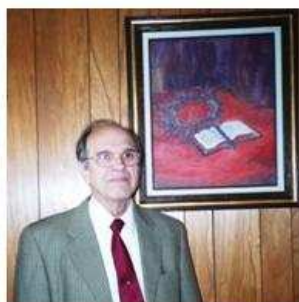




The "Sower"

March 1, 2009



Ron Bartanen, Minister

Times of Worship

- Bible Classes-----9:30 am
- Morning Worship-10:30 am
- Evening Worship—6:00 pm
- Wed. Bible Study---1:30 pm

WELCOME to today's

Bible class and/or worship assembly. If you are a **VISITOR**, we especially appreciate your decision to meet with us. It is our hope that you will return at every opportunity.

Have you checked our web site lately?
www.arthurchurchofchrist.com
 Be sure to visit the "Apologetics Press" link, now in both English and Spanish. Also newly added: Sermon Outlines and "Family Minutes" (Dale Smith).



PRAYER LIST:

Paul & Nadine's grandson, Dillon Thornton, has been seriously ill, but is improving. *** Rodger had to be hospitalized last weekend, but is home and doing better again. *** Molly & Jared announced the birth of another daughter, Katie. *** Continue to remember: Paul & Nadine; Inez; Dean; Lyla; Lester; Mary's mother; Charles Moore (Tex.); Lewis & Mary Carter (Fla.); Doris's former brother-in-law (cancer; in remission); our service men women; and our nation's and world's leaders as a way for peace is sought.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME NEXT SUNDAY!

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?... Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD" (Psalms 27:1, 14).

"THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST— ITS IMPLICATIONS"



will be this morning's message, with 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 as the reading.

"A man's character is like a fence—it cannot be strengthened by whitewash."



POTLUCK & SINGING: We will have a *BirthDay Potluck* following this morning's assembly, recognizing those with birthdays in January through March. (Those with March-birth-days are: [3-4] Lyla; [3-5] Sammy; [3-6] Nadine; and [3-22] Rodger.) Doris's was in January and Inez's in February.

After a time for eating and visiting, we will have our monthly *Song Service*, which was postponed from last Sunday night. There will be no evening service today.

KURTIS THE STOCK BOY AND BRENDA THE CHECKOUT GIRL

In a supermarket, Kurtis the stock boy was busily working when a new voice came over the loud speaker asking for a carry-out at register 4. Kurtis was almost finished and wanted to get some fresh air, so he decided to answer the call. As he approached the checkout stand, a distant smile caught his eye: the checkout girl was beautiful. She was an older woman (maybe 26, and he was only 22) and he fell in love.

Later that day, after his shift was over, he waited by the time clock to find out her name. She came into the break room, smiled at him, took her card, punched out, and then left. He looked at her card: "Brenda." He walked out only to see her start walking up the road. Next day, he waited outside as she left the supermarket, and offered her a ride home. He looked harmless enough, and she accepted. When he dropped her off, he asked if maybe he could see her again outside of work. She simply said it wasn't possible.

He pressed, and she explained she had two children and she couldn't afford a babysitter, so he offered to pay for the babysitter. Reluctantly she accepted his offer for a date for the following Saturday. That Saturday night, he arrived at her door, only to have her tell him that she was unable to go with him. The babysitter had called and canceled. To which, Kurtis simply said, "Well, let's take the kids with us."

She tried to explain that taking the children was not an option, but again not taking no for answer, he pressed. Finally Brenda brought him inside to meet her children. She had an older daughter who was just as cute as a bug, Kurtis thought, and then Brenda brought out her son, in a wheelchair. He was born a paraplegic with Downs Syndrome.

Kurtis told Brenda, "I still don't understand why the kids can't come with us." Brenda was amazed. Most men would run away from a woman with two kids, especially if one had disabilities, just like her first husband and father of her children had done. But Kurtis was not ordinary. He had a different mindset.

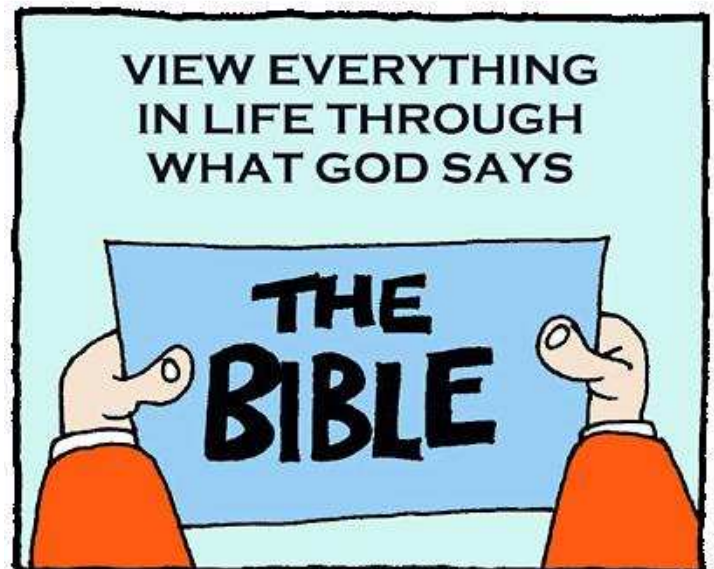
That evening, Kurtis and Brenda loaded up the kids and went to dinner and the movies. When her son needed anything, Kurtis would take care of him. When he needed to use the restroom, he picked him up out of his wheelchair, took him, and brought him back. The kids loved Kurtis. At the end of the evening, Brenda knew this was the man she was going to marry and spend the rest of her life with. A year later they were married and Kurtis

adopted both of her children. Since then, they have added five more kids.

So what happened to Kurtis the stock boy at a grocery store in Cedar Falls, Iowa and Brenda the checkout girl? Well, Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Warner now live in Arizona where he is currently employed as the quarterback of the National Football League Arizona Cardinals and played in the most recent Super Bowl. Is this a surprise ending, or could you have guessed that he was not an ordinary person?

It should be noted that he also quarterbacked the Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI, and he has also been the NFL's Most Valuable Player twice and the Super Bowl's Most Valuable Player. He established the First Things First Foundation in the spring of 2001 with wife Brenda to promote Christian values and bless the lives of those less fortunate with projects such as trips to Disney World for ill children, building recreation centers in children's hospitals, helping single moms achieve the dream of homeownership and teaching Special Olympians the football basics. All projects are centered on Kurt and Brenda's life theme: faith and family come first. In a time when so many of our sports "heroes" turn out to be anything but a hero, it is nice to read of one who is truly trying to make a difference.

—Robert Lambert, *Main Street Harbinger*, Milan, Tenn.



IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON BUT—

A single point: The Message depends on messengers.

I believe in writers and books and other such forms of communication but very few people come to God in Jesus Christ apart from actual contact with an actual person or persons in whom the message is embodied. Certainly that's how it was in the early days when faith in Jesus raced through Palestine and out into the regions beyond (see Acts 11:19-20). It's true that it was the Message about Jesus that people gladly and often gallantly embraced, being baptized into his name, but the Message didn't come to them in letters—it came to them in messengers, in actual people; it was a people-embodied Message.

A fine man with no gospel to tell is sub-Christian. A fine man with merely moral advice and right values is sub-Christian. The gospel that raced through Palestine wasn't just a lot of nice people saying nice things, you understand; it was nice people with a Message about Jesus!

The ancient Jewish council members had moral values as real as Peter's and they could quote the Old Testament texts as well as the Galileans, but it was when Peter and John stood up, proclaiming an astonishing Message about the recently crucified, but now very much alive, Jesus of Nazareth, that the fire broke out. There they stood, formerly fear-filled and now defying the Supreme Court of the Israelite people. Two months earlier the apostolic group had scattered to save their lives, and now they thanked God for the privilege of suffering for the name of Jesus and telling the distressed jurists (Acts 4:19-20), "We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard!" --*Tydings*, Kemp church bulletin

Little Deeds

Someone once said, "The supreme test of goodness is not in the greater but in the smaller incidents of our character and practice: not what we are when standing in the searchlight of public scrutiny, but when we reach the firelight flicker of our homes; not what we are when some clarion-call rings through the air, summoning us to fight for life and liberty, but our attitude when we are called to entry-duty in the gray morning, when the watch-fire is burning low. It is impossible to be our best at the supreme moment of character is corroded and eaten into by daily inconsistency, unfaithfulness, and besetting sin."

Another says, "Small courtesies, small considerations, habitually practiced in our daily lives, give a greater charm to the character than any display of great talents or accomplishments."

Friends, do not forget that even with little deeds of kindness and goodness we can let our "light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matt.. 5:16).

Little Things

Little stones make big mountains,
Little steps can cover miles,
Little acts of loving-kindness,
Give the world its biggest smiles.

Little words can soothe big troubles,
Little hugs can dry big tears,
Little candles light the darkness,
Little memories last for years.

Little dreams can lead to greatness,
Little victories to success;
It's the little things in life
That bring the greatest happiness.

--Shelbyville, IL Church Bulletin
