

HMI Ice Chips

Chicago Wheaton Hockey Camp



**BJ did the Power
Skating at camp**

We usually have to do a lot of work advertising and promoting our camp in Chicago but this year has been very different. We had larger numbers registering for the camp than the previous year. Head office usually sends us a breakdown so that we can see how we are doing compared to last year and this year the numbers have been far greater than last year. We were able to have three, on-ice groups this year and that has not happened for at least 5 years.

As we got closer to time for camp some things started to happen... our Christian NHL pro was supposed to come to camp for the whole week. But he texted me about 10 days before camp and told me he would not be able to make it because he had decided to go to summer school. I called him on the phone and he agreed to come for one night to speak to the campers and sign autographs but



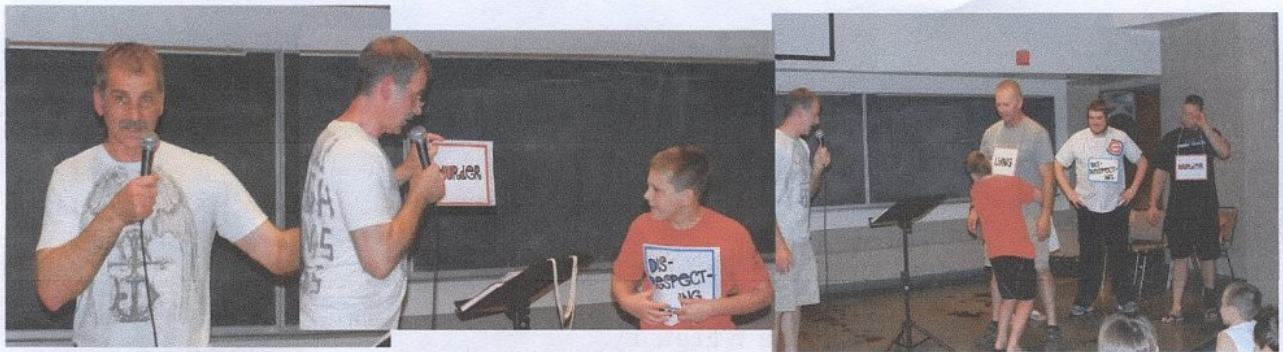
**Some of our campers from the Wheaton
Chicago Camp**

cancelled 4 days before camp... I was sad for the campers because they were looking forward to seeing him at camp.

On Tuesday night, I gave my testimony and was in the process of presenting the gospel to the campers when thunderstorms came raging through the Chicago area and we had to leave the auditorium because of a tornado warning... we came back and I invited those that wanted to know more, to come to the front and we once again had to leave because of another tornado warning. After all of this you begin to wonder if you should wait till tomorrow night... but we decided to go on... to my surprise, the campers who stayed to learn more about Jesus were very attentive, even after all of the disruptions... they all gave their lives to the Lord.

Early morning Wednesday, I got a text from one of my lead instructors saying that he had forgotten that he had a court appearance that morning, but he would try to get to the rink as soon as he could. I would have to cover for him and possibly do a double shift again... I already had done a double shift on Monday... Six hours with your skates on... my feet were still a little tender... So on my way to the arena I called Debbie and asked her to send out an



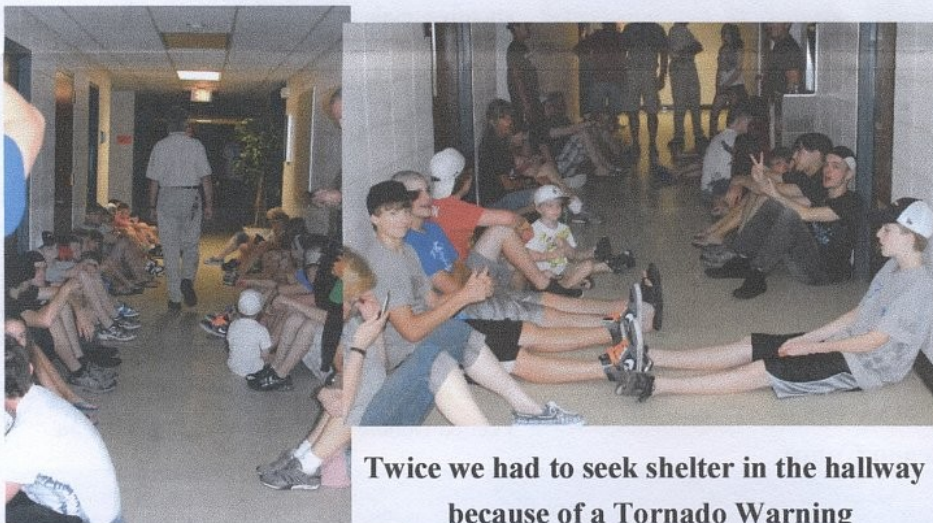


The Good News of the gospel was presented to the campers even through all of the interruptions

email asking for prayer for the camp... I was wondering what next? I also called Christy at head office and asked her to ask people to pray for the camp.

I got to the rink and there was no power, no lights and the ice was slowly melting... there was a lot of water on top of the ice... I guess I wasn't going to have to do that double ice slot I was worried about. But what about the ice..? There is a critical point where you will lose it all and it will take days to restore. I hung around the arena and the power came on about midmorning... the arena manager assured me that the afternoon groups would be able to go on... so I headed back to campus to get some lunch before the afternoon sessions. I was by the salad bar and one of our counselors comes over to me and said he would have to leave Thursday because his mother was having heart surgery on Friday. At first I thought he was kidding because he was smiling... He said if we really needed him he could stay till the end of camp... I said "No way! You are leaving... we will get by."

The two oldest groups eventually did go on about an hour late... the ice was a little soft and somewhat slushy but it worked. There were some more issues but I think the lesson was to pray... God had his hand on us and on the camp the entire time... but He loves to work through the prayers of His people... thank you Lord for the grace to get through and the reminder to pray... And thank you, everyone, as you prayed for the camp.



Twice we had to seek shelter in the hallway because of a Tornado Warning



Curt had to leave Thursday



Many Thanks to Kim Toter for taking excellent Pictures during the Chicago Camp