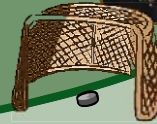


MAX'S BREAKAWAY

"Build your life on a firm foundation."

Matthew 7:24-27

MAX ERICKSON



LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION! If what you believe to be true is in error, would you want to know? If what you trust is not trustworthy would you want to know? If what you have faith in is a fake, would you want to know? If what you are about to invest in is a scam, would you want to know? Of course the immediate answer is, **absolutely YES!** You would want to know.

That is the answer I always get when I ask that question of my chapel attenders. As we begin to **dig** into the Bible and discuss our beliefs, we begin to realize many of us have incorporated vast amounts of error into what we believe, not on purpose but because we go through life on Cruise Control and don't question our peers or teachers. We get complacent, and after a while we really don't want to know the truth, it might be too uncomfortable and so it's back on cruise control.

A good hockey coach looks for perfection in his players and team. He expects his players to execute the plan he has put into place. In that pursuit he notices error, in fact it sticks out like a sore thumb. It screams we don't know what we're doing from every inch of the rink. The coach must then determine what the error is, who is involved and how to correct it before there will ever be any progress.

ERROR: Practice makes perfect.

TRUTH: Only perfect practice makes perfect. Why on earth do we continue to practice error for a lifetime when truth is as close as that dusty bible on the table?

That is my job as a coach and chaplain; to correct error and **DEFEND THE FAITH** Jude 1:3-4. First of all, I love what I do. Teaching and reaching **STUDENT**

hockey players with God's Truth and the love and saving presence of Christ is joy beyond my ability to express in words (more now than ever before).

In October, I was meeting with a couple of my chapel leaders planning and preparing chapels prior to the start of the season. We did a little small talk and then I raised a "simple" question and asked them to consider it as a foundation for this year's chapel season. In the book, *Fast Facts on False Teachings* by Ron Carlson and Ed Decker on the topic of Evolution, they state the following: *"How you answer the question of origins, whether you are an accident or a unique creation of God, will ultimately determine everything else in your life. It will determine your value for human individuals, your basis of morality, your meaning and purpose in life and your ultimate destiny. It is one of the most fundamental questions you can ask!"* The players said, "Read that again." Meanwhile, at the table next to us, was a man, who (at the time I didn't realize was even there) was listening to our conversation very closely for about 20 minutes and seemed to be agitated after I quoted this verse, *"Jesus told him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the father except through me."* (John 14:6) Then I read another quote from a book by Ravi Zacharias entitled JESUS Among Other Gods. *"All religions are not the same. All religions do not point to God. All religions do not say that all religions are the same. At the heart of every religion is an uncompromising commitment to a particular way of defining who God is or is not and accordingly, of defining life's purpose. Anyone who claims that all religions are the same betrays not only an ignorance of all religions but*

also a caricatured view of even the best known ones. Every religion at its core is exclusive." I gave a little background to who Ravi is, that he was born and raised a Hindu and came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ at age 17. He is a full time apologist traveling the world and an incredibly intelligent source of biblical truth which translates well into the college level academic world; and a trusted resource.



Learning how to potato farm Romanian style.



Turda Salt Mine in Romania



*Pre-wedding Ceremony
A Joy-filled day!*

Chapels are in full swing. There are between 4-12 players coming from each team to chapel. I am working with the same 6 teams that I have been with in the past number of years in the MIAC. The relationships continue to get stronger with the coaching staff. Players continue to come on their own to seek and learn the **FACTUAL** truth of God's Word (their hunger has made me grow). The 4th Annual Faith and Family night planning has been going very well as I work and encourage the student interns at St John's. It will be held on Jan. 11, 2015 at the National Hockey Center in St. Cloud. Something new this year will be chapel player testimonies during the period breaks sharing their faith in Christ, talking about the chapel program and what it has meant to them.

I continue to tent make my living, working at Fitness 19 in Eagan, MN. I work Monday- Thursday from 4:30-9:00 a.m. getting up at 3:30 a.m. I have learned to be disciplined and have learned to love scrubbing toilets. It has taught me a valuable lesson that if you want to be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven you must be the servant of all. It's not easy working 18 hours a week and then traveling to 6 MIAC schools Monday-Thursday, preparing chapels and going to hockey games on the weekends, not to mention meeting with any players that would like to meet 1-on-1 plus trying to keep Alumni bible studies going. Players continue to seek my counsel in everyday life matters. The more I read and learn, the more I am responsible for. To not share the truth of what I am learning Biblically would be in direct violation of God's will for me being a chaplain/teacher/coach (it's not always popular). I have also been asked to be on the Board of Directors of the IMF Golf Fundraising committee. We meet once a month and this year's Golf Fundraiser is Friday, June 5th, 2015; It's a lot on my plate, (if you would like to golf please contact me).

In addition to this, you might remember the last newsletter that I was headed back to Romania on August 30th, for a **PRE-Wedding reception** with Mariana and her family. God was pleased and so were we, it was such a perfect day and with all the Joy in the world I am proud to be a part of Mariana's family. They welcomed me with open arms and open hearts. On November 23rd, 2014, my future father-in-law suddenly passed away at the age of 63 from a blood infection that went to his brain. This has been a very difficult time for Mariana and her family. The timing of going back to Romania was God's appointed and perfect timing. **THANK YOU JESUS!!!** Our legal wedding has been set for April 25th, 2015. Mariana is still in Romania and we are almost done with our immigration paperwork and her right to get married here. We plan on having her back with us by the end of February. God is providing all our needs and I am so thankful to have a full time partner in life going forward in life and ministry. God has fulfilled the desires of my heart with her (**Psalm 37:4-5**). Mariana is my best friend and I praise God for her. She holds me accountable and encourages and affirms me in what I do. Please

pray for us as we head into the beautiful blessing that marriage was created to be. We both appreciate your partnership and friendship in our lives. Thank you for your generous prayer and financial support.

I recently got a thank you card from one of my former chapel attenders in which he expressed his extreme gratitude for the Study Bible I bought him. It means so much more to him than it ever did before, because he is learning to use it. Because of the gifts of support from you he is growing in his walk with Christ and leading others to Christ. This is the kind of Fruit I am praying for and would think this is the kind of **BANG FOR YOUR BUCK** you are praying for too. I pray you are encouraged and blessed by the ministry you are partnering with. **YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE! Thank you!!!**

This ministry simply is not possible without your prayer and financial support. I would love to be fully supported so I wouldn't have to have a part-time job anymore. I would then be able to focus more on the ministry and calling that Christ has laid upon my life. He continues to confirm with me every day this is where I belong. I have roughly \$25,000 (books, bibles, gas, food, etc.) in ministry expenses each year. I am trying to raise \$50,000 a year to live on and support my future wife. Would you please consider a year-end donation to further the ministry outreach to the MIAC Student Athlete Hockey Player? THANK YOU very much.

In His Grip,



Merry Christmas

New e-mail:
maxandmariana@gmail.com
Facebook page:
Max and Mariana Erickson

"It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error, it is better to speak truth that hurts and then heals than to speak a lie; it is better to be hated for telling the truth than to be loved for telling a lie; it is better to stand alone with truth than to be wrong with the multitude. The religion of today is get-alongism! It is time for men and women of God to stand (even) if they have to stand alone." Adrian Rogers - Pastor



My Future Parents-In-Law



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