On Thursday, the 10th of March, concluding the devotions for the week, Dr. Kingman gave two special examples of how Jesus works in the lives of people on earth. Matthew 15:21-28 is the story of a Canaanite woman who believed that Jesus could heal her demon-possessed daughter. When the woman came to Jesus, He seemed to ignore her. His disciples urged him to send the woman away. Finally, Jesus responded that his mission was only to the lost sheep in Israel. Then when the woman knelt before him and pleaded for help, Jesus said, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs.” To this the woman responded that “even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” It was then that Jesus said, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.”

As a concluding story, Dr. Kingman told of a family who resides in a nearby community. The relationship between husband and wife has not been positive and in an effort to end it all last fall, the husband ingested a large amount of antifreeze. He went into a comma and was rushed to one of the local hospitals. He was suffering and in great peril, but because of quick medical attention, his life was saved. There were three separate miracles that surfaced from this situation: (1) The husband was healed, (2) He accepted Jesus as his Savior, and (3) His kidneys, which under circumstances similar to his, would need dialysis, were functioning normally. These two examples are an expression of God’s great love for each one of us. Dr. Kingman suggested that we cherish the special times that God has given us and seek to know His will for each of us during the days ahead.

After a wonderful Spring Break (when in the recent past we have experienced temperatures around 70 degrees Fahrenheit at that time of year?) we arrived at school for three important events that occurred simultaneously. We had SA Courtesy Week, SA Election Campaign Week, and the two-day writing seminar. For our devotions on Monday, Elaine Kamvazaana had all of the upper classmen come to the front and draw names out of the basket. The concept was that they would be nice (courteous) to that specific person today. They could exemplify that by sitting with the person during the general writing seminar, eating with them at lunch or carrying their books, etc. At the conclusion of our time together, Elaine reminded us that in Matthew 25:40 Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” The students had fun practicing their courtesy to each other.

After morning devotions, we were introduced to the writing seminar presenter, Mark Dressell. Mr. Dressell works as an associate of Collins Education Associates of Massachusetts out of Grand Rapids, Michigan. He has been a writing consultant for a number of years after an extensive classroom experience including 26 years as a high school English teacher. This program was presented as the direct result of the Leaders on Leadership funding of the Andrews Academy Alumni/Development department. There were three general sessions during the seminar with breakout times for students who were assigned to one of three different groups. During the first general session, he covered the topic of writing a thesis statement for a persuasive essay. At the conclusion of that session, he gave them an assignment to write a rough draft. They did that for about 2 hours while about one dozen of the faculty learned some of his techniques for correcting essays. After we all had our lunch together, there were 1/3 of us continuing in the writing workshop in the English classrooms while the rest of us went to classes.

In his second and shorter session on Tuesday morning, he commended them for doing such a great job during the previous day. At that point the Student Association president, Ray Ulrich, presented him with an Andrews Academy hat and a Tee-shirt. For his presentation he asked the students to write what they thought would occur if he were to thrust his pencil through the plastic bag full of water. After they had recorded their thoughts, he actually performed the experiment and to the amazement of most of us, there was scarcely a drip of water that emanated from the bag. On this second day, the remaining 2/3’s of the students were in a 2.5-hour session with Mr. Dressell while the rest were in classes.

In the third general session at the conclusion on Tuesday afternoon, he emphasized that writing is the most important skill that a person can possess. As we utilize writing in test taking, in persuasive and creative writing, in other forms of writing, and general communication, we will see the importance of great writing skills. Specifically, he used the acronym HELPS to aid in recalling information in writing essays on the ACT. H stands for Historic, Political, or Legal. E stands for Economic, or resource utilization. L stands for literary/aesthetic. P stands for personal, ethical, or religious and S stands for Scientific. We are so grateful for Tom Baker, David Vandenburg, and Rebecca Wright who set aside their classes for two days to help each of the students learn the best possible approach to communication. We are very grateful to Mr. Mark Dressell and the presentation that was given over that period of time.

On Tuesday morning, after the seniors had song service, Lyndon Bradfield led us in our devotional thought. According to the dictionary, courtesy is the showing of politeness in one’s attitude and behavior toward others. In Luke 6:31, we are admonished to “Do unto others as you would have them do to you.” Lyndon went on to say that this is not to be a one-time thing – it should be done all of the time. If we like being treated nicely why don’t we treat others that way as well? He noted that being nice is more than just talking. It is being an example of what Christ would be to you. This day was set aside for the purpose of lower
classmen being nice to upper classmen. So it was the turn of
the lower classmen to come to the front and draw names of
others that they would be especially nice to for that day.

Then on Wednesday morning, Simone Weithers
emphasized that we have to look out for each other. If
we find someone who needs comforting, lift them up
through our conversation and actions. This day was set
aside as Girls be nice to Guys. Ray Ulrich emphasized that
it is great to be courteous because we do not know nor
understand how that can affect an individual who may not be
having a good day. So, all of the girls came up front and
drew a name and then went back and found the guy and gave
him a couple of pieces of candy. On Thursday morning, the
respect was reversed and all of the guys came up front and
drew a name of a girl. Then the guy went back to the chapel
seating area and said some nice things to the girl as he
handed her a flower. Students were in advisor groups on
Friday morning where one group emphasized the connection
between the two weeks “Elections week and Courtesy week
in which we participated from March 21 - 25.

We had a wonderful meal catered in by Caitlin’s for the
annual Student Association Banquet on Sunday the
27th of March. Thank you to Debbie Weithers, PPD
president, for assisting with the following parents to serve
the food: Bonny & Garren Dent; Kerry Mattson; Sue &
Rod Lerke; Roselle Hall; Joanie Goodwin; Sandy
Hansen; Felissa Francisco; Liliane Nyamwziga; Mary
Long; Crystal Bruttet; Sue VanderWaal; Khonah
Weithers; & Dawn Wales. The theme of the banquet was
centered around “Gino’s Restaurant in New York. The story
line was that the mafia were in general control of life at the
time and were in the process of extracting money from Gino
(Ray Ulrich). As the mafia meets Gino for the first time, he
pleads with them to give him more time. He says that right
now he has no money but if they will simply wait until after
the program tonight, he should have enough money to meet
their demands. In the meantime the program continues with
background music by a group of four adults who played the
drums, saxophone, piano, and violin. They were Scott
Moncrieff, Tim King, Bill Yamakoski, and Earl
Schimmel. Finally a vocal was sung by Donna (Simone
Weithers) who had supplied the entertainment for Gino’s
Restaurant for a long, long time.

Upon completion of her piece, Donna asked Gino for her
salary for the evening and Gino said, “I cannot give you
your money tonight because I must save everything that
I have for the mafia.” So, in a fit of anger, Donna left the
establishment and went off to join the mafia. At that point,
Gino did not know how to proceed because he had no one
do to rely on for the night’s entertainment. He knew that
his cousin, his sister, his mother would not be able to do it
but he had one last idea. He wondered if Emma (Elaine
Kamvazaana) would be able to take Donna’s place and
provide the entertainment for the evening. After learning
from her that she could only hum, he was a bit reluctant, but
he asked her to sing even though she had never done that
before. She did a magnificent job and the evening went on
without a flaw until the mafia reappeared at the appointed
time with Donna and demanded their money. Members who
played the part of the mafia were Lyndon Bradfield,
Michael Thompson, and Cody Wales.

Upon their return, Gino delivered a check to the mafia, but
they insisted that it was insufficient and not the original
amount they had agreed on. So, Emma offered some of
her savings and seeing where this was going, Donna decided
to chip in and give something back to the mafia in order to
meet their demands and so Donna and Emma remained
behind to give one last number to the audience in the form of
a vocal duet accompanied by our guest band. In all, it was a
very pleasant experience enjoyed by all Andrews Academy
students in attendance. A very special thank you goes to Mr.
Anderson, Mrs. Banks, Pastor Glassford, and Mr. Wright
along with Ray Ulrich, Simone Weithers, Elaine
Kamvazaana, Cody Wales, Lyndon Bradfield and
Michael Thompson for setting up and cleaning up the
commons for this spectacular event. At the conclusion of the
evening we were informed that Brock Vance and Livvy
Knott were given the status of Courtesy King and Courtesy
Queen respectively. Congratulations, Brock and Livvy!!

“You can’t expect an empty bag to stand up straight.” — Anonymous

☼ The concert band leaves for their tour to Chicago on
Thursday about 1:00 pm and will return to campus
between 4:30-5:30 pm Sunday evening, April 3. While
on tour, hopefully they will provide 3 or 4 concerts and
leave a positive image of Andrews Academy.

☼ Thursday, March 31, is the last day to withdraw from a
class for the second semester.

☼ The first step in attending AA for the 2011-2012 school
year is to submit the enclosed re-application. On
Tuesday, April 5, we will attend the academic orientation
assembly where we will learn about the courses that are
to be offered during the next academic year.

☼ Recreation night will take place in the gymnasium on
Tuesday night, April 5, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

☼ The process for acceptance next year is as follows: 1)
Submit the re-application. 2) Parents of juniors must
also submit the 60-day letter that was distributed at the
beginning of March. 3) Develop a class schedule.

☼ Spread the word about the new financial aid plan to those
who are searching for a school home next year. There
are two parts to our plan - merit-based and need-based.
The academy is taking a financial risk in offering such
funding. Please help all students and parents out there to
see the importance of a Christian education. That
education is not about the sacrificial giving of parents/
guardians alone, but it is about forming earthly and
heavenly relationships for eternity. Let’s support the
new administration of the academy and the AA
Operating Board by marketing Christian Education at the
academy to all in our community.