



MAX'S BREAKAWAY

OCTOBER 2012



I survived Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Discipleship Training School. The old classic hymn "The Old Rugged Cross" means more to me than ever. As I traveled, those words became real to me. "And I love that old cross, where the dearest and best, for a WORLD of lost sinners was slain, so I'll cherish that Old Rugged Cross..." I can see the sin of the whole world on Christ as he was Crucified for us. Studying the Word of God in Hawaii was a culture shock in itself, let alone going to Romania and London for our outreach phase. If you have ever traveled the World for any period of time, something happens when you come back home to the confines of what we call "Normalcy." Your World perspective gets shaken up, at least in my case it really did. I now love other cultures and foods. I really enjoy the way other cultures (Romania) worship in Church. I realized that there are many ways to honor and praise the Lord, you would think that wouldn't be a new concept, but for me it was one that I learned to enjoy.

Just a quick snapshot. I spent a 157 days between Hawaii, Romania and England. The lecture phase was 89 days totaling 1030 hours of teaching, training and learning how to incorporate Christ into Sports and running Christian Sport camps. Basic First Aid and CPR training were also taught. On average **it was 11.5 hours a day**. It was very intense; 12 weeks of lecture and bible teaching and 9 weeks overseas. Many highlights happened, along with many tears and a broken spirit before the Lord. God was active in humbling me in areas I didn't even realize. In the 12 weeks of lecture, we had 12 different teachers and 12 different topics on the Bible and Christ. We had some incredible teachers with incredible testimonies of God at work in their lives.

One of my teachers said, "We all carry an image of God; is the image I carry correct or incorrect? Are we stewarding the image God has given each of us to the best of our ability? Are we living in expectation

that God is among us, in us and working through us for his Kingdom and Glory? In today's society - we are poor in our image of God. We need to correct our own image of God in order to help correct the World's view of God." Being right before the Lord reflects the ministry he gives us. I learned that over and over the past 6 months. **2 Corinthians 13:8 - "For we cannot oppose the truth, but must always stand for the truth."** I can honestly say, that when I stood firm in the truth, God's blessing was upon whatever I did and when I lost my confidence in Christ, it felt like He wasn't with me. However, I saw God still use me during my wanderings and that continued to bring me back to Him.

Since last January, life, relationships and ministry have really taken a lot of twists and turns. I have been learning to trust God no matter what the cost or outcome will be. In doing that, I am seeing how God is able to do far more than I have ever imagined. Since resigning my position with HMI last March relationships have been reconciled, ministry opportunities are greater than ever and I am finding a renewed joy in the Lord.

As I serve through International Ministerial Fellowship (IMF), I will be continuing my role as a Hockey Chaplain working with 5 Division III MIAC schools (Augsburg, St. Thomas, St. John's, Hamline and St. Mary's), along with doing 1 on 1 discipleship bible studies with players, supporters and coaches. I am grateful for the coaches and players support and have already been meeting with teams. There are other ministry opportunities available along with the YWAM Rockford base here in Minnesota, which I am excited about. One thing I know for certain as God has been confirming me as a hockey chaplain, this is where he wants me to bloom and grow. I took a leap of faith believing that my time with HMI needed a break. **The players and coaching staff's of those teams supported my time with YWAM and they have all welcomed me back; that alone is reason enough to continue in the open doors the Lord has provided.** I want to thank you for supporting me in prayer and finances. I also know that "out of sight is out of mind." I know how easy it is to forget our missionaries in the field. I exhausted my savings which I had accumulated from my time at Home Depot before coming on staff with HMI five years ago. I am in need. As with most things in life, the cost of this outreach doubled from the first planning stages to my feet hitting the ground back in

Minneapolis 5-1/2 months later. Thank you for how you have supported me and I hope that you will continue to support - **THANK YOU!** It is good to be home and back serving where the Lord has called and equipped me to be. They are in need of the Good News and you are sending me to do that. I thank you! My life and ministry goal is this, **"Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant, Galatians 1:10."**

Thank you and God Bless,
Max Erickson

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