

FRESH AIR

*Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."
And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*

John 20:21-22

The excitement of the 1980 United States hockey team is known worldwide as "Miracle on Ice." Lesser known is the U. S. 1960 gold medal upset.

Team USA entered the Squaw Valley games with an average record, having lost to Michigan Tech, Denver University, and the Warroad Minnesota Lakers. However, Team USA played better as the stakes became higher. The Americans



led off against a strong Czech team. The U.S. scored four unanswered goals after falling behind 4-3. Solid victories over Australia, Sweden, Germany, and Canada earned them the right to play the Soviet Union, the defending champion.

The Americans were behind 2-1 until Billy and Roger Christian each scored. The U.S. triumphed over the Soviet Union for the first time in Olympic competition.

The Americans needed to defeat Czechoslovakia at 8:00 the next morning to win the gold medal. The player's stamina was in serious question. The Czechs gained the early lead and were ahead 4-3 going into the third period. During the break, the USSR captain made an unexpected visit to the USA locker room. Unable to speak English, he pantomimed for the players to inhale oxygen and a tank was brought in.

The revitalized Americans scored six goals in the final 20 minutes, winning the game 9-4 to earn their first goal medal in hockey. The Soviet captain had brought the gift of fresh air. The Americans received the gift with renewed spirit. In a much greater sense, God breathes his Spirit into us. But we first must believe Jesus died for our sins, taking the punishment on himself. Have you received God's "fresh air"?

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