



This summer has been filled with ministry opportunities. Since I came on board with International Ministerial Fellowship (IMF) many doors have opened. IMF has encouraged me as a chaplain serving through Hockey Ministries International (HMI), and understands that hockey is one of my main focuses. Being on the Christian Community Golf Association (CCGA) board which is in conjunction with IMF, one of the members connected me with more Christians who own street rods, classic cars and build, show and race them....my family roots. **Ministry opportunities are everywhere.** People are searching for truth; something real, tangible, even historical to believe in. Sports and cars are just a couple of areas that the Lord has opened up to me. I am passionate about both areas and am able to combine my love for Jesus Christ; it's a winning combination, and Mariana is able to participate as her schedule allows. Here's a little sampling of what our summer was like.



Mom and Mariana making cross necklaces at the State Fair at Crossroads Chapel

March 31-April 8th Mariana and I needed to return to the Romanian Embassy in Chicago to "finalize" some papers we had "finalized" a year ago. I guess the Romanian mail loses things too. As part of this adventure I was invited to play in the F.C.A 13th Annual Christian Cup Hockey Tournament in Chicago. As long as we were heading east we decided to book a 3 day tour through the first 11 Chapters of Genesis at the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky (**Ken Ham - Answers in Genesis**).

As I mentioned before, a friend had asked me to play in the F.C.A. tournament. He was a non-Christian friend from high school who was not just seeking Jesus but wanted to find him. We had been meeting for over a year. That hockey tournament was a life changer for him. When I got home from our trip, we started talking more. On April 14th, he called me from his work choked up and was talking about the hatred that was coming from his family about becoming a Christian. I asked him point blank, "have you invited Christ to be Lord of your life?" His response right away was, "I got on my knees at work, threw my hat on the floor and said, "Jesus I can't do

this anymore and I surrender my life to you!" I started crying; I have never been happier in my life than to see him come to Jesus **for real**. This was a day that changed his life forever, and mine. Three days later I interviewed him at my year-end chapel. A life changed for eternity. We continue to meet for Bible study and prayer and his wife and family are **SLOWLY** coming around as they see his life actually changing. Pray for him.

The updates about the Creation Museum and the highly anticipated Ark Encounter in Petersburg, Kentucky did not disappoint as we were able to drive into the parking lot to see the Ark from a distance before it's opening on July 7th. Talk about scripture coming alive and jumping off the page right into our laps (**This is a must do on the BUCKET LIST**). I could spend the whole newsletter writing about the Creation Museum; take our word for it and GO visit, and bring friends and family - you'll be glad you did. You can deny facts all day long but it still doesn't change the fact of History. God's word is TRUE. As Isaiah 40:8 says, "The Grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever." Nothing can extinguish it, NOTHING.

The Back to the 50's Car show at the St. Paul Fairgrounds was another smashing success. Twelve thousand cars - 1964 and older. Old rusty cars restored and given a new life, new paint and taken care of by an owner that loves their car. Hmm, sounds a lot like becoming a Christian and becoming a new creation in Christ. We ran into a friend of my dad's who is a Chaplain for a racing ministry called "Racers for Christ." He told us that there are over 900 Chaplains across

the US; we had no idea. Incredible, right in our back yard. This friend of my dad's invited us all to the Summer Nationals Car show in July to put my Red 1988 Caprice Station Wagon in the show directly in front of Crossroads Chapel.



Summer Nationals Car show in front of Crossroads Chapel.

We did outreach specifically through Crossroads Ministry and Racers for Christ. Through that car show we were invited to other Christian ministry car shows. I went to more car shows than ever before in a summer and Mariana loved it 😊. (Just a note) In 2000 I bought an ugly, grey, non-running 88' Chevy station wagon for \$100. **Six** years later, after much desperation, perspiration, disappointment, jubilation, blood and disappointment (not all things went well the first time around), I have a beautiful, fast, comfortable and safe "little red wagon." I learned perseverance and patience and that a job well done takes a lot more time, effort and money than a "quickie" conversion/restoration.

I was back at HMI Hockey Camp for three days this year and helped on the ice and even helped lead a few songs at chapel. It's been 5 years since I really did anything at hockey camp. It felt like I had never been gone. It was wonderful hearing kids share about their love for Jesus. I invited a couple chapel guys to come; one did and was really encouraged by what he saw.



CCGA Golf Tournament Guest Speaker, Chico Resch with Augsburg Assistant Coach, Chris Johnson



FCA Christian Cup Team picture

I am still on the Board of Directors for CCGA (Christian Community Golf Association). Chico Resch was our Guest Speaker - What a fantastic job he did. I have known Chico since I was 12 and in all those years he never sounded so good! Well done Chico! People invited Christ into their lives that day through what he had to say. A personal highlight for me that day was connecting Chico Resch and Augsburg's Assistant Coach, Chris Johnson (son of Mark Johnson - 1980 Miracle On Ice). Chico and his dad played together in New Jersey for the Devils and attended Bible Study. Chris has become a very good friend. It was fun watching them connect.

I had the opportunity to play in 5 MIAC Hockey Golf Fundraisers, using these tournaments to connect with Alumni, coaches and current players.

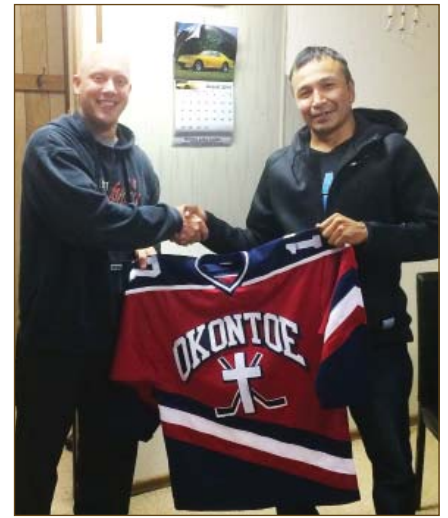
The Crossroads Chapel at the State Fairgrounds invited me to do a hockey stick handling demonstration and clinic. For two days during the State Fair, the friend I mentioned earlier, my dad and I taught hockey skills, gave away 80 hockey player New Testaments put out by Hockey Ministries International and many HMI Camp brochures, which highlighted our youth summer camp schedule. My mom and Mariana did crafts outside, helping parents and kids assemble cross necklaces and bracelets, they even shared Christ with a Muslim family. What a cool witness! It was a family ministry weekend - **I loved it.** Serving Christ with your family is a blessing upon blessing. We each used our gifts and God has equipped each one of us differently. I feel so blessed to have the family I have - Thank you Jesus!

In September I went back to Summer Beaver, Ontario with two other people under Okontoe/Overcomer's Ministries. I was last there in 2010 and since that time, I had always wanted to go

back. The first time I went, I met a man named Paul who had been drunk and addicted to opiate drugs. He had beaten his wife until she was motionless on the floor of their home. When he realized what he had done (he thought he had killed her), he hung a rope around the rafters and jumped off a chair and hung himself. His wife came to, got up, and without thinking twice cut the rope and saved his life. That year in 2010, he asked me about what reconciliation

looked like and wondered how to do it. I shared some scriptures and prayed with him and we said goodbye. Coming back this time, I was unsure how things would go. I was praying for opportunities with Paul and God answered those prayers and Paul and I picked up right where we left off 6 years ago. I had been wondering if Paul had ever reconciled with his wife? He reminded me that, when I left in 2010, I had given him a T-shirt from the movie "Fireproof" and on the back it said, "**You Never Leave Your Partner.**" He said, it has been his favorite shirt and wants another sent to him; it has been a constant reminder for him. For 5 days we met, talked, prayed and ran a Baseball clinic. We read scripture, prayed and encouraged those who had lost loved ones; and finally made a lasting connection with the local Anglican priest. Paul and his wife still struggle to reconcile their marriage but Paul is committed to his wife and family and wants me to come back again soon. The door is open - please pray for him.

This quick snapshot of some of the ministry that took place this summer has been fun, unique and at times very challenging. I want to thank you for your ongoing financial support and prayer cover. You are great teammates. If you would like to catch up over coffee or dinner and see what else is going on, please feel free to get in touch



My friend Paul from Summer Beaver

with us. Chapel season is gearing up right now. Same teams as in past years. Some teams have already started chapels as of Sept. 26th (they are eager to grow and learn). The season officially kicks off Halloween weekend with the MIAC Showcase. I want to leave you with this verse as an encouragement.

John 11:25-26 - Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this...?" (NLT) I do!



Max & Mariana
State Fair Stickhandling Clinic

Max &
Mariana

8th Annual Year-End Chapel



- ❖ Give by PayPal or credit card at: www.i-m-f.org - Missions - IMF Agency Missionaries - Erickson, Max
- ❖ Call IMF Accounting at 952-346-2464 to set up ACH or credit card payment(s)
- ❖ Mail tax-deductible financial support to:
IMF, PO Box 100, Navarre, MN 55392-0100 (Do not write Max Erickson's name on the check - write Acct #1075 on the Memo line.)

IMF is registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 non-profit religious organization. Donations are tax-deductible. This contribution is made with the understanding that IMF has complete control and administration over the use of the donated funds. Checks must be made payable to IMF and NOT contain the name of a specific individual. Checks designated for individual recipients are not tax deductible. On a separate piece of paper you may note the name of the person for whom you are requesting the donation go toward, for their ministry in support of IMF's exempt ministry purpose(s) or send this bottom portion along with your donation.