Because last week was International Appreciation Week, there are a number of speakers who have had mission experience who spoke at the invitation of Hannah Baxter. A very special thank you goes to Hannah for lining up a week of topics from which we all could benefit. Speaking last Monday was Hannah’s father, John Baxter, who began by opening up the scripture to Matthew 14:14, pointing us to the scene of Jesus arriving on shore to a very large multitude. Because He saw that several needed medical attention, he healed them. It was getting late and so Jesus had compassion on them and did not want to send them away hungry so he asked if there was any food. They brought to him five loaves of bread and two small fishes. As we all know, there was such a surplus of food picked up at the conclusion, it was more than at the beginning.

Mr. Baxter, dressed as a Tibetan Monk, began role playing that event by dividing the students into 3 different groups: (1) those who were reached; (2) those who were partially reached and (3) those who were un-reached. He then had his two daughters Hannah and Sarah along with Chelcie Coleman bring up some baskets into which he placed food that they began to distribute to the students in the portion of the chapel that represented the reached. Those who were only partially reached may have received some nourishment and those who were un-reached received no nourishment at all. It was interesting to watch it play out because those who were reached continued to receive nourishment while the other two groups received little or no nourishment. We were challenged to pray, “Oh God, give me your heart for this lost world and I will go anywhere you want me to go,” which is the challenge that Pastor Dwight left with those attending PMC this past Sabbath. Thank you, Mr. Baxter, for sharing that excellent illustration with us so that we might become more like our Father in heaven.

Tuesday, January 11. Mr. Mark Coleman, who has served in Africa, asked the students what it means to be a missionary. When he inquired about what type of job they would prefer, most of them indicated that they would like variety in their job and many of them said that it would be all right to have a job with just a bit of risk. Because of the many years and experiences that he has had, he asked them what they would do in different situations. For example – what would you do if you were on a trail and a cobra crops up right before you and you seem to have nowhere to turn? Or what would you do if you were on a motor bike and a frenzied dog would not let you pass? (In this instance he dropped the bike on the dog and the dog then decided to retreat). He went on to say that one of his friends was bit by that dog later on and did die of rabies.

Mr. Coleman continued by asking what would you do if you were in a social setting and you were sitting down to a meal and you noticed that a rather elderly lady beside you was sitting there chewing betel nut. Now, custom has it that you drink from the common bowl that is being passed around. What would you do if she was the one to use the bowl before you did? How would you react? What would you do if you were caught up in a riot in which you had no interest or were playing no role? What would you do if you had to take an exam and it was offered only on Sabbath? He told the students that these and many more experiences were situations that he had encountered over the past 15 years or so and they were things that he had to find solutions for through prayer. Being a missionary requires prayer, strength, fortitude, creativity, and discernment, among other characteristics. He concluded by reading from II Corinthians 4: 7-12, “we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us...” We simply must understand that these things can be done through Christ who strengthens us. As we give our lives over to Him, He will provide an avenue for our escape.

On Wednesday, the juniors had the song service and sang “Holy is the Lord”. Mrs. Susan Payne, wife of our former custodian, Mr. Brooks Payne, had our devotional thought for us. She said that thirteen years ago she was sitting right out there where you students are sitting right now. At that time she was a school caretaker of a physically challenged student. She went on to say that if you had told her that in the meantime she would actually serve as a fundraiser, raising over $2,000,000 for Adventist Frontier Missions, serve for two years in Papua, New Guinea, and now is the Human Resources Director of AFM, she would not have believed you. But God has a specific design and a work for each one of us. Her pictures showed some of the powerful things that she and her husband experienced while serving in New Guinea.

In that graphic presentation were scenes of churches, meetings, baptisms, schools, students, music lessons, food preparation, rainy season, impassible roads, landscape, and a whole variety of interesting activities. All were very impressed with the wilderness area needed to be traversed in order to spread the gospel to those in that distant land. At the conclusion of the presentation, it was noted that 300 people would have died and 600 people would be born while we
were involved in viewing that short set of slides. Special thanks goes to Mrs. Susan Payne for taking time out of her day to bring us that presentation.

Mr. Martin Kim, who is associated with ASAP (A Southeast Asia Project), began his presentation on Thursday morning by telling us that motorbikes in certain Southeast Asian countries are used for everything. They use them to haul animals – one of his pictures showed them hauling pigs; they use them to haul people – one of his pictures showed the small motor bike supporting 9 people. Please understand that while not all of those people were grown-ups, a significant number of them were. Taken from the “State of the Village Report” which was first published by Donella Meadows in 1990, he gave statistics that showed the breakdown of the population if the earth were compressed into a village of 100 people. (In viewing things on-line, they do not all agree on the exact numbers, but they are close.)

- The village would have 60 Asians, 14 Africans, 12 Europeans, 8 Latin Americans, 5 from the USA and Canada, and 1 from the South Pacific
- 67 would be non-Christian; 33 would be Christian
- 67 would be unable to read
- 50 would be malnourished and 1 dying of starvation
- 33 would be without access to a safe water supply; 39 would lack access to sanitary conditions
- 24 would not have any electricity (And of the 76 that do have electricity, most would only use it for light at night.)
- 7 people would have access to the internet
- 1 would have a college education
- 1 would have HIV
- 5 would control 32% of the entire world’s wealth; all 5 would be US citizens
- 33 would be receiving --and attempting to live on-- only 3% of the income of "the village"

Mr. Martin showed pictures of how people in the 10/40 window were so poor that they would run to the garbage dump just ahead of the dump trucks to salvage what few things they could find to recycle and earn enough money for food for their family for the day. This same area was being used as a playground for children in the early years of their life. You have to wonder why God would place us here with so much! Christ looked at his disciples and said “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.” Luke 6:20. Corrie ten Boom said, “You may never know that Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have.” So, we were challenged to do our part to take salvation to the whole world by praying daily the prayer “Lord, break my heart with the things that break the heart of Jesus.”

“When the ship has sunk, everyone knows how she might have been saved.” – Italian Proverb

The group heads for Bible Camp at Camp Au Sable this coming Thursday at 12:30 pm and is scheduled to return to campus on Sunday the 23rd about 4:00 pm. The weather promises to cooperate with those who want to experience a good time in the snow and all are promised to have an excellent time with Pastor Michael Goetz as he nourishes them spiritually during their time at camp.

If you have already pre-registered for the SAT at AU, it is to take place this coming Sunday morning, January 23, on the Andrews University campus.

The citrus fruit for January is to be available for pickup on Monday, January 24, at the academy gymnasium from 3:00 - 6:45 pm. At that time we will have tangelos, navels and grapefruit on sale. Leftover fruit will be available on first come, first served basis beginning Tuesday morning, January 25 at the academy office.

The assembly program for Tuesday, January 25 features Mr. Bego who comes to us from Indianapolis and will tell the story of labor unions and the major difficulty that he has experienced in dealing with them.

Because of the obvious lack of support for the recreation night program as scheduled on the calendar, a new shift in thinking is being generated. Hopefully by next week, we will be able to announce how that program will run for the remainder of the year.

There is a special follow-up to the meeting that took place on November 2. All parents and seniors are encouraged to attend the session Paying for College 202 which is run as a function of the Andrews University Enrollment Services. This will take place in the academy religion classrooms at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, January 25.

A religion class and the German class will combine to offer a Martin Luther Tour from March 14 - April 2, 2012. The tour will focus on visiting various Martin Luther sites, such as Worms, Eisenach, the Wartburg Castle where Luther translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into German, Erfurt, Eisleben, and Wittenberg, where Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church.