



ECHL CHAPLAINCY LAS VEGAS WRANGLERS

Breaking into the last frontier in sports ministry.



How did we get started?

In 2004, LIFE was approached by Hockey Ministries International (HMI) to see whether or not we'd be interested in doing a sports chapel for the local hockey team, the Las Vegas Wranglers. Hockey Ministries International, is a para-church organization dedicated to serving hockey players in 20 different leagues (NHL, AHL, ECHL, UHL, USHL, WHL, OHL, QMJHL, NCAA and various others). Dwight Watson and Philipp Meinecke took on the chaplaincy program for the Wranglers three years ago and are still serving them today. Currently, Philipp Meinecke is leading the chapel program, assisted by Dwight Watson.

What do we do?

Working with HMI, we serve the Las Vegas Wranglers in the following ways as Chapel Leaders:

- To be a safe spiritual and emotional resource person for players, personnel and the families involved with a Hockey Club regardless of one's personal church or non-church perspective.
- To serve those players and personnel who have a personal faith perspective with a Biblically based Chapel Program from a non-denominational perspective.
- HMI Chapel Leaders and the accompanying Chapel Program are supplied with the understanding that attendance or involvement is completely voluntary and confidences are kept with sensitivity.

- Chapel Leaders and HMI are separate economically in that HMI and its volunteers do not solicit finances from the teams, players or the leagues. This separation is to ensure that the Chapel Leaders are able to remain as objective as possible in all situations.
- HMI Chapel Leader candidates are made to work through a multi-stage application process.
- The work of HMI is done on a team-by-team basis and is implemented formally only as teams are comfortable with the presence of a Chapel Leader.

Each week the team is home, we provide a 15 - 20 min. chapel service, discuss applications for them as athletes, pray for the team, and are available for the team members during the week.

What are our goals?

- To establish such good report with the players that they view chapel as an integral part of what it means to be on the team.
- To develop connections and relationships with the team beyond the weekly chapel program.
- To engage in continuous discussions to lead them into an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ.
- To disciple individual team players who, as they're called up into other leagues, become disciplers of others and persons of peace for other chapel endeavors elsewhere.
- To be a valuable asset to the team, the coaching staff, the training staff, and hockey staff.
- To help team members lay a foundation for life beyond the scope of sports.

How can LIFERS get involved?

1. **Prayer:** (1) for team unity, (2) for team participation in the chaplaincy program, (3) for life change to occur as a result of God's activity among the team, (4) health, physical, and emotional strength of the team and coaching staff.

2. **Give financially.** HMI is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization with which we have established an account. As the ministry expands, we need funding for materials, etc. to be given to the team members to bless them and to help them in their journey of faith.

3. **Adopt a team member.** Most of these players are in their 20's and have no family in town. While the team dynamic, coaching staff, practice schedules, and game schedules keep them busy, life can become lonely very quick. As you adopt a player, you can go as far as you'd like: from praying for him, to having him over for dinner every now and again, to inviting him to various activities (there are a lot of Canadians and some foreign players on the team).

Where do I send my support to?

Send donations to the following address:
Hockey Ministries International
attn.: Steve Jones
PO Box 7, Windsor Station
1100 de La Gauchetiere Ouest, Suite 265
Montreal QC H3B 2S2

Make Checks out to Hockey Ministries International and write Las Vegas Wranglers in the memo line.

Life Contact/more information:

Philipp Meinecke
HMIasVegas@cox.net

Dwight Watson
dwright@lifebaptistchurch.com

www.hockeyministries.org

Note: hockey is the last frontier of sports ministries and few of the players are used to having a chaplaincy program in general. As a ministry to the Wranglers, Dwight and Philipp serve in a non-denominational, economically separate fashion. We acknowledge the lines within which to operate and will not participate in booster clubs.