
THE SOWER

Arthur Church of Christ

415 West 4th Street
Arthur, IL 61911

Times of Worship

Bible Classes.....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study.....1:30 p.m.



Ron Bartanen, Minister

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 visited our website lately? (www.arthurchurchofchrist.com)

Be sure to check out the "Christian Evidences"/"Apologetics Press" links Now in both English and Spanish.

January 18, 2009

STOP AND LISTEN TO THE MUSIC

A man sat at a metro station in Washington, D.C. and started to play the violin. It was a cold January morning two years ago. He played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, since it was rush hour, it was calculated that thousands of people went through the station, most of them on their way to work.

Three minutes went by, and a middle aged man noticed there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds, and then hurried up to meet the schedule. A minute later, the violinist received his first collar tip: a woman threw the money in the till and, without stopping, continued to walk. A few minutes later, someone leaned against the wall to listen to him, but the man looked at his watch and started to walk again. Clearly he was late for work.

The one who paid the most attention was a 3-year-old boy. His mother tugged him along, hurried, but the kid stopped to look at the violinist. Finally the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk, turning his head all the time. This action was repeated by several other children. All parents, without exception, forced them to move on.

In the 45 minutes the musician played, only six people stopped and stayed for a while. About 20 gave him money, but continued to walk their normal pace. He collected \$32.

When he finished playing and silence took over, no one noticed it. No one applauded, nor was there any recognition. No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the best musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written with a violin worth 3.5 million dollars.

Two days before his playing in the subway, Joshua Bell sold out at a theater in Boston, and the seats averaged \$100.

This is a real story reported April 2007. Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and priorities of people. The outlines were: in a commonplace environment at an inappropriate hour, do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize the talent in an unexpected contest? One of the possible conclusions from this experience could be: If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world playing the best music ever written, how many other things are we missing..

—Submitted by Mike Isenberg, Decatur, IL; verified as True by Snopes.com

ABRAHAM LINCOLN said: “You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help small men by tearing down big men. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot lift the wage earner by tearing down the wage payer. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do themselves.”
--*Trib-Bits, Decatur Tribune, 11-19-'08*

36th Anniversary!

This Thursday is a 36th anniversary, but it is not something to be celebrated. It will be the 36th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision declaring the choice of a woman to terminate the life of her child to be a Constitutionally protected right. Since that date there have been over 49 ½ million unborn children in the U.S. that have been denied their God-given “right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Some states have made stipulations, but the federal government may soon deny states this right. The powers of this dark world are hostile to God and those made in the image of God.

In the fight in defense of unborn children’s right to life, let us remember that while the forces of evil are ever on the attack, God’s children have access to a power that is even greater—the power of God. Our battle is not with abortionists and politicians defending this form of infanticide, but “against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12). To be equipped for the battle, put on “the whole armor of God” as described in vs. 14-17, and find strength in “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...” (v. 18). Some in this world will be

celebrating January 22. May those who love life not cease our prayers in behalf of the unborn upon whom God has bestowed life. —Ron

The following article by Ty Nichol of the Kemp church is based on Genesis 16. You may wish to read the chapter first..

GOD SEES US BETTER THAN WE THINK

Hagar called the little well where she met God, Beer Lahai Roi. That means: Well of the Living One who sees me! It wasn’t God’s idea that mankind should sell marriage cheaply and introduce surrogate motherhood. And it wasn’t God who nurtured in Abraham this hen-pecked and callous response to vindicate Sarah’s demand. Given the flaws in society as man has ordered it, it wasn’t God’s wish that the little slave girl become scornful and provoke her mistress to wrath. They all contributed to this matrix of evil. They all made it easier for each other to act dishonorably. No one is utterly free from another’s crimes. Not only do we sin, we’re sinned against! Some worse than others! And God knows this.

God saw the girl stolen away from home in Egypt. Sold in some slave auction. Passed from hand to hand along with the other household goods like cooking pots and water jars. God saw how she was calloused and worn and molded by sin. He saw how easy it was to despise her mistress. And God pitied her and challenged her and blessed her!

Jesus sees us no matter what. “While we were yet sinners...”

—Kemp church bulletin

“God doesn’t call the qualified; He qualifies the called.”

“We don’t change the message; the message changes us.”

THINK ABOUT IT—

“It never occurs to fools that merit and good fortune are closely united.” (Goethe)

“Taxation has become an instrument for the transfer of power, freedoms and treasure from the people to the government.”

“Thou, even thou, art to be feared: and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry? Thou didst cause judgment to be heard from heaven: the earth feared, and was still, when God arose to judgment to save all the meek of the earth” (Psalms 76:7-9).

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“**THE SUFFERING OF CHRIST**” will be this morning’s message. The reading will be from 1 Peter 3:15-22. The evening lesson will be, “**The Ministers of Christ**,” with 1 Corinthians 4:1-7 as the reading.

THE NURSING HOME SERVICE will be Tuesday at 6:45 p.m. We hope you will join us.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Rodger is back home following his triple-bypass surgery, and is doing well. *** Woody had cancer surgery on the bladder, but is back at a daughter’s in Mt. Zion and doing well. *** Continue to remember Paul & Nadine, Inez, Dean, Lyla, Lester, Mary’s mother, Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis & Mary Carter (Fla.), Lola Hilliard (Tenn.), Doris’s former brother in law (cancer), our service men and women, and our nation’s and world’s leaders as they seek a way for peace. Pray that more will come to know Him who is the Prince of Peace.

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to Norma Stocker and family & friends upon the recent death of Ed Stocker, who recently passed away with a heart attack. He preached here in Arthur before we came, and was planning a visit here. We were looking forward to hearing him again. Now we can only look forward to greeting him when we are all with the Lord. Sister Stocker’s address is 11421 Melgrave Rd., Quincy, IN 47456.