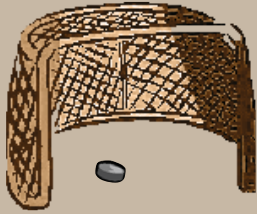


OCTOBER 2015



*“Build your life on a firm foundation.”*

Matthew 7:24-27

# MAX'S BREAKAWAY

Do you believe in Miracles...I AM MARRIED! Life is a transition and is filled with unexpected twists and turns often revealing our true character. Three years ago I met Mariana. It took God 31 years to prepare us for each other. No simple task (especially over mountains and an ocean)! She and I had many twists and turns along the way that stretched us to trust God and each other. The common thread that made it a reality was that Jesus Christ is the most important aspect in our individual lives, and He led us to each other. We have seen God work in our lives in the area of transitions, whether it's work, ministry or family related; no doubt His hand has been steady and faithful.

Many of you were able to attend our wedding in April and know that Mariana lost her father in November 2014, three months after our pre-wedding in Romania.



Remembrance photo of Mariana's parents

Mariana's mother and family watched our wedding in Minneapolis live, via Skype. To our great sadness on June 17th 2015, her mom died from her battle with breast and bone cancer. *Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT) says it well, “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “and my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”* Thank

you Lord and AMEN! This verse has brought much comfort knowing that we are not to question God but to trust His sovereign plan in our lives, **He knows best!** We take tremendous joy in knowing Mariana's parents are home with Jesus and free of pain and suffering.

On July 21 2015, Mariana received news from the Department of Homeland Security that she had been approved to work in the United States. Many of you know how long a wait this has been and is a big relief knowing this portion of the immigration paperwork is finally complete. All of her education and credentials from Romania have been accepted and she doesn't need any further schooling to be a Registered Nurse. She passed her CNA test in August and recently was hired as a Certified Nurses Assistant at Presbyterian Homes in Inver Grove Heights and plans on taking her Registered Nursing boards in the Spring. Since our wedding in April it has been a season of adapting to married life and making financial ends meet. I transitioned out of Fitness 19 and now work for Home Depot in Inver Grove Heights 20 hours a week 6am-10am Monday-Friday. It has been a welcome transition working close to home. **God is good and he knows what we need.** Other side jobs included working with my dad and Mariana on a 1939 Ford Coupe and a 1935 Indianapolis 500 Race Car. Learning the history of old cars parallels with studying the bible. The more you research and appreciate the old, the more you realize everything new is based on the old. How can we understand the cross if we don't know and understand the Old Testament sacrifice for sin and that the cross of Christ was the final sacrifice for sin? History is a great



1935 Indianapolis 500 Racecar



Mariana working in the shop helping my dad

teacher, so let us not forget our past. This quote is very appropriate, **“If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a Nation gone under.” Ronald Reagan**

The chapels will continue as before, 6 teams every week from October-April; meeting for one-on-one with players and coaches and attending hockey games on the weekends. Alumni Bible Studies started again on August 15th. Instead of trying to establish individual alumni groups which is simply too difficult to schedule, we are trying to meet twice a month (Saturday mornings) with all alumni teams combined. For any that can make it we meet from 8-9:30 a.m. at



Former Hamline Chapel leader  
Tai Larson  
- sharing his Testimony at church

...“IN THOSE DAYS ISRAEL HAD NO KING;  
ALL THE PEOPLE DID WHAT WAS RIGHT IN THEIR OWN EYES.” (JUDGES 17:6)

Cedarwood Church in Rosemount, year around (any questions e-mail me at maxandmariana@gmail.com). I am trying to build a consistent place for men to grow in their faith, learn and then apply the truths of scripture in their spheres of influence. At our first meeting I asked a question, “Why are you here today?” To my surprise, the answer I got was unexpected but right on the mark, “Why did we ever stop meeting?” That simple answer has set the tone for the foundation for our Alumni Bible Study group. We are studying Psalm 119 and what a wealth of truth and practicality and challenge it has been for all involved. As our Alumni Bible Study grows, hopefully, so will the impact be felt throughout the hockey culture in Minnesota. Your continued prayer support is essential and appreciated!

I recently spoke at our church on the theme “Tell your Story.” It’s good to tell your story, your history and God’s amazing, unchanging hand on your life. Can you see Him active in your life? It’s amazing to recount what God has done in us. It has shown me how small I am yet important to Him; but more importantly just how big He is. Our personal history helps create a two way street of communication and understanding. When we know each other’s stories, it helps me apply scripture more effectively into all our lives.

Some people have a bucket list but I’d like to share my “I can’t wait list” with you. As I have been planning our Alumni Bible Studies, one of my alumni who resides in Chicago, said, “What a great idea, maybe I should start one here in Chicago.” This brings me a lot of encouragement to continue on and not lose heart in sharing the Good News with hockey players. I can’t wait to get back to serving the MIAC players, coaches and their families. I can’t wait to teach, lead, share Christ, meet one-on-one and be an encouragement, and point guys to Jesus for all their questions in life.

In 16 months at Fitness 19, I cleaned toilets over 1000 times. I much prefer to be in the service of helping to clean up the lives of hockey players one player at a time. God continues to confirm that I am to bloom where He has planted me. I will be heading into my 8th season serving the MIAC hockey players and coaches and their families. A huge THANK YOU to those who have helped me serve the MIAC. Thank you for your prayer support, financial support, and partnering in different events and sending me to bring the Gospel of Christ to desperately hurting college campuses.

God gives us opportunities every day to acknowledge him and say yes, I want to be on your team. A wise man once said, “You don’t need to **get** ready if you **are** ready” (Wayne Erickson). The Bible is our textbook on how to get ready; like Nike says, “**JUST DO IT.**” Life goes by so quickly and you never know that day when you will breathe your last. God does know our days, he has numbered our days himself (**Psalm 139**). We cannot escape the appointed time God has for us, so make the most of your time on this earth living for Jesus Christ, who is the Author and Perfector of our Faith.

Here’s a Christian Ponder, sorry I couldn’t resist.

**“To save man from the morass of propaganda, in my opinion, is one of the chief aims of education. Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from false, the real from the unreal and the facts from the fiction.”** Martin Luther King Jr. (from his paper “**The Purpose Of Education**”). Unfortunately much of the classroom has become the morass of propaganda, as secular humanism and godless philosophy has replaced the biblical values of our fathers. **“The philosophy of the classroom today, will be the philosophy of the government tomorrow.”** Abraham Lincoln

*In His Grip,  
Max Erickson*



*IMF Golf Fundraiser Champions (not pictured Ben Ollila).  
Playing for the Chapel ministry*



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