



September 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> 2006 was Spiritual Emphasis Week for the high school, which included special chapels each day of the week. Normally SEW has been in the spring, but this year we felt a need to start the year off with a special focus on the spiritual needs of our junior high and senior high students. It seemed a logical thing to do – get our students focused on spiritual things right from the start.

The week started off with a “Mix-it-Up” emphasis, which included some special get-to-know-each-other activities in chapel with a student speaker, with intentional activities extending into lunch as well. While many of our students know the kids in their own classes very well, often they don’t know kids from other grades near as well. And of course this is especially relevant for our new students, who are still trying to get to know everybody at this point.

The speaker for the bulk of the week was CJ Hitz, a dynamic speaker who used multimedia presentations, including music, videos, and PowerPoint. His presentations were high energy and well put together, but were not just hype. He spoke powerful messages that really touched hearts of students. He challenged our student to look “Beneath the Surface” when it comes to their media choices, encouraging them to practice discernment in what they are allowing to enter into their minds. Many were challenged to make better media choices, some even committing to go on a media fast. Each day he also spent time in class, discussing the morning’s message in a more informal question and answer time, allowing for some great follow-up to his teachings. Many came away challenged, and numerous students committed to changes in both lifestyle and their media choices.

The final day of SEW featured a time for student testimonies, At first no one would share, but one student stood up, walked up front, sharing from his heart about how God had worked in his life and in our school. After that another student went forward, and then more. For two and a half hours, student after student shared how God was working in their lives. Some shared deep hurts, some confessed sins, and some thanked God for how people had been there to make a difference in their lives, including how Meadowbrook had had a positive influence on them over the years, even when they didn’t realize it. Practically every person in that room walked out of the chapel service changed, with a renewed vision for what God has for us here at MCS, and for how God wants to use ordinary people in extraordinary ways. If you were to visit one of our high school classrooms, you would likely notice a small sign that says simply, “Remember 9/15.” This is one way that we are trying to keep the fire alive of how God worked on that day, and how we continues to work in our students’ lives on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

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