



I SOUGHT I FOUND

*We are looking forward to
a home yet to come!*

Hebrews 13:14-15

By Max Erickson

For the protection of the players, schools, myself and my family, and those involved, I am unable to give full details of the event that took place last spring: A young man had been “adopted” and invited by one of my teams to attend chapel. He had been affiliated with a very controversial organization. When he walked into my chapel with a backpack and an attitude, I swallowed hard and said a quick prayer, “**help me Lord, I know what I say can ignite a fire or put the fire out.**” It was one of the simplest prayers I had ever prayed. What ensued was a two hour chapel dealing with hurt, hatred, unforgiveness, bitterness, racism, BLM, Antifa and more. We dealt with it through **Colossians 3:5-17 (please read)**. What looked to be a tough chapel turned into an opportunity to share Jesus. As Chuck Swindol once said, “You don’t have to **get** prepared if you **are** prepared.”

God truly has a sense of humor in his timing and how he stretches and grows our faith in him. When I arrived, the players looked sick and dejected and I asked what was wrong? They informed me a person connected with a police involved shooting earlier in the year had just been identified as an alum of this particular school, and the campus was in chaos. They said, “There are agitators planning on coming in to protest and make this issue even worse. We paused and opened in prayer. When we finished praying, this young man the players had adopted had just walked in. He felt hurt, angry, confused, wounded, bitter and struggling with forgiving people. The players had been encouraging this man all year long to come and he finally came on that day searching for answers, hope and truth to his struggles. He admitted he was going down a very dangerous road. **He had been getting all the wrong answers from the culture.** God’s timing is always perfect and He never fails, He always delivers in the clutch for any and all that will respond to him.

The players encouraged him to receive the hope that comes from the hope giver, Jesus! As **we** started answering his concerns and hurts, I asked him if he thought I was white and he said of course you are, so I held up a piece of white paper, he laughed and said, in comparison to the paper, I guess you're not white, more light brown. In the same way, I want to tell you that you are not black. He said, of course I am black. Who told you, you are black? Society and culture.

I asked him to take off his black hat and lay it out next to his skin and asked if he was still black, he laughed and said, I see what you are saying. I told him about **melanin** and how that gives us the pigment and our skin tone. I said, we are brothers, created in the image of God. There is no color issue, let’s understand who God is and how he created us uniquely in his image (**we are his image bearers**). **His walls came down quickly!** He then asked how to forgive a few of the officers who made some bad choices regarding a few traffic stops.

We walked through all of this over the next hour and prayed with him. To my surprise, when we finished, he came over and gave me a hug and hugged the other 8 guys in chapel that day. He came in hurt, angry and wounded but left encouraged and loved! A week later I received a text message from him, saying, that he had left the school because it was a “**TOXIC**” place to be and finished his classes on-line at home. **He learned and applied what we talked about immediately.** Fast forward to this fall, he is back on campus, doing much better and attending chapels each week, asking a lot of questions and finding Biblical answers. The young men at this school are doing the great commission and they have had a profound impact on one man and on me (one lost sheep matters). What a privilege it is to get to watch the seeds that have been planted to grow before my eyes. Some seeds are growing faster than other’s but to watch it happen is truly a blessing. It was the Word of God that brought conviction, healing, answers and hope to the issues of this life. A foundation has been laid, now, we are continuing to build onto the foundation built on the truths of scripture. Please keep this young man in your prayers along with the many players in attendance at the schools.

This testimony brings deep satisfaction and how sharing Christ on the college campuses is a risk/reward. The risk is being kicked out, laughed at, threatened, cancelled or arrested. The reward is seeing a life changed by the power of the Gospel. Our college campuses, even the “Christian” ones; Jesus is mostly ignored, replaced or illegal to talk about. The book of Romans helps bring this into focus a little more. **Romans 1:10-17** - “**One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you. For I long to visit you so I can**

bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. I want you to know; dear brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to visit you, but I was prevented until now (**Covid lockdowns 2020**). I want to work among you and see spiritual fruit, just as I have seen among other Gentiles. For I have a great sense of obligation to people in both the civilized world and the rest of the world (**hockey culture and college campuses**), to the educated and uneducated alike. So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News. For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work , saving everyone who believes - the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished start to finish by faith. As the scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”

This section of scripture has greater meaning now more than ever. When the Covid virus was released, it closed churches, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, sports, schools and everything else. But strip clubs, liquor stores and cigarettes were essential. Lockdowns were imposed; diabetes and suicides increased in number. Isolation and depression became the real pandemic and the ability to meet personally with players was not allowed. I am grateful to you as a body of believers who pray for this ministry and support the men to whom I am ministering. Thank you, and God Bless you for partnering in sending me prayerfully and financially.

We are living in a world that denies the obvious truth. We are human, not monkey’s. There are ONLY TWO GENDERS male and female, just in case you forgot. There is only one Critical Race and it’s no theory but fact - THE HUMAN RACE. You would think these topics would not need to be discussed again and again, but that’s just it, these young students are constantly bombarded with Critical Race Theory, gender fluidity and other ridiculous lies of this world. These topics and others are leading many away,

including with-in the church, away from Christ; therein lies the problem. It is vital to arm these students with biblical answers to counter the false teachings of this world. We have an evidence backed faith. Because of our evidence backed faith, we need to be able to correct and teach the truth and expose the false; not only in chapels but more importantly in our churches and homes. I understand more and more, the deeper I Dig into God's word, how often I continue to find myself back in the book of Genesis, especially in Chapels.

The reliability of the New Testament lies in the truth and history of the Old Testament.

A brief snapshot of our summer of ministry and what's happening now. Much of your support goes directly into the hands of chapel attenders, with Biblical tools: such as books, study bibles, Christian DVD's and apologetic resources to handle the skeptical questions of this culture. In June, I was one of two speakers at our annual CCGA Golf Tournament sponsored by IMF. You can view my message at www.isoughtifound.com main page. It also marked our 24th and last year for CCGA.



CCGA Golf tournament

In July, I officiated my first wedding for Jarod and Samantha Blackowiak. The message was, **The Why...The Purpose...The Blessing.** I learned so much by preparing for their wedding that I have been able to apply in my own marriage. God is always teaching us, I think I am finally starting to listen and learn!



Wedding of Jarod and Samantha Blackowiak



40 Days of Gospel Music - Answers in Genesis - with The Martins

In August, Answers in Genesis hosted the 40daysofgospelmusic.com, the worlds largest Christian music festival. We were able to serve as part of this huge outreach for a week. We are heading back there in August of 2022; if you wish to join us, please contact us; we would love to have you go with us. We will have more details on a trip coming out in February!

The Bible conference at the Ark Encounter in October was entitled, "Raising godly children to face the secular giants"; how appropriate considering our culture. Next year's conference is entitled, "Crisis in the Church", join us.

The chapel season is in full swing and off to a great start. Students on our college campuses are starving for truth. Players are meeting me on zoom now with their girlfriends to discuss how to have a God honoring relationship and how to put Christ first. I am meeting with 4 teams in the MIAC every week. We would like to ask for your continued prayer and financial support. We need your prayers for players to come into a true repentant relationship with Jesus Christ and really understand to whom they are surrendering their lives. Your continued financial support covers my zoom bible studies with families, individuals and couples. It covers breakfast Bible studies, website costs www.isoughtifound.com, Bibles, dvds, books and Christian streaming services like Answers.tv (through Answers in Genesis), travel costs, gas, food and hotels, including Bible conferences (**where I get strengthened and grow**). A big Thank you for the past 15 years of support! You are our teammates in the proclamation of the Gospel, even if we don't see you that often. Your partnership is greatly needed and appreciated.




One last thing, by now many of you have received the book "The Day Approaching," by Amir Tsarfati from the ministry "Behold Israel." We have received many great encouragements from those who have read it. If you are unaware and have not gotten your copy yet from us, please contact max@isoughtifound.com and we would be glad to send you a copy. Your support has also been used to buy that book and deliver it into your hands, **"for such a time as this"**. Our prayer for you is that you will continue to grow and to be used by the Lord to **continue sharing Christ boldly without fear or compromise.** We pray the Lord's protection over you as you live for Christ in these difficult days. But remember as "the day approaches" too when Jesus comes to take his bride out of the coming 7 year tribulation, many will be left to suffer through the time of Jacobs (Israel's) trouble **Jeremiah 30:7 (please read all of Jeremiah Ch 30)**. Please use this time we have today to share the Good News of Christ as "The Day Approaches," of Christ's return for his bride. Tomorrow is not guaranteed but our future in Christ is! **2 Timothy 4:2 - "Preach the word of God. Be prepared, wether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching (NLT)."**

Merry Christmas, In His Grip,

Max and Mariana Erickson





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