



Arthur Church of Christ

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



The "Sower"

April 26, 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: Continue to remember Paul & Nadine, Dean, Inez, Woody, Lester, Rodger, Mary's mother, Charles Moore (back in hospital in Tex.), Lewis & Mary Carter (Fla., but returning to Ind. in May), our service men and women, and the leaders of our nation and other nations as peace in the world is sought.

Potter Children's Home has sent us some *Silver-for-Children* cans. Putting extra change in a can over time is a good way to give a painless and significant contribution to the home. In the foyer.

"O LORD, thou art my God: early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is" Psa. 63:1.

"GOD—THE ANSWER TO A MEANINGLESS LIFE" will be this morning's message, with Psa. 36 as the text. This evening, being the last Sunday of the month, we will have our

IN PURSUIT

"But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness" (1 Timothy 6:11).

In life, there are many things we can pursue. Most people chase after money, power, popularity and the things of this world. The word of God encourages us to flee from these things and pursue righteousness, and the things of God. For which will we reach? Will we reach for the treasures of this world, or the heavenly world to come? When our kids were little, we would lay them on the floor and jingle some keys in front of them. They would learn to crawl by pursuing the jingle and the shiny keys. What jingle and shine appeals to us? May we be drawn to pursue heavenly treasures that lead us to heavenly places.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit" (Philippians 4:23).
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WORDS FROM "SILENT CAL"— *"I favor the policy of economy, not because I wish to save money, but because I wish to save people. The men and women of this country who toil are the ones who bear the cost of the Government. Every dollar that we carelessly waste means that their life will be so much the more meager. Every dollar that we prudently save means that their life will be so much the more abundant. Economy is idealism in its most practical form." "It is only when men begin to worship that they begin to grow." --Calvin Coolidge*

THE WORLD WILL HATE YOU

Jesus said to His disciples, *“If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also”* (John 15:19-20),

Have you noticed the growing antagonism there is in the world, including our own nation, toward God and Christianity? If you’ve not, in what cave have you been secluding yourself? It was once almost universally acknowledged that ours was a “Christian nation.” Not that everybody in the nation was a Christian, but that Christian values under-girded the laws and moral standards which were considered acceptable. Historical references from earlier days make it evident that while there have always been those who have disregarded these standards, God and His laws were recognized as authoritative. Even our currency still affirms,, “In God we trust.” But now history books are being written to mask this rich heritage. Efforts are being made to eliminate all references to God and Christ in public places. It is reported that in Washington, D.C. the \$621 million taxpayer-funded Capitol Visitor Center has removed all references to God, religion and morality. Even the Constitution displayed there has been edited to remove the phrase, “in the year of our Lord”.

A couple of recent events gives us cause for concern—both as Christians and as citizens. One is the release this past week of the Dept. of Homeland Security’s report, “Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment.” Included in the definition of

“Right-wing Extremism” would essentially be any who are not considered “politically correct” by those in control of the government. These include not only political activists that oppose such things as “free trade agreements”, illegal immigration, gun control, “One World Government,” the outsourcing of American jobs, and those who through fear are stock-piling food, ammunition, or firearms, and even veterans—especially those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, but also any that oppose same-sex marriage, and abortion. Left out are left-wing groups such as the Earth Liberation Front that has actually committed life-threatening terrorist acts and Muslim groups that are supportive of terrorism. Tie this in with the proposed H.R. 1913 Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 which targets for prosecution and law suits any that speak out against homosexuality or “same-sex marriage,” and our Constitutional freedoms of speech and religion have been muted.

The second event of concern relates to the eliminating of Carrie Prejean from the probable Miss USA pageant title because of her conscientious reply to a homosexual-activist blogger and judge who asked her for her view on homosexual marriage. She gave a biblically correct, though not politically correct, answer: “In my family, I...believe marriage should be between a man and a woman. No offense to anybody out there, but that’s how I was raised.” Her response brought both cheers and boos from the audience, but most believe it cost her the Miss USA crown. She later told NBC, “I knew that I was not going to win because of my answer—because I had spoken from my heart, from my beliefs, and for my God.” The judge posing the question called it the “worst answer in pageant history” and called her profane names. Young people like this give us some

hope that this country has not completely gone down the drain. To be admired are those like her who will still speak from their hearts what God desires, regardless of the consequences.

(This is not an endorsement of her choice of swimsuits, how-ever!)
—Ron

MORE COMMENTS: After completing the front-page article, other thoughts come into my mind. The profane blogger-judge told MSNBC: “that is not the kind of woman I want to be Miss USA. Miss USA should represent all Americans. And with her answer she instantly was divisive and alienated millions.” And he believes if her answer had been in defense of same-sex marriage it would have “represented all Americans”? It’s interesting that tens of millions of Americans in 30 states have passed constitutional amendments protecting the traditional and biblical definition of marriage, all of which are being annulled by those who do not believe that ours should any longer be a “Christian nation.” Keith Lewis, who is in charge of the Miss California competition also derided her: “I am personally saddened and hurt that Miss California believes marriage rights belong only to a man and a woman.... Religious beliefs have no place in politics in the Miss California family.” How about anti-Christian beliefs, then?? I would judge that he is saying they DO have a place. Maybe they should begin asking questions of prospective candidates, such as, “Do you believe biblical Christian teachings?” A positive answer would then automatically disqualify one. The Miss USA Pageant could then be renamed: The Miss Atheist-USA Pageant.”

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