

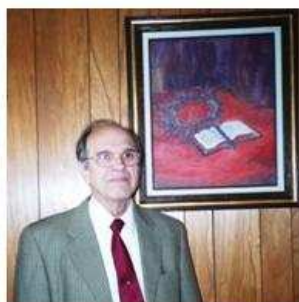


Arthur Church of Christ

415 West 4th St., Arthur, IL 61911-1303

The "Sower"

March 8, 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).



Paul continues to have both good days and bad. They hope to be returning to Arthur sometime this month. ***

Paul and Nadine's grandson, Dillon Thornton, has improved significant-ly. He's now at home.. *** Doris's niece, Kellie Chrestman, is in constant pain following recent surgery. *** Continue to remember Rodger, Woody, Dean, Inez, Lyla, Lester, Mary's mother, Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis & Mary Carter (Fla.), and Doris's former brother-in-law (cancer; in remission), our service men and women, and our nation's and world's leaders as a way for peace is sought, and a solution to the financial crisis.

"Teach me thy way, O LORD: I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name. I will praise thee, O Lord, my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore" (Psalms 86:11-12).

**This is
The Word
of God**



I Believe It!

"WHAT HAPPENS IN CONVERSION?" will be this morning's message, with Acts 3:12-21 as the reading. This evening's lesson will be, **The Glory of the Big Book.** The

reading will be John 5:39-47

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION:



Shults-Lewis Children's Home is saving the Box Tops for Education coupons for its school. These are found on General Mills cereal box tops, and perhaps on some

others as well. If you save them, they can be turned over to Shults-Lewis the next time their van is in our area. Also, they can use used printer and copier cartridges.

SMILE A WHILE

A father took his five-year-old son to several baseball games where the Star-Spangled Banner was sung before the start of each game. Then the father and son attended a church on a Sunday shortly before Independence Day. The congregation sang, "The Star Spangled Banner," and after everyone sat down, the little boy suddenly yelled out, "PLAY BALL!"

--cybersalt.org

(The following is a portion of an article in *The New American* magazine, March 2, 2009, by publisher, John F. McManus. (Permission granted.) Space would not allow the printing of the entire article. This viewpoint may help us understand the rapid transformation of our country into one that consistently seeks the elimination of God and Judeo-Christian influence. Karl Marx wrote, "The bourgeois family will vanish as a matter of course when its complement (capital) vanishes." [A *Handbook of Communism*, p. 42] --Ron)

UNDERMINING OUR CULTURE

The transformation of America's culture has much to do with the strategy laid out by a communist theoretician named Antonio Gramsci. His plan for subverting the non-communist world is known by far too few. Yet, what he advocated is occurring....

...During nine years in prison, he formulated a plan for conquering Italy and the rest of the Christian West. Instead of hoping for a spontaneous revolution of the working masses, as many communists actually forecast, Gramsci proposed attacking the West's cultural foundations, thereby weakening the structure of those nations he wanted to conquer. If communists could undermine faith in God and love of family and country, he believe, the Christian West would become rootless and would be an easy prey for conquest. His plan called for infiltrating the cultural institutions—churches, schools, media, etc.—and converting them into instruments for change that would promote cleverly disguised Marxism and (in general) subvert the culture of the target country.

Gramsci recommended that communists should ridicule morality, decency, and virtue. He said that real heroes should be replaced by adulation of the equivalent of today's decadent rock stars and Hollywood favorites. Especially should communist cadres work to denigrate the institutions of marriage and family.

While other communist leaders believed that the route to power involved politics, labor unrest, violent revolution, even economic warfare, Gramsci worked to sap a nation's cultural base and weaken resistance to communism's ultimate goal.

Antonio Gramsci died in prison in 1937, an almost forgotten man. But the nine volumes of recommendations he compiled during his years behind bars were later published as his *Prison Notebooks*. Issued in many languages, the Gramscian strategy has been employed very effectively in many countries, certainly including the United States. Especially did Gramsci point to the importance of gaining influence among the cultural elites to bring about a piecemeal triumph of Marxism that (for a country with a strong tradition of freedom such as the United States) could not happen through an open and sudden revolution."

Consider the harmful effect on America's cultural base of such forces as feminism, the homosexual lobby, extreme environmentalism, liberal historians who trash our nation's founders, and jurists and legislators who operate on the false doctrine that the U.S. Constitution was written only for a bygone age and modern government has all the answers for today's needs. Much of the attack on America's foundations has been funded by the elitists who gained control of the fortunes amassed by such men as Rockefeller, Ford and Carnegie. While it is true that many Americans shrink in horror at the erosion of culture that so marked our nation, few seem to understand why it is happening.

WHAT DID YOU WRITE THAT DAY IN THE SAND?

(The following poem was sent by the Fentons, friends of ours near Indianapolis. Its reference is to the account of the woman taken in adultery in John 8, to whom the Lord showed mercy. As her accusers sought to trap Jesus by asking if she should be stoned, Jesus is said to have “stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground” (vs. 6 & 8), suggesting that the one without sin should cast the first stone.)

*What did you write that day in the sand?
I think this thought with head in hand.
Was it something profound, or really nothing at all?
With sorrowful heart, on Thee I call.*

*Surrounded by people who claimed hearts that were true,
Whose actions betrayed them, as ours sometimes do;
People who knew what was right, but just didn't care,
With ungodly motives, confronted you with a dare.*

*What did you write, and what made you so strong?
What inner strength as You faced such a throng?
I need that strength now, as few times before.
Give ear to my plea and open the door.*

*It grieves my soul to see Christians rebel—
To see them so cavalier, without a thought toward Hell;
Watching Christians hurt a fellow saint
Sometimes causes my heart to grow faint.*

*A fellow saint has been pained, dealt a terrible scar.
His heart is heavy and the pain has gone far.
It was a Christian who hatefully dealt him this wound,
But his faith is strong, and he still sees the boon.*

*But it's for me that I write these words to my Lord;
I need reassurance of Your love's impregnable word.
When my heart is weary and this world grows dark,
There's a peace that only You can impart.*

*So what did you write that day in the sand?
Was it something that would strengthen and cause me to stand?
As eyes become cloudy and tears begin to fall,
With sorrowful heart, on Thee I call.*

--Adam Litmer
