



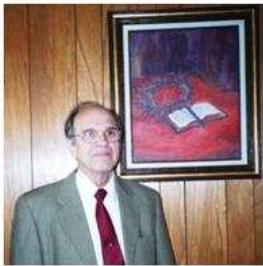
# Arthur Church of Christ

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



## The "Sower"

August 9 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---6:00 p.m.

**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](http://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).



**"GROWING UP, IN AND OUT"** will be this morning's message, with Eph. 4:15-16 as the text. The evening lesson will be **"From the Depths**

**to the Heights,"** and the text will be Ps. 42.



**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Paul, Inez, Linda, Lester (Arthur Home), Woody (Arthur Home), Rodger, Mary's mother, Jeremy, Linda's great-niece, Inez's sister

(Gwynn, who recently had a stroke), Charles Moore (Tex.; improving), Lewis & Mary Carter (Ind.), our service men and women, and the rulers of our nation, and other nations, as a way for peace is sought.

## **THE MESSIAH**

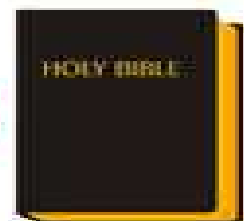
When Jenny Lund was coming to this country for her first concert tour she expressed to the captain of the vessel a desire to behold a sunrise at sea. Accordingly, one cloudless morning, he had her called at early dawn.

Silent and motionless she stood by his side upon the deck, watching every change of shade and tint in the sky and their reflection upon the waking waters until the first golden rays shot up from the horizon. As the sun leaped up from the waves she burst into rapturous song, her deeply religious feeling expressed in the noble music of Handel.

She was unconscious of the presence of the captain and a few sailors who stood near. In the ecstasy of her emotion she lifted her voice to an unseen Hearer, to whose majesty and glory she paid her tribute. Little wonder that Captain West, in describing the scene, exclaimed: "No one will ever hear 'I Know That My Redeemer Liveth' sung as I heard it that morning."

--Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations

**This is  
The Word  
of God**



**I Believe It!**

## WHEN PEOPLE WON'T LISTEN



What do you do with people who will not listen? How do you treat those who are stubborn and will not give up the path they have chosen? How do you deal with those who will not submit to what is right? This is the problem God faced with Israel from time to time.

It must break the heart of God to bless and bless those whom He has chosen, only to find their stubborn will unyielding. God is patient with us until we turn our hearts against Him. Even God will not tolerate a persistently defiant spirit. Hebrews 10:26-31 says: "For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer

remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, 'Vengeance is mine: I will repay.' And again, 'The Lord will judge his people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

God gives over stubborn people to follow after their own counsels. The end, of course, is bitter. It is so much better to listen to God and to follow Him all the days of our lives. We must be careful we do not think ourselves smarter than God.

--Mack Lyon, via *Lantern*, Sullivan, IL

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## MORE ISLAM ATROCITIES

A *Jerusalem Post* interview of a member of Iran's Basiji militia has shed light on horrific practices toward female inmates in the country's prisons. Under the mullahs' laws, it is illegal to execute virgins, and therefore young women who have been sentenced to death (sometimes for minor crimes) are routinely "married" to prison guards and raped by their "husbands" on the eve of their executions. Thus Islamist justice is done." (*National Review*, 8-10-09)

Such treatment of women is not all that unusual in Islam, a "religion of peace." Nonie Darwish, who spent the first 30 years of her life, as she described it, "a virtual slave...a bird in a cage" under Islamic Shariah law in Egypt, dared to expose Muslim laws and their agenda in her book, *Cruel and Usual Punishment*, revealing how women can be beaten for talking to men who are not family-members, flogged for not wearing a headdress, killed by the men in their families, and children—even babies—victimized by forms of sexual child molestation. She exposes Muslim intentions of subjecting Europe, America, and the whole world under Shariah law. The politically correct "tolerance" shown by the West is both naïve and perilous. Near the end of the book she observes: "[T]he West needs to send a strong and firm message to Muslims everywhere...that the human right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness is above the right of any religion that wants to take it away. Muslims need to hear the word *no*." We can anticipate that as Islam gains more acceptance and political support, we will see that jihad is more than just terrorism. —Ron

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**MUSLIM GROWTH IN EUROPE:** “In early May, Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi predicted Europe’s future: ‘We have 50 million Muslims in Europe. There are signs that Allah will grant Islam victory in Europe—without words, without guns, without conquests. The 50 million Muslims of Europe will turn it into a Muslim continent within a few decades.’ And he is right, if present trends hold. Muslims will dominate Europe if Turkey, which contains 77 million Muslims, is allowed into the European Union, as is now proposed, and its citizens are allowed to live anywhere in the EU.... As Muslim birth rates surge, native Europeans are aborting and contracepting themselves to death. The collapsing birth rates across Europe aren’t just low: they are below replacement levels, meaning that Europeans will soon go the way of the dodo bird....” This ominous observation is made by R. Cort Kirkwood in “Muslim Face of the EU”, *The New American*, 8-3-'09.

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## BURNT BISCUITS

When I was a little boy, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don’t remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that biscuit and eat every bite!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I’ll never forget what he said: “Baby, I love burned biscuits.”

Later that night I went to kiss Daddy good night, and asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, “Your Momma put in a hard day at work today, and she’s real tired. And besides—a little burnt biscuit never hurt anyone!”

You know, life is full of imperfect things...and imperfect people. I’m not the best housekeeper or cook. What I’ve learned over the years is that learning to accept each other’s faults—and choosing to celebrate each other’s differences—is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing and lasting relationship.

And that’s my prayer for you today. That you will learn to take the good, the bad, and the ugly parts of your life and lay them at the feet of God. Because in the end, He’s the only One who will be able to give you a relationship where a burnt biscuit isn’t a deal-breaker! We could extend this to any relationship in fact—as understanding is the base of any relationship, be it a husband-wife or parent-child or friendship!

“Don’t put the key to your happiness in someone else’s pocket—keep it in your own.”

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

--Leo Buscaglia; submitted by Donneita Fenton, Ind..