sharing Jesus boldly and proclaiming the truth that Jesus Saves!

The Apostle Paul said it best: "If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact

likeness of God." (2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NLT)

How fitting the above verse is from the apostle Paul! Our culture no longer celebrates the month of June, it's as if it has disappeared from our calendar. All SIN is rooted in the SIN of PRIDE; it's the number one sin God hates above all. Please check out the sermon on pride from Pastor Adrian Rogers on the sin of pride! We all need to speak up and be counted as standing for Jesus Christ in this culture. **THE PROBLEM WITH PRIDE**

There has been a massive defection from the truth in my 42 years on this earth, and at an alarmingly, fast pace throughout the past 3-1/2 years! It is a sign of the times. Because of the compromise and ultimate abandonment from Biblical truth; the culture has waged a war using the age old deception from the serpent from Genesis 3:1 - "**Did God really say?" (nothing new)**. Unfortunately businesses such as, "Chick-Fil-A", the TV series "The Chosen", and Christian financial institutions like Thrivent, have compromised adopting Pride Month, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in their business model and partnering with Mormons and allowing people to work on their set that do not hold Biblical truth and yet are portraying the life of Christ; How can this be? We should be asking a number of questions:

Are we too eager to support something before we know it is theologically accurate, and without biblical compromise? In all honesty, I used to be quick to adopt certain things because "**they sounded Christian**", later to be burned and ultimately disappointed. I encourage us to ask this Biblical question: are we acting like the people of Berea? **Acts 17:11: "And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth."**

Shouldn't we all be doing the same? Should you not be checking everything I say too? Shouldn't we be checking on what our pastors and friends in ministry are teaching, encouraging and sending to us? Not only are we ALL accountable to God and his word, but we are also accountable to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. My aim is not to offend, but only to challenge lovingly and promote correct Biblical teaching. If Christian organizations compromise to appease the world, they displease the Lord as a result. Therefore, we should be careful what we do, support, and encourage.

Remember, Jesus told us to be in the world and not of the world (John Ch. 17). Our church, speaking collectively, has done a very bad job, and we see the effect on our culture. Drag queen churches, drag queen pastors, and the works; these are not pastors or churches, but indoctrination centers. Considering this,

how do we live in Babylon and not be corrupted by the Babylonian culture?

Here are a few scriptures:

Scriptures to keep us on the straight and narrow!

1. Deuteronomy 6:4-9
2. Deuteronomy 28:14
3. Joshua 1:7-9
4. Proverbs 2:1-15
5. Proverbs 14:12
6. Proverbs 21:2-4
7. Daniel 1:8-21
8. Matthew 7:13-29
9. John 14:1-6
10. John ch. 15-16
11. Acts 4:1-31 & 5:17-42
12. Romans 12 - whole chapter
13. Romans 16:17-20 & 25-27
14. 1 Corinthians 6:9-20
15. Galatians 1:6-10
16. Galatians 5:16-26
17. Galatians 6:7-16
18. Ephesians 1:4-14
19. Ephesians 4:17-24
20. Ephesians 5:1-20
21. Philippians 2:1-18
22. Philippians 3:12-21
23. Philippians 4:4-9
24. Colossians 1:6-14

25. Colossians 2:6-10
26. Colossians 4:2-6
27. 1 Timothy 4:1-2
28. 2 Timothy 1:8-14
29. 2 Timothy 2:3-14
30. 2 Timothy 3:1-5
31. 2 Timothy 4:1-8
32. Titus 2:11-15
33. James 4:4-10
34. James 5:7-8
35. 1 Peter 1:3-16
36. 1 Peter 3:13-18
37. 1 Peter 4 - whole chapter
38. 2 Peter 3 - whole chapter
39. 1 John 2:15-29
40. 1 John 3:7-10
41. 1 John 4:1-6
42. Revelation 3:10-13
43. Revelation 21:22-27
44. Revelation 22:10-19

CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY CANCELS PROMISE KEEPERS EVENT OVER PRIDE STATEMENT

Now onto the chapel season! Some of you might have seen a video of chapel players praying to receive Christ, a picture of a prayer meeting at Bethel with 17 players in attendance, or two chapel teams coming to church with us and then going out to lunch together (first time that has ever happened). I started a chapel challenge this year where each team prayed for another chapel team. This yielded incredible results (**Bethel prayed for St Olaf, and by the end of the year, St Olaf grew from 3 to 6 players**). I encouraged the Bethel chapel to invite the St Mary's chapel to pray with them after a game. One of the guys from Bethel reached out to his buddy that attended chapel at St Mary's. I then received a group text from St Mary's saying that they had been invited by Bethel to pray after the game. St Mary's won the game that night at home against Bethel, but Bethel prayed in their enemy's home rink even after defeat with St Mary's to come together with their brothers from another team. Jesus Christ is bringing unity amongst the hockey culture in the MIAC!

Prayer after games in the MIAC used to be a little more common place when

the likes of Pete Aus, Whitey Aus, Sean Goldsworthy, Joel Johnson and Bill Butters coached in the MIAC. It was mostly Bethel and St Olaf teams that prayed regularly after games. When I was recruited by Pete Aus from Bethel in 1999, I remember the only two teams that ever prayed together were Bethel and St Olaf (Whitey Aus coached at Olaf). I was always attracted to that aspect of MIAC hockey. When Whitey retired, Bethel shined as the brightest light in the MIAC. Since Whitey helped me become a MIAC Chaplain at Augsburg in 2007, I tried encouraging players to participate in post-game prayer, but it was often uncomfortable for many of them.

Going on my 17th season serving as MIAC chaplain for most of the league, I have noticed players and coaches stepping up and out on a more consistent basis with their engagement with each other in chapel and in the body of Christ. What's happening off the ice is translating on to the ice more than ever. This thrills my heart and makes the 25,000 miles I drive per year worth it! Thank you for your prayers for these young men! You supply my needs in ministry to allow me to be an encouragement and bring the Gospel to them!

On a separate note, I wonder if you had the opportunity to see the movie "Jesus Revolution" in the theaters? It was a tremendous success at the box office. Your support allowed us to take each of the five teams to the movie. I actually saw the movie seven times in theater. I started memorizing it, haha. It was not a perfectly accurate movie, but it did get the point across. It can be difficult to reach people with Ministry, as it's easy to let ego and selfish pride get in the way. The Gospel, however, will always hit the mark when we teach and share it fearlessly and accurately, allowing the Holy Spirit to deliver people unto salvation.

BETHEL CHAPEL SATURDAY MORNINGS:





St Mary's & St Olaf wanted to come to church with us right after playing a weekend series with each other. They met us at Calvary Chapel in Red Wing! We then went out to eat together and had a wonderful time of fellowship. These men want to meet and know the other

Christians in the league! This was a first in my 16 years of ministry. Please pray for a greater desire to grow this kind of fellowship and joy in the league! LET'S MAKE THE MIAC **BIBLICALLY** CHRISTIAN AGAIN!

This is my St Mary's group at the Jesus Revolution movie. They invited another group of students to attend it with us. This was another small Christian group on campus. It was a very encouraging night watching these young people get excited about the workings and movings of the



Lord across this land! We need continued movement of prayer and revival for these young men and women to dare to be like Daniel and Esther!

PS: St Mary's started up summer chapels on June 14th with me on Zoom, and plan at least every other week all summer long to meet and have bible study! They are staying hungry and digging deep!

PSS: The St Mary's chapel is the reason for our upcoming trip to the Ark Encounter/Creation museum in August. Their desire to have a Biblical worldview is enormous, and they are encouraging others to join in on the trip; please see the information near the end of the newsletter for details!



The Bethel chapel at "Jesus Revolution." From the first chapel in September we had 10 guys and it grew from there to 17 per week, most weeks all the way through the last week of April. Three players surrendered their life to Jesus Christ throughout the year. The 3rd young man made his announcement at the Year-End Chapel at (Top Golf), and we gave him a round of applause. It was awesome! Please keep Brett, Colin and Marco in your prayers as they learn to walk with Christ!

Bethel has been a very inspiring group for me; a very missionary-minded attitude has taken root in their chapel, where their desire to reach their teammates is a top priority. A large debt of thanks goes to Chris McKelvie, his assistant coaches Travis Tulette, and Brian Gibbons for creating a Godly culture and making the Gospel a priority on their team.

Augsburg Chapel was a smaller group this year, mostly due to the time of chapels and conflicting schedules. Mariana and I, however, took two chapel guys with their wife and girlfriend to see "Jesus Revolution" and have dinner! It was a very encouraging evening! The fruit that bore from the evening is an ongoing Bible study at Jarod

and Sammy Blackowiak's house every Monday night. Another teammate and his girlfriend have also joined. They have a sincere desire to foster continued growth in their faith outside of the hockey chapels. These players are not just hockey player acquaintances, **THEY ARE GOOD FAITHFUL FRIENDS THAT LOVE JESUS AND HIS WORD!**



This is the St Olaf chapel at "Jesus Revolution." We ran into the pastor of Life 21 Church in Northfield, where these players attend church on Sundays. The young man (Pavel) in the middle of the back row, surrendered his life to Jesus and was baptized on April 30th! The movie was very impactful on his life!

A side note: **Not many people have heard about the potential mass shooting that was averted at St Olaf in April.** I personally believe this is partly why chapel attendance doubled in size. When life is threatened, it brings everyone to a place of thinking on an eternal perspective. God used this almost fatal event to draw people to hear the Gospel and ultimately respond, "Praise the Lord." **Genesis 50:20: "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive as they are today."**

I was on campus the very next day after this mass shooting event was averted. You could feel the tension and an uneasy feeling in the room. But many guys came to chapel that day to talk, discuss and learn about the Gospel that brings freedom and eternal life in Christ! You are sending me to do this, even in harm's way! THANK YOU for sending me!!

ST OLAF STUDENT CHARGED IN ATTEMPTED MASS SHOOTING





The St John's Chapel has been a solid chapel program for years. We always have had deep biblical discussions. One young man (Justin) surrendered his life to Christ in the second semester. All the guys prayed over him personally; very encouraging & powerful time of seeing the Spirit of Christ move among them for one of their teammates! Please keep Justin in your prayers to continue to grow and walk with Jesus.

We had a great time seeing the movie "Jesus Revolution!" It doesn't matter which school I serve, Jesus is working among any and all who attend chapels. It's a joy to see the work the Holy Spirit is doing in the lives of these players. It is through their witness that I see myself continue to grow in Biblical knowledge and understanding. Their questions keep me sharp and growing in Christ.



This is the Year-End Chapel at Top Golf. It was the 2nd year in a row we put on the event after the Covid lockdowns. Augsburg players were unable to attend; many are members of their golf team who had prior commitments. The St John's players had to leave before the picture was taken.

It is humbling to see so many young men desiring to know Jesus and ultimately surrender their lives to Jesus Christ. The growth in these teams is thrilling and overwhelming.

I praise God for the strife in America and around the world. God is using it to wake people up (including the guys in chapel) to the reality of his imminent return and to get to know him today. This is what I am seeing. Please pray protection over these players and coaches in this league. They are taking a stand to say yes to Jesus, and we all need your continued prayer and support!

CHAPEL PLAYER TESTIMONY:



Matt Sankner Sophomore Goaltender at St Mary's University

You might not think carving out an hour or two out of your schedule per week for chapel with Max could change your life, yet Max's power, eloquence, and grace in sharing the gospel has done this much for me and more throughout my two years of college.

On top of feeling tangible growth in my Biblical faith and my understanding of the life that Jesus has called me to live, I have personally witnessed the Holy Spirit take hold in my teammates and grow their faith in Christ through Max's witness to the Lord and profession of scripture.

For me, much of the year revolved around understanding what kind of representative for Christ I was and could grow to be. Through the Holy Spirit, as well as Max's guidance and brotherly support, I have witnessed the reduction and elimination of sins that I was susceptible to committing. I am better able to defend the Gospel, both in word and action, which has helped blossom the faith of my friends.

As an example, college is littered with temptations and complex situations that forces a Christian to make tough decisions. When asked to make provisions to allow friends to bring girls over for the night or the week, or when asked to join many drinking fests, I have been more equipped to say yes to Jesus' commands than the tempting offers that college provides, even at the expense of being rebuked by my friends. The Holy Spirit is the one who convicts me, of course, but Max helps put these kinds of situations into context every week so we know what Scripture calls us to do.

As a result, the same friends, at varying levels of faith, came to know me as a

firm defender of Christ and His will for our lives. Some of them confessed growth in their faith because they saw Christ's strength in me. One even credited my actions, as well as Max's relaying of the Bible, as reasons he put his full faith in Christ as his Lord and Savior and began to allow the Holy Spirit to work in his life. It was amazing to watch this happen in real time, as Max was brilliant in helping to guide him through it. I do not believe that I could have been the same witness to Christ that I was this year without Max's weekly messages, which are clearly driven by the Lord.

Max does a splendid job of arming us with resources to defend our faith and helping us harness the skill to tell false teachings apart from the Gospel. He encourages us to research and read for ourselves, as all answers we need to know can be found in God's word. He exemplifies what it means to be a Biblical Christian, and it rubs off on all that come to chapel, whether once or for every session. He also generously makes himself available for private conversion away from chapel in order to profess God's word into our specific situations and encourage us to be firm in our faith when need be. I consider Max a friend and mentor in my journey with Christ, and I am incredibly grateful for him.

If the reader is debating whether to come to a chapel session or not, I would offer you this question. Do you know for sure what happens when we die? What about where you are going once you die, or why we are all here, or what we are called to do? Do you know for sure that there is or is not a God? Do you know if the Bible can be trusted as the infallible word of God? Do you know if salvation is available to you, or how salvation is attained?

If you had to think twice about any of these questions, the least you can expect from Chapel is to be offered truthful answers that can ground you into certainty if you hear it.

If you are certain about all of these, the least you can expect is to be challenged or reaffirmed in your beliefs, which could only enhance your understanding of the truth.

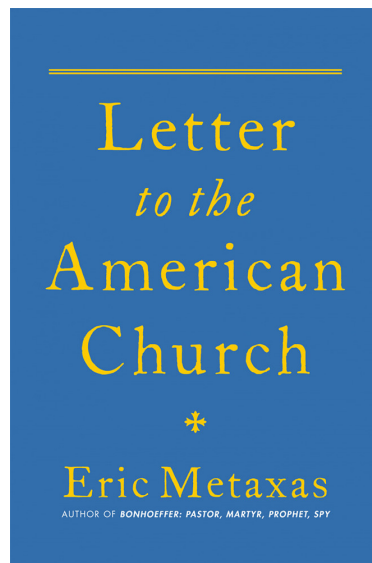
All topics are on the table and tongues are not held; chapel sessions are real and raw. They serve as an incredibly rare tool to lean on one another and learn scripture and how it applies in our lives. **Give it a chance!** I'm sure glad I did, and I have yet to meet someone who regretted it.

THE LOOKOUT SHOUT: **



EZEKIEL 33:3 - "When the watchman sees the enemy coming, he sounds the alarm to warn the people."

HAPPENING NOW - JACK HIBBS AND ERIC METAXAS



This was a dynamite 90 minute interview with Eric Metaxas. We strongly encourage you to take the time and watch. Eric and Jack bring the house down talking about the state of the American church, which, if you are paying attention, is woke and dying. This interview will be a gut check to bring back to our churches and evaluate them. Let us not be the like the German church during the time of Hitler. Time to stand, fight, defend Righteousness and be the light shining in the darkness. No more compromise!

**UNDERMINING NATIONAL SOVREINGTY - DANGERS OF THE
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

**Global DIGITAL PASSPORTS Enforced | Guest: Michele
Bachmann**

BILLY GRAHAM MESSAGE



**2nd Annual I Sought, I Found Inspired Evidence Tour - Ark
Encounter/Creation Museum**

DATES ARE SET:

Arrival - August 22nd - Check in at Hampton Inn - 3pm

Departure - August 26th - Check out by 11 am

A block set of 10 rooms are booked

Hampton Inn by Hilton

Richwood Cincinnati South 12929

Frogtown Connector Rd.

Walton, KY 41094

Phone: (859) 485-0365

Fax: 859-485-0364

TRIP DETAILS:

Room Cost per night - \$142

Travel arrangements are on the individual to fly or drive

Hotel Hot Breakfast is included

Ark Encounter & Creation Museum Tickets

3-Day Bouncer Pass - Best Deal - Parking pass separate (See Below)

Valid for three days of unlimited visits to both attractions within one week

Adult (ages 18–59) \$109.95

Senior (ages 60+) \$99.95

Youth (ages 11–17) \$59.95

Children (10 and under) FREE

pricing before tax | parking not included

Unlimited Parking with a 3-Day Bouncer Parking Pass

Valid for unlimited parking at both attractions for 3 days within a 7-day period.

\$30 for standard vehicles.

Regular parking rate is \$15/day for standard vehicles at each attraction per visit.

LAST DAY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT IS AUGUST 1st, 2023

40 DAYS OF GOSPEL MUSIC AT THE ARK ENCOUNTER

Contact Max Erickson to find out more information

"When many look at the world around us, they see chaos. I see something different. I see God warning the people of this world that His judgment is coming soon. The Bible shows us that this is the way He operates – warning, then judgment. God sent Noah to warn the world that His judgment was coming. He sent angels to warn Sodom and Gomorrah that judgment was coming. He sent prophets to Israel to warn them judgment was coming. And He told the whole church of the signs that judgment is coming.

The world may not like to hear it, but part of the gospel message we are to take to the world is that judgment is coming, so repent! But how can they heed God's call to repent, if we don't share with them His warning? Tell someone about Jesus today. He is the only way to escape the things that are coming upon the whole world." (**Amir Tsarfati**)

Romans 10:14-15

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?



Ephesians 4:21-24 - “Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God - truly righteous and holy.”

THANK YOU for partnering and sharing in the Joy that comes from sharing the Gospel with young men on our college campuses.

In His Grip,

Max and Mariana Erickson

Hockey is a Game; Eternity is Forever and it's no game! Share Jesus today!

Donate to support the Hockey Chapel Ministry



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