



MAX'S BREAKAWAY

FEBRUARY 2020

MAX ERICKSON

Happy New Year friends and family, Christmas came and went but Jesus stayed; Did you catch it this year? Salvation came to earth to dwell among us and be one of us to reconcile us back to the father and bridge that separation that occurred in the Garden. God's perfect plan that mankind could touch, see and believe. Some believed but many more did not and it still is the same today. **Hebrews 4:14-16** says, "But Jesus the Son of God is our High Priest who has gone to heaven itself to help us; **therefore let us never stop trusting him.** This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, since he had the same temptations we do, though he never once gave way to them and sinned. **So let us come boldly to the very throne of God and stay there to receive his mercy and grace to help us in our times of need.**" 2019 has been an amazing year. We are alive and doing well and we have not forgotten you. Without your prayers, financial gifts and partnership, this year simply would not have been what it has been.

THANK YOU!

It's been 20 months since my last big ministry update and a lot has happened. Mariana continues to be a nurse at Bethesda Hospital in St Paul but could be let go in March and will be looking for work as that hospital looks

to restructure. Mariana and I, for the past two years, have taken a trip to the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky and attended a 3 day Bible Conference. The topic this past October was, "One Blood, One Race" obviously referencing all of mankind's blood line back to Noah and Adam. This conference the past two years has been a great way to kick off each chapel season; it gives me a great shot in the spiritual arm and encourages me to share Christ with the student athletes. **As 1 Timothy 4:8** says, "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." A side note on this Bible Conference (new topic each year), if anyone would like to join us please reach out for further information, we would love to have you come along.

I currently have 5 teams I am serving (Augsburg, Hamline, St Mary's, St John's and St Olaf). I meet each week from September through April. I continue to meet Alumni for Bible study and the neatest thing is, they are seeking me out to meet and continue their walk in Christ (a great encouragement). This past/current year was filled with great chapels and a few players coming to faith in Jesus.

One player from St Mary's shares his testimony of the chapel program



St. John's Chapel with their new Bibles - Jan 2020

and the impact of one of his teammates that helped him come to full surrender of faith in Jesus Christ. As you read these testimonies, I hope and **pray** that you see the impact that **you** are having in this ministry; **God is using you!** I asked Jake and Trevor to tell you how Christ has impacted their lives. They can say it better than I can. I **pray** you will be encouraged and feel very much a part of the fruit that is taking place in the HMI MIAC Chapel program that you partner with. **We all THANK YOU!** If you would like more details on what else is happening in ministry, I would love to sit down for a cup of coffee with you and share the Lord's work. **His Harvest is incredible!**

"When Jesus called people to follow Him, He was not seeking companions to be His sidekicks or admirers who He could entertain with miracles. He was calling people to yield completely and unreservedly to His lordship" (John MacArthur - The Gospel According to Jesus). The testimonies from Trevor and Jake point to this truth.

TREVOR PARADISE - ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

My name is Trevor Paradise and I have been attending Chapel almost every week for 2 years. When I was a freshman, I was a curious mind who wanted to learn more about God, with little to any Christian background or upbringing. I didn't want to go to Chapel every week but there was something strange inside me that made me feel so much better about all aspects of life after leaving chapel each and every week. That is what kept me going back.

Christmas 2018, Max took the chapel group out for dinner and it was then, when he did a strange exercise called the "Great Exchange". He asked if anyone had 1 dollar and surprisingly I was the only one of the boys to have a dollar at the table.



St. John's Chapel reading the chapel passage for the day.

Max asked me if I trusted him and I responded yes. Then Max took my dollar and gave me 20 dollars in return. I did not want his 20, I felt awkward and undeserving. Max then said to me, It is a gift and you cannot take it back. It would be almost a year later until I realized what this "Great Exchange" really meant.

Jake Hagstrom has been my mentor throughout my freshman year in the locker room, in the classroom, and in the Word of God as I came to him with new challenging questions about topics we discussed in Chapel every week. Jake would spend time with me and be patient

JAKE HAGSTROM - ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

My experience coming to chapel with Max in the last two and a half years has been better than I could imagine. Growing up going to church and spending time in the Word with my family was always something that helped me stay strong in my faith, but since I've been away from home, I've had to find other areas in growing deeper in my faith. Having chapel with Max at Saint Mary's is exactly what I needed to stay in the Word and grow in my faith. Last year when I was a sophomore, God put Trevor on my team to mentor. I was able to mentor him on and off the ice, in the classroom, and most importantly, in the Word. Trevor and I attend chapel together along with a handful of our teammates each week to ask questions about the Bible and other things we have going on in our life.

On one occasion, it was just Max, Trevor and I at the chapel, and we had a pretty serious conversation that day. Trevor had

so many questions about my faith in Christ and what it takes to be a Christian. Trevor knew if he decided to follow Christ as his Lord and Savior, it would change his life forever **(and that it would)**. Less than a year later, Trevor approached me on his own one day after practice asking if we could have a talk the next morning. We met on campus before lunch and he asked me a question I had been waiting to hear ever since chapel we had that one day with Max; Trevor asked how to become a Christian and asked if I would lead him to Christ. I had no hesitation when Trevor asked me to pray with him, so I immediately said yes; leading Trevor to Jesus was exciting and scary all at the same time. A good scary though. I had no time to doubt if I was helping him pray the right or wrong thing, we just prayed. Soon after we prayed, I texted Max and shared with him the good news. The greatest news. **Jesus had finally found His new home in Trevor's heart!**

Trevor and I have since met almost every week to talk about the decision he made and

with me as I knew little about Jesus and what it truly meant to be a Christian. I am forever grateful for Jake and what he has done for me. If it were not for Jake and the Holy Spirit within him then I would not be saved today.

October 24, 2019 I surrendered my life to God. My walk with Christ is just the beginning and the more I learn the more I understand how undeserving I am of His grace. But it is a gift, just like the 20 dollar bill Max gave to me. It is the Greatest Exchange. **(2 Corinthians 5:11-21)**
NLT

the life he is willing to live. Before Trevor gave his life to Christ, he was a bit hesitant about taking the leap of faith because of the unknown. Trevor knew that if he gave his life to Jesus, he would be fully committed and not half-committed. For Trevor, it was all or nothing. Max and I were proud of Trevor for coming to that decision on his own because we knew that many give their lives to Christ for the wrong reason. Meeting with Trevor on our own has been great for me as well. I have been saved since I was 8, but I need Christ daily just like anybody else. Trevor comes with questions for me about his new faith and I try to answer them the best I can. I don't always have the answers at first but talking to Trevor has helped me learn how to answer a question even more so than before. I look forward to the months and years to come being brothers in Christ with Trevor. I look forward to learning and growing with him in our faith and living our lives for Christ.

As you can see, Christ is impacting the lives of these players. You, my teammates and partners in the Gospel are making an impact on my life in supporting and sending me to these players which allows the Lord to use me for His glory. Because of your partnership, testimonies like Trevor and Jake continue. There are other players coming to Christ and seeing their need to have that Great Exchange. Be encouraged as God calls them, and as they come, pray for these young men that they would be strengthened, grow in biblical truth and sound doctrine and continue to share the Gospel unashamedly! **THANK YOU!!!**

*In His Grip,
Max and Mariana Erickson*



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