

# HMI Ice Chips

## God had a better Plan



The Team Bus

For the most part, players hate to be traded because they don't like the disruption... Managers and coaches have to trade because they are under great pressure to put a winner on the ice... and they are always looking for that winning combination. Over the last couple of years, many Steel players have been traded and I have been quite sad about the traded players because they have been regular chapel attenders. The Tri-City Storm (Kearney, Nebraska) was the recipient of four, chapel-attending players.

I had the cell number for one of these players and I sent him a text message to see if he wanted to get a chapel started on his team (this is the players' preferred way to stay in touch)... He was all for it, and excited to hear that I would be the one coming out to do the chapel. Since the team had never had a full team presentation, we tried to arrange my trip out to Kearney, Nebraska. But, the team had

been on the road and still had a lot more road games scheduled for the next 3 weeks. And it looked like their schedule was going to make my trip difficult to arrange.

Then, came the warnings of the great 2011 mid-west snow storm that blanketed Chicago with 23 inches of snow and shut down the city... God had a different plan for chapels for the Tri-City Storm... My player contact texted me and asked me what I was doing on Tuesday... I told him I had an appointment set up for mid-morning to early afternoon... He said his team was leaving Nebraska, Monday at about noon, travelling by bus to Illinois and they were spending the night in Orland Park. I told him that I could cancel my appointment and that chapels for his team were my priority. They would be practicing at the Artic Ice Arena in Orland, Tuesday morning, and then they would bus to Ann Arbor, Michigan for their game. All of this, just ahead of the impending snow storm! Wow! What a great opportunity to do a chapel intro before practice and a demo chapel after practice... I asked the player to ask his coach if he would allow Hockey Ministries to do this when his team came to Chicago and the coach said we could do it.



The Tri-City Storm and Me just before they left for Ann Arbor

I cancelled my appointment and got ready to do my intro presentation and my demo chapel... quite a bit of prep work but well worth



the effort, considering I would not have to go to Kearney, Nebraska to do it... The bus got to the rink and I helped them unload some of their equipment... Then we called a meeting... I showed the whole team a video, did my "intro-to-chapels" and invited them to the demo chapel after practice... from the intro presentation I got an idea of how many players would attend... I needed to know this because I always bring food and drinks for the players... a good friend always told me... "If you feed them, they will come..." plus, these guys are always hungry!

After practice, 18 players and all three coaches came to the demo chapel ... Awesome... Thank you Lord! The weather was starting to get bad and the bus needed to leave. We all know how bad the storm got later that day... but, without this storm, it would have been another three weeks before I could do the initial presentation... I did go out to Kearney three weeks later but this was for their second chapel... Lincoln also has a team in the USHL and I was able to do an introduction and a demonstration chapel with them on my way back from Kearny.

## Faith and Family Night with the Chicago Wolves

On February 5, the Wolves hosted a "Faith and Family Night" at the Allstate Arena... the team won the game but, more importantly, there was a Faith assembly afterward for people who were interested in finding out more about some of the Christian players on the team... I had the privilege of asking four players some questions about how faith fits into a professional hockey player's life... this was a good format for the players... a couple of them were a little apprehensive but I reassured them that everything would turn out fine and that by showing up they would be encouraged by some of the 400 Christian fans that showed up for the assembly. And that is exactly what happened!... All of the players really enjoyed interacting with people and signing some autographs after the question and answer session came to a close... Please pray for these players that they would continue to reflect Jesus in their hockey careers...

