

MAX ERICKSON

MAX'S BREAKAWAY

NOVEMBER 2017

JESUS IS ALIVE

and changing hearts to follow him!

Do you need a blast of encouragement?

On October 12th at St. Mary's Chapel, all 5 players came to a saving knowledge of Christ, something Mariana and I have been praying about very specifically the last few months. One of the new chapel attenders came in with many questions. He asked the most refreshing question anyone could ask. "Can you lead me to Jesus?" I have to admit I was a little taken aback to hear that question. In my 10 years in the MIAC, no hockey player has ever asked that question; and to ask it so boldly and to the point. They are usually more reserved and unsure to be so open. I said a quick prayer in my mind, "Oh Lord give me your words to share biblically and correctly." Over the next two hours of chapel we dealt with many questions. Keep in mind, I was at a Catholic school named St. Mary's. It's not easy serving in these schools where they get taught Jesus plus Mary, Jesus plus man's religious tradition, Jesus plus everything and anything, etc. I didn't want to rub anyone the wrong way, however, I needed to answer their questions biblically and honestly. Their eternal lives depend on it! The player went on to say the previous week he went to the priest for absolution of his sins; I explained Jesus is our High Priest, salvation in Christ alone. This concept is tough for many of these players to understand, not just at St. Mary's, but at all the schools. As I shared scriptures, this player sat on the edge of his seat, eager to learn. I went down the line asking each of the players if they wanted to surrender their lives to Jesus, each one said yes. I led them in a simple prayer and they all repeated aloud and surrendered their lives to Christ! I was simply in awe of what God had just done, Hallelujah...**YOU ARE A HUGE PART OF THIS... THANK YOU!**

In addition to this, as I was writing this newsletter, the following week at Augsburg on October 17th, my chapel leader stayed after chapel and said it was time for him to surrender his life to Christ,

not just commit. I had been sharing about what happened at St. Mary's as an encouragement for the guys and it struck this player as I explained the difference between surrendering or committing your life to Christ. He raised his hand and said as a freshman I committed my life to Christ but I was afraid to surrender my life to Christ. He is a junior now and said, I am ready to surrender my life to Christ, I want to fully follow Christ. I asked him if he wanted me to lead him in a prayer and he said, "I GOT IT" and sat down and prayed to receive Christ. What is the difference between commitment and surrender? Committing is on our terms and surrendering is on God's terms. Just when I thought things might slow down and I could catch my breath, on October 30th at St. John's, one player who had been attending chapels over the past three years, said, "I haven't been able to stop thinking about what happened at St. Mary's and realized I finally need to get in the game for Christ." I want to surrender my life to Jesus today. As he said this, another player said, "I want to know God is at work in my life and I too want to pray to receive Christ!" This is the fruit we have been praying for and longing to see. We are so glad we can share this with you so you know that your partnership is not in vain and you and I are making a huge impact. God is making the seeds grow that have been planted in these players' lives and it's an honor to be a part of the work of the Lord's doing.

I STAND REDEEMED

"When I think of all my faults and my failures; When I consider all the times I let God down; I am humbled by the grace He has extended; I'm amazed at the mercy I have found; I could never earn His love on my own; Yet every time I come before His throne

CHORUS: I stand redeemed by the blood of the Lamb; I stand redeemed before the great I Am; When He looks at me He sees the nailed scarred Hands; That bought my liberty -- I stand redeemed

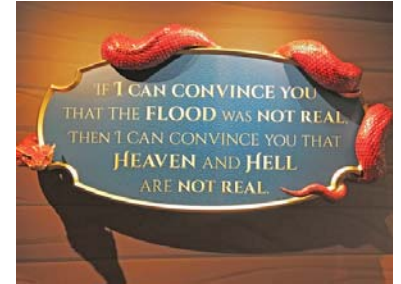
Even at my best I am unworthy; I have nothing precious I can give; A broken life is all I have to offer; And yet it is a priceless gift to Him; The bitter mark of sin will never fade away; But I can come before Him unashamed

CHORUS: I stand redeemed by the blood of the Lamb; I stand redeemed before the great I Am; When He looks at me He sees the nailed scarred Hands; That bought my liberty"

- Song - I Stand Redeemed - performed by Legacy Five

Speaking of growing, I may be healthier than I have ever been. It's been a little over 10 months since I was in the hospital. I am not only alive but thriving in my health. Once again the teacher must endure a huge learning curve. I received a note from one of my supporters last spring that said in my last newsletter it was very evident how thankful I am to the Lord for my life. **ABSOLUTELY!** August 16th, I went into the Endocrinologist to get some blood work done to see how my diabetes is being handled. If you remember my blood glucose in January was 630 and my A1c was 14.3, very close to a diabetic coma. On this checkup, my results came back incredibly normal. I have to admit I

was expecting good results. My A1c came back at 5.8 (normal). My doctors exact quote was, "**it is obvious your pancreas is working**" and then he quickly dismissed it by saying over time your pancreas will fail and you will need more and more insulin. As encouraging as the first part of the appointment was, I quickly forgot about that and focused on the negative part and left dejected and depressed thinking is this really going to happen?? Doubt plays a huge role in life - the power of suggestion (words) or even whispers can cripple people to believe something that may not be true.



Ark Encounter - Is the Flood Real?

So it is with the enemy of God. Satan whispered to Eve in the Garden, "Did God really say?" It was that little bit of doubt that crept in and turned to sin when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command to not eat of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Their eyes were opened and sin and death came with the choice to choose to disobey God.

There they were in perfection - perfect unity with God and God walked with them in the Garden...**WHOA!** What a thought! Roughly two thousand years forward to the time of Noah and the Ark as we see in Genesis 6:5 - "The Lord observed the extent of the wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil (NLT)." It goes on to say that God would destroy all living animals large and small and the birds of the air **but Noah found favor with the Lord**. The global flood of Noah's day; real or myth? All of us are aware of the direct conflict between the Genesis Creation and the "theory" of evolution, at least I hope we are all aware that it is a conflict. The two viewpoints are at complete opposite ends of the spectrum. I'll give you two guesses as to which view most of our

universities and even many of the Bible schools and seminaries favor (**THE FRUIT IS EVIDENT**). Noah was a preacher of righteousness and as he built the Ark he was ridiculed and demeaned as you can



imagine. Do you have any idea how big this ship was? We just got back from the Ark Encounter the middle of September on our 1st missions trip taking two senior couples to the Ark (mom and dad and their best friends Curt and Karen Kline). The Ark...what a sight, it's hard to put into words just how incredibly large this ship truly was or is but it measures out at 510 feet long, 85 feet wide and 104 feet tall to the highest part of the bow. The builders chose to use the "Hebrew Long Cubit," at 20.4 inches, which was used for large scale construction projects in ancient civilizations according to the Creation Museum Answers in Genesis design team. If you are unaware of the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum by the apologetics ministry "Answers in Genesis," you now know and need to get there. It is an absolute bucket list item. It's more than a vacation - **IT BUILDS YOUR FAITH ON THE ROCK OF JESUS CHRIST, ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE WORD OF GOD AND THE 1,000's OF FACTS OF HISTORY!!!** As a side note, I was told at the end of the chapel season in 2015 by one school, by two players, they didn't understand what Jesus had to do with Creation or the Ark of Noah's day and wanted to go a different way (a way that goes away from the truth and authority of scripture). **Matthew 24:37-39 - Jesus said, "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes"** (NLT). We must remember here that Genesis 6:5 has already stated that every thought and action of man was only and always evil; that is why the flood came. And then Paul said it this way in Colossians 1:15-29 "Christ is the exact likeness of the unseen God. He existed before God made anything at all, and in fact, Christ himself is the Creator who made everything in heaven and earth, the things we can see and the things we can't; the spirit world with its kings and kingdoms, its rulers and authorities; all were made by Christ for his own use and glory. He was before all else began and it is his power that holds everything together. He is the Head of the body made up of his people - that is, his church - which he began; and he is the Leader of all those who arise from the dead, so that he is first in everything; for God wanted all of himself to be in his Son. It was through what his Son did that God cleared a path for everything to come to him - all things in heaven and on earth - for Christ's death on the cross has made peace with God for all by his blood. This includes you who were once so far away from God. You were his enemies and hated him and were separated from him by

your evil thoughts and actions, yet now he has brought you back as his friends. He has done this through the death on the cross of his own human body, and now as a result Christ has brought you into the very presence of God, and you are standing there before him with nothing left against you - nothing left that he could even chide you for; the only condition is that you fully believe the Truth, standing in it steadfast and firm, strong in the Lord, convinced of the Good News that Jesus died for you, and never shifting from trusting him to save you. This is the wonderful news that came to each of you and is now spreading all over the world. And I, Paul, have the joy of telling it to others. But part of my work is to suffer for you; and I am glad, for I am helping to finish up the remainder of Christ's sufferings for his body, the church. God has sent me to help his Church and to tell his secret plan to you Gentiles. He has kept this secret for centuries and generations past, but now at last it has pleased him to tell it to those who love him and live for him, and the riches and glory of his plan are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: **CHRIST IN YOUR HEARTS IS YOUR ONLY HOPE OF GLORY.** So everywhere we go we talk about Christ to all who will listen, warning them and teaching them as well as we know how. We want to be able to present each one to God, perfect because of what Christ has done for each of them. This is my work, and I can do it only because Christ's mighty energy is at work within me." (The Living Bible)

As ministry opportunities increase, more time is needed to have a flexible schedule and less commitment to Home Depot.

I am an on call employee, meaning I call them when I want to work and have time to work.

There is another opportunity on the horizon but more to be said on that in the Spring newsletter.



Summer Nationals
Car show
Sunday morning
at Crossroads
Chapel giving
testimony.

I was asked back to do a 3-day stick handling clinic for the kids at Crossroads Chapel during the State Fair. I gave bibles, DVD's, and different biblical helps away to parents, grandparents and kids. I found it

beneficial talking to the parents and encouraging them and talking about the HMI hockey camps and the chapel ministry in the MIAC and many people were encouraged with the ministry that was taking place. Almost everyone I talked to didn't know anything like Hockey Ministries International existed.



Crossroads Chapel
Stick Handling Clinic

As my father has said about HMI, that it's the best kept secret in the hockey world and in Christianity. Slowly but surely we are making a difference in the lives of many hockey players. **Your continued support is vital and we THANK YOU for your support!**

A couple other tidbits, Mariana passed her Nursing Boards. She is a Registered Nurse and works at South View Acres in West St Paul, 1 mile from home and loves it there. She says, it's hard work and it is. She is great at her job and many patients are so glad she is there taking care of them. She has such a unique gift of serving and loving others. She teaches me a lot. She is tough when it is called for and unbelievably compassionate when those in need are hurting. I praise God for my wife, without her I would be lost and aimlessly wandering around from arena to arena wondering what to do! My perfect helpmate, I pray you feel the same about your spouse.

"If you have not repented, you will not see the inside of the kingdom of God." Billy Graham

God Bless you and Thank you,



***In His Grip,
Max and Mariana Erickson***



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