



HMI Ice Chips

New Chapels...New Chaplains in Place...



Rockford IceHogs



Part of my job with Hockey Ministries International is to start new chapels with hockey teams in the Chicago/Illinois area. The Rockford Icehogs of the American Hockey League was a team that had never had a chapel. It is so interesting how God will work within the church. Last year, during Calvary Memorial's Mission Conference... during a home meeting, I found the perfect fit for a hockey chaplain (Steve Ayres) in the Rockford area. His parents were actively working in the Children's Ministry at Calvary and invited their son to come in from Rockford for the home meeting.

The second part of the equation is to have a willing coach and some members of the team that are interested in having a chapel on their team. This can pretty much open or close the door to any kind of a chapel. Rockford had replaced their coach this year so I started doing a little research and found that the new coach had chapels on his team in Spokane Washington. I called the chaplain (Todd Ulrich) for the Spokane Chiefs and he said the coach was very positive towards chapels... we also had two or three players on the Rockford team that had had chapels on different teams.

I called Steve Ayres and met him at Rockford's rink so that we could introduce ourselves to the coach and see if we could set up a chapel with his team... easiest meeting I have ever had in my eleven years with HMI. It was easy only because of the work of other chaplains and prayer warriors within the HMI family. When God wants to move in an area he always prepares the way. All we have to do is show up... The coach was very warm and inviting and he looked up at his wall calendar and said, "Here are some dates. When do you want to do your presentation?" Awesome!!! We did the presentation and players showed up for the demonstration chapel... So far we have done four chapels with an average of 4-6 players coming to each. Initially, I was at the first three chapels to support Steve. Steve did the fourth one on his own and will continue for the rest of the season. Thank you for praying for this chapel to get started... Please pray for Steve as he continues to serve HMI as a hockey chaplain...



Steve and I with the guys from Rockford



The IceHogs practicing before Chapel

Matthew 10:32-33

"Stand up for me against world opinion and I'll stand up for you before my Father in heaven. [33] If you turn tail and run, do you think I'll cover for you? The Message..."



Lake Forest College



Steve Story

We also have a chapel in place with the Lake Forest College team in Lake Forest, Illinois. This Chapel is also what I would call an empty netter, or for you basketball fans a "lay-up." The chapel was initiated by one of the players on the Lake Forest hockey team through one of our full time staff members (Doug Halcomb)... I called the coach and he was very accommodating and I had found an excellent chaplain in the Chicago area... Steve Story, the senior pastor of Windy City Church in Chicago. Steve is a perfect fit for a hockey chaplain as he is a tri-athlete and former Chicago policeman (he's a great preacher and has some excellent stories that the guys on the team will be able to relate to)... Steve had been waiting for the past year because we thought that we would be able to get a chapel going with the Robert Morris hockey team. But that didn't materialize. So far this year we have had two chapels with the Lake Forest team... There have been some scheduling conflicts the past couple of weeks so we have not been able to do chapels. Please pray for Steve as he does these chapels... pray also for God's favor on scheduling and for wisdom for the best day to do chapels.

LUKE 2:13-14 (NLT)

¹³ **SUDDENLY, THE ANGEL WAS JOINED BY A VAST HOST OF OTHERS-THE ARMIES OF HEAVEN- PRAISING GOD AND SAYING, ¹⁴ "GLORY TO GOD IN HIGHEST HEAVEN, AND PEACE ON EARTH TO THOSE WITH WHOM GOD IS PLEASED."**



Please pray for BJ as he struggles with OCD... and the challenges associated with it. He has been getting treatment. Praises for great grades...



Samantha lost her job in November... she has been looking since then for a new one... pray that the Lord would help her find something soon and for her relationship with her boyfriend John...



Pray that I would die daily to self, that I would be delivered from the sins of apathy, lethargy, impatience, greed, pride, resentment, fear, anxiety, depression, and reliance on money. That God would reveal the people He wants me to pray for and what to pray about. And that I will praise Him for everything.



Pray for Debbie's ongoing struggle with fibro-myalgia and severe migraine headaches. Pray for healing and God's grace. Also for wisdom in being a good parent and wife.



Please pray for Misty and her situation on the Bethel women's hockey team. There seems to be some disagreement and misunderstanding with her coach at Bethel. Also they are going to Europe to play 3 games after Christmas... pray for safe travel and good witnessing opportunities.

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