
AA UPDATES

STORIES OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES – FALL WEEK OF PRAYER 2010

Andrews Academy's Fall Week of Prayer took place October 4-8, 2010. *Pastor LEE VENDEN* is presenting the week of prayer... a week that is filled with amazing stories and parables that teach us about a personal relationship with Jesus.



Each program begins with a group of students leading in singing: Monday the sophomores led, Tuesday the seniors and today the Juniors. After singing we share scripture and prayer together.



Pastor Venden is wanting this week to be a week showing us how a personal relationship with Jesus is the sum and substance of the Christian life. This week is offering each of us tangible, practical, and simple suggestions on how to develop or deepen a meaningful friendship with Jesus. God is using Pastor Venden in a powerful way this week... students (and faculty) are captivated with his messages. You could here a "pin drop" during chapel as students were soaking in each word of his talks.... well today there was some noise.... the sound of students (both guys and girls) crying as they heard Pastor Venden relay the story of Jesus' amazing love and supernatural support for one of His children.

Monday's presentation was based on the scripture read from Deut 31: 6, 8. The theme was to let Jesus take charge of your life --- allow Him to do the "driving". He told a modern day parable that shows Jesus' persistent longing to be our friend and to provide an eternal glorious future together. It was filled with meaningful symbolism and showed the absurdity of turning down God's eternal friendship.

Tuesday's talk was based on Prov. 18: 24 and John 15:15. Numerous stories were used to help us see the joy of having Jesus as our friend. As well as describing very practical ways for us to deepen our friendship with Him. Pastor Venden clearly helped everyone see that our salvation is based on choosing Him as our personal friend.... clearly not our efforts of trying to do good.

Wednesday's message was for each of us to focus on the Face of Jesus. If we focus on ourselves trying to "do good" we will be filled with uncertainty.... if we focus on the Face of Jesus everything will turn out well. Two of the many scriptures were I Jon 5 : 11 - 13 and Phil 1:6. He relayed a story of an academy student from when he was a Bible teacher. This student, who had a terminal disease, kept his focus on the Face of Jesus during the many months of illness that finally took his life. Crying could be heard throughout the chapel as students contemplated Jesus' amazing love as seen in the events as this story as it unfolded.

Although the week of prayer at Andrews Academy has concluded the experience continues tonight as the "All About Jesus Seminars" begins tonight at PMC starting at 6:30 pm. These meeting will occur each night till the 16 th of October. So many students lives have been changed this past week as they realized the simplicity of salvation.... to be on the "J" team. Students realized that we can have the assurance of salvation as long as we are friends with Jesus and have chosen to follow Him.

I've been at Andrews Academy for nineteen years and have experienced many Week of Prayer blessings. It seems like this year we've experienced a "stirring" as seen by the response of many students, and with how many students came forward to share their testimony (this is the group of students who spontaneously came forward to lead in the closing song.... many in this group were those who came forward earlier in the service to

share their testimony)). I wonder if this is the beginning of the revival that hundreds of people have been praying for during these “forty days of prayer”?

Thursday’s presentation was illustrated with the “relationship stool”. He used this to illustrate the three main components involved in developing a strong relationship with Him. 1 - Bible study to get to know Jesus... to have a “heart experience” with head knowledge. 2. - Prayer for the purpose of communion.... like we interact with our friends. 3 - To share with others sharing your personal walk with Jesus with others has the greatest impact.



This was experienced by the group when earlier in the presentation Chris Fa’asoa shared his personal testimony of how Jesus was reaching out for him and saved him in a supernatural way.



Friday's presentation was based on Romans 1:16.... For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.... One of the numerous stories he shared seemed to impact the students the most.... when he relayed the story of a high school girl who was ashamed of her mom's many scars from a severe burn. A burn the mother suffered when she had rescued the girl when when she was a little baby. All were appalled by the response of this teenage girl.... but soon many recognized that a lot of Christians do the same thing when we are sometimes ashamed to share our faith. Upon helping us see all that He has done for us none of us should be ashamed. He concluded the service with a testimonial time where many students shared what was on their heart. It was a powerful time of sharing our faith by the AA students.



Like the first half of week of prayer each service began with singing. Thursday was a mixture of students leading, while Friday was led by the Freshmen class. This was followed by scripture reading and prayer. Friday we had a special music prior to the talk.



The entire Week of Prayer ended with a closing prayer led by Olivia Knott who was surrounded by many of the students who had shared their testimonials. Even after the service was over and most had gone back to class a number of students lingered longer.... sharing and praying.

