

# HMI Ice Chips

## BACK TO BACK

The website, answers.com, defines the term **back to back** as consecutive or successive events. This has surely been a season of back to back events for us. It started with BJ and Debbie having back to back hip surgeries... BJ in May and Debbie in July. Then there were the back to back to back hockey camps that I did this summer... they were all supposed to be in Canada... starting with Kingston, Ontario; then to Calgary, Alberta; lastly to Caronport, Saskatchewan. But Christy Liesemer, the head of our hockey camp division at Montreal, called me about three weeks before I had to leave and asked if I could please go to Slovakia and the Czech Republic for the first two weeks and then just do the Caronport camp in Canada... I always like to go to the camps where I am most needed. So I agreed to go. I asked Debbie and she

said it made no difference to her... I was going to be gone anyway.

Well, two days before I was about to leave... (it was eight days after her surgery)... she said to me "I can't believe you are leaving me at a time like this!" Ouch... I was already committed and the kids were all home, so it wasn't quite as bad as it sounded.

The camps in Europe were literally back to back... we usually get a day between camps to travel and rest but not this year... We ended the Slovakian camp in Trnava on Saturday about 4pm. We were exhausted and just wanted to hang out at the hotel. The camp director, Ivan, is a great guy and he had planned some sight seeing at some castle ruins about an hour and a half away. He also had planned a dinner at a farm near the ruins... No one really wanted to go except Christy... but in the end we all decided to go. Sometimes God wants you to do things even though you are very tired... it was actually a relaxing time being with all of the other camp workers, fellowshiping, eating and discovering some neat things about Slovakia.

But, the most awesome thing of all was when I was driving back with a guy named Pavel that owned the pro shop at the rink... He was always very helpful... but he never came to the chapels at night... We talked through an interpreter, because Pavel spoke almost no English. I really got to know him on our little excursion and was able to talk to him about his faith. We were just starting to get deeper but



Top left clockwise, castle with our group, Lucas one of the campers with me, castle, and Pavel far right of the 4th picture



had already arrived at the hotel where we were staying... I asked him if I could talk to him more about Jesus? He said he was very interested and suggested coffee in the morning.

We met and I presented the gospel to Pavel... we talked for over an hour... He said that our time talking just flew by and he would seriously consider making Jesus his Lord and Savior. Please pray for Pavel, for wisdom and strength to make this eternal decision in his life and pray for me as I continue to communicate with him through an interpreter with e-mail.

That afternoon we left by train for the Czech Republic... the Czech camp was starting that evening. The next morning we were once again on the ice during the day and in the chapel at night, speaking and encouraging the campers...

The Czech camp ended and I flew back to Chicago... 1 day of unpacking, laundry and repacking... then back on a plane to Caronport, Saskatchewan. Camp went well ... God provided the energy and the strength...

When I got back to Chicago I had one more back to back to worry about... after a week of rest and catching up with tasks at home... I drove with BJ to Toronto ( he was going there to play Jr. "A" hockey); then I flew home to Chicago so that I could drive with Misty to Lynchburg, Virginia. I helped her get settled for school and then flew back to Chicago...



## Prayer and Praise

Chapels are starting again... please pray for God's favor on new chapels for Indianapolis, Muskegon, and the Chicago Hitmen... I have chaplains for each team but we need an open door for the presentations.

Pray for Chaplains for the various teams in the USHL.

Misty is the Captain of her team at Liberty... pray that she would be a good leader and a strong witness to the rest of her team.

BJ plays on the Vaughan Vipers with another strong Christian, Luke... they are making an impact for Jesus on their team... pray for wisdom as they reflect Christ's love to their teammates.

Pray for Debbie's continued recovery from her surgery.

Pray for direction for Sam... she needs to find a new job or go back to school...

