On Monday, the 18th of April we were treated by the 8th grade musicians from RMES. This has become quite a tradition where that group will come over in the spring under the direction of Mr. Phil Giddings to provide music for us and sing with us during our morning devotions. Most of the group were from the 8th grade with the exception of Megan Allen who was a 7th grader. Others participating with the group were Anna Benko, Britney Byrd, Talisa Gonzalez, Joshua Hong, Christian Long, Kaitlin McArthur, Matheus Silva, Angelo Suggs, Daniella Umana, D’Angelo Weithers, and Grace Yoon. During the presentation they sang such songs as How Great is our God, Praise the Lord, Days of Elijah and He is Exalted. In continuing that blessing, Ms. Deborah Park’s 6th grade class gave us a signing performance under ultraviolet lighting in the dark that was just spectacular. It is obvious that there is considerable talent coming from the elementary school to join us on campus in the years to follow.

After the seniors sang on Tuesday, Ms. Nadine Plummer, a Ph.D. seminary student from Canada, who lived for six years in Taiwan and China led us in our morning devotions thoughts. She told us that after graduation from college, she got the dream job of her life. She was able to work in the entertainment industry and while it was an exceptional job, she had this emptiness that did not seem to go away. She would go to work every day not understanding what was missing in her life. So, even though she was making excellent money, she made a decision to quit her job and move. It so happened that she had a cousin who was a Seventh-day Adventist and she made plans to go to Korea to teach English. That presented the perfect opportunity so Nadine decided that she would travel with her. Unfortunately, the cousin at the last minute decided not to go and so Nadine was left high and dry.

Ms. Plummer went on to say that there was no turning around for her. She was unable to go back to her old job and so she settled into a job in a clothing store. Now that was considered a major demotion from where she had been working and she was mortified whenever someone from her old environment would come into this place of business to look for clothing. She would hide behind racks or counters or anything so that her old associates would be unable to identify her. At last, totally distraught and unable to understand what it was that was missing, she quit her job in the clothing store and went to Taiwan. When she got there, she had plenty of time on her hands because of the language barrier. And so because it was difficult to communicate with anyone, she found herself reading profusely.

She said that one of the books that she was reading was the book entitled The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran. At the time, she was living in a high rise apartment building and often times she would go out of the 16th story of the building and climb a ladder up two more stories so that she would be able to sit on the very top of the building. The top was not that big and was able to accommodate only one or two people at the most. One afternoon as she made her way to the top to meditate and read, it began to rain. So, she simply put up her umbrella thinking that she would be able to weather it out. She did not realize that she was at the highest point around and that is exactly where lightning is most likely to strike. And so it was that she was struck by lightning and lived to tell the story.

The four part series which she was delivering was called The Quest, The Search, The Sought and The Found. So on Wednesday after reading from the Psalms, she continued the story of her experience in searching for the missing elements in her life. Daoism or Taoism and Buddhism began to intrigue her and she began the search of filling the void in her life. Eventually, she was drawn more and more to the philosophy of Buddhism because of its bent toward the academic. She went on to clarify that she lived in an area where there were many temples and so she began attending services at some of these Dao temples on a more regular basis. When entering the temple, there were soldiers standing there guarding against the evil spirits. So for awhile she was content going there and meditating and joining in with the rest of the people. However soon she realized that it could be so much better if she knew the language so she began attending school so that she could speak to other Chinese with whom she was associating.

At one point about 10 years ago, they were awakened in the early morning hours to a very humongous earthquake. So, the question came regarding whether we should leave the building or just continue to stay in the building and try to sleep through it. She really was not too frightened because of her strong belief in predestination. It seemed to her that if this was her time, then her life would end and it would all be over. Actually she reported that the aftershocks were more frightening than the original because they would continue to come and you would always wonder if this would be the one that would end it all. But while living in this part of China, she was able to make contact with the Dalai Lama. This was a most interesting venture because she was given the opportunity to take some classes, workshops, or seminars which gave her a greater understanding of his philosophy.

On Thursday she led us through some of her early childhood when she had to go to the Anglican church every Sunday. There she heard sermons regarding the angry God that we serve and by the time that she was 13 or 14, she had decided that was enough for her and so she wanted nothing to do with God. As she was growing through her teens and just as she was leaving home for good, her
mother converted to Adventism. As she looks back on her life experience, she realizes how God has led in every step of the way right down to the present. However, at the time she did not understand.

She read to us from Matthew 7:7,8 where it talks about asking, seeking and finding. With that background she showed us some of the leisure activities in which she was engaged. She showed us the big white mountain that she and her friend Michael climbed while on horseback. The name of her horse was Hama. As they went through the journey, they got to a point that was rather rough. It was so rough that Hama could no longer navigate properly and dangerously slipped, flinging Nadine off in front of her. In the process of falling, the 2000 pound horse fell right on top of her. Fortunately, she fell in a crevice with the horse on top of her. When the incident was all over, she got up without even a scratch.

In another incident just two days later, she tells of how they were in the midst of a stampeding group of Yaks where each animal weighed in the neighborhood of 1000 pounds. Yet she was delivered from injury. Once again the Lord was protecting her. So even though she was a huge fan of the Dalai Lama, she began to recognize that God was working on her heart. She made several trips back and forth from Thailand to China to Europe looking to fulfill this void within her. On one experience in a monastery, she noted a picture of Jesus Christ pictured as a great prophet. This too had an impact on her thinking.

Finally on Friday, she read to us from Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Finally, she went to Thailand to a health center because she was sick. Some of the things that happened there completely freaked her out, but her health did improve. At that time she had been practicing Buddhism for about four years. She was under the illusion that she was in control of her destiny, but God found her just as she was in the process of becoming a lay nun. During this period of time she was told the story of a man who drank a glass of wine and broke all of the ten commandments. It is interesting that later on she heard that same story from a series she went to when she was working on her heart. She made several trips back and forth to where she lived in Asia at the time. From that time on she realized how God has led in every step of her life experience, she realizes how God has led in every step of the way right down to the present. However, at the time she did not understand.

While still practicing Buddhism, she moved back to Canada where she met her former boyfriend and got married. She got a job working for the Red Cross and was sent to Switzerland for training to go on a mission to Africa. Yet, she was never able to go on that mission because it was cancelled due to false allegations about her and what she was doing. Nevertheless, it was by divine appointment that she should have the opportunity to attend a seminar regarding the meaning of life and it was at this seminar that she met the Holy Spirit and He would guide her into all truth. And so it was an incredible journey that began with reading “The Tao of Being” by Ray Grigg and ended with reading “The Bible” by divinely inspired writers. It was during this final experience that she noticed a pen that her mother had given her on her visit to where she lived in Asia at the time. On the pen it quoted Luke 1:37, “For nothing is impossible with God.” A very special thank you goes to Ms. Chao and to Mrs. Nadine Plummer for the wonderful thoughts and lessons we experienced during that week of devotions.

“When you make a mistake on the job, eating crow is sometimes better than not eating at all” — Anonymous

The Andrews University recruitment team had a special AA Senior Graduation Party at the A.U. Student Association Recreation Center on Wednesday, April 27.

The Student Association will have their monthly vespers program Friday evening at 7:00 pm. All students are invited to attend but they will need to find a ride home by at least 9:00 pm that evening as the building will close.

On Sabbath, April 30, there will be a Student Association led leadership seminar beginning at the academy with breakfast at 10:00 am. The seminar is open to those who have been given invitation by the SA along with all others considering future leadership. Please RSVP to Raymond Ulrich. The event will close near the same time the second service at PMC concludes.

Under the leadership of Pastor Glassford and the organizational and class pastors, we will be participating in a student week of prayer May 2-6. The morning meetings will take place beginning at 8:55 and will run just a bit longer than ordinary devotions. The remainder of the morning classes will have equal amounts of time. The only evening meeting will occur on Friday evening beginning at 7:00pm and concluding at 9:00pm.

If you have interest in taking either the SAT or the ACT prior to the new school year, your final deadline for registration is on Friday, May 6. Both of these tests will be administered through the AU Testing center on Sunday. The SAT will take place on June 5 while the ACT will take place on June 12. Please consult with Mrs. Butler if you should have any additional questions.