



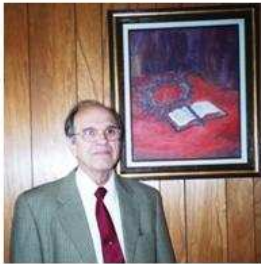
Arthur Church of Christ

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



The "Sower"

May 10, 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).

"A MOTHERLY GOD" will be this morning's sermon. The evening message, from 2 Thess. 1:11-12 will be, **"Fulfillment."**



IN OUR PRAYERS: Paul & Nadine are now back home. They made the trip with no problems. *** Rodger still has difficulty breathing. ***

Continue to remember Inez, Dean, Woody, Lester, Mary's mother, Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis & Mary Carter (Ind.), our service men and women, and the leaders of our nation and other nations as a way for peace is sought.

A MOTHER'S LOVE

Long before "Mothers' Day" became a national holiday, the finger of God etched into a stone tablet on Mt. Sinai as one of the Ten Commandments: "*Honor thy...mother*" (Exodus 20:12). God created motherhood, and God would protect it from those who would belittle it. Those of us blessed with godly mothers would agree that a mother's love is probably the closest thing to the love of God that we could find on this earth.

See your mother as once a little girl, running, skipping, falling. There were the "dress up" days, donning her mother's high heels and dresses. In time, she was that young lady capturing a certain young man's attention. With the passing of time love blossomed and grew. Then came marriage, with its responsibilities. Then the joy of knowing you were "on the way." Even morning sickness and the dread of birth pangs would not diminish in any way the love for you that was already growing in her heart. Careful and loving preparations were made for your arrival. When you made your way into the world, she fondly forfeited precious hours of sleep to tend to your needs. She was there for you, with a kiss and a hug, whenever such was needed. Her love had to be shown sometimes even in discipline. Truthfully, such hurt her more than it hurt you. She steadfastly performed her "job" as Mom seven-days-a-week, 24-hours-a-day, with no employee-benefits nor paid vacations, serving as perpetual babysitter, nurse, laundress, housekeeper, chauffeur, maid, counselor, etc. Hopefully she also shared with you her faith in God and His word. You probably disappointed her many times, but her

love was unconditional and unquenchable. Someone once wrote the following of the permanence of a mother's love:

"Abuse cannot offend it; Neglect cannot chill it; Time cannot affect it; Death cannot destroy it."

Hopefully, your love for her through the years has not diminished, even if she is no longer with us. Even if God was not so insistent upon your honoring her that He included it as one of his Ten Commandments, yet what could be more natural than to respond to her love with love for her, and honor.

—Ron

Happy Mother's Day!

SMILE A WHILE—

Since the spoiled little boy seldom left his mother's side in all his five years, his parents were naturally concerned when he came home from his first day of school.

"Tell me," cried the mother as she hugged him. "Did you cry at school today?"

"No," said the little terror, "but the teacher did!"

—*Trib-Bits, Decatur Tribune,*

- **"LOVE OF COUNTRY** is like the love of a woman: he loves her best who seeks to bestow on her the highest good." (Felix Adler)
- **"HUMILITY** is that strange thing that the moment you think you have it, you lost it!" (Unknown source)

“HATE-CRIMES” LEGISLATION

Are our freedom-of-speech and religious liberty rights about to be destroyed by political correctness? In attempting to create a special category of crime prosecutable as a federal offense, the House of Representatives recently passed what is referred to as "the "Hate-Crimes Bill." If a crime is committed, and is judged to be motivated by hatred toward those of another sexual orientation, race or religion, it would be judged in federal court with more severe penalties than crimes for any other reason. It has been called, appropriately, a "Thoughts-Crime Bill," for it places judgment upon thoughts as well as actions.

While we should all oppose hatred toward others, this type of law, based on similar legislation enacted in other countries, will result in prosecution of "hate-speech", defined as anything said that could be interpreted as being derogatory toward those of another group. Of particular concern—and the reason, I feel, for this law—is that it is an attempt to muzzle the speech of those who would speak out against the sin of homosexuality and same-sex "marriage." As reported by worldnetdaily.com, (WND), Julio Severo, a prominent Brazilian pro-family activist has been forced into exile for this very reason: "While Brazil does not criminalize Christianity, it does regulate what biblical principles can and cannot be preached, and it bans biblical citations that disapprove of the homosexual lifestyle." He is quoted as saying, "Today it is risky to preach a complete Gospel in Brazil. Because of the diversity politics, you cannot say anything negative about witchcraft, especially when such practices are from Africa." Such has also been proven true elsewhere, as in a number of

European nations and Canada. Andrea Lafferty, executive director of the Traditional Values Coalition alleges that this legislation will “lay the legal foundation and framework to investigate, prosecute and persecute pastors, youth pastors, Bible teachers, and anyone else whose Bible speech and thought is based upon and reflects the truths found in the Bible. A pastor’s sermon could be considered ‘hate speech’ under this legislation if heard by an individual who then acts aggressively against persons based on sexual orientation.’ The pastor could be prosecuted for ‘conspiracy to commit a hate crime.” It would not be much of a stretch of the imagination to say that anyone who found such preaching offensive could charge the preacher with hate speech. As stated in the WND article, Tony Perkins of FRC Action is quoted as saying, “That means an ‘offended’ homosexual could accuse a religious broadcaster...a pastor...Sunday School teacher...or other individual of causing emotional injury simply by expressing the biblical view that homosexual behavior is morally wrong and unhealthy.”

We may be seeing America change into something it has never been before. PRAY FOR OUR NATION, AND FOR GOD TO GRANT WISDOM AND MORAL JUDGMENT TO OUR LEADERS. If this legislation passes the Senate, and is signed by the President, it will be law, and what I am writing above may be judged as a hate-crime!
--Ron

WHO LOVED HER BEST?

A little boy with ruffled head Leaned in the doorway, worn and gray. “I love you, Mother,” he kindly said, Then turned and ran outside to play.

His mother, tired with labors long, Continued working till at last, His sister, with a smile and song, Slipped gently in, and wandered past.

“I love you, Mother,” she whispered low, Then turned aside to leave her there. With eyes that could not see her woe, And heart that could not feel her care.

Then last of all there came that way Her other brother, kind and true. He had no words of love to say, No noble speech of praise to do.

But quickly took his mother’s broom, So she might sit and rest a while, And cleaned and tidied up the room And rocked the baby with a smile.

Though not a word of love was said, How do you think their mother guessed, That night when all were safe in bed, The one who really loved her best?

--Author unknown

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” --Jesus, Matthew 7:21

It takes a mother’s love--To make a house a home,--A place to be remembered---No matter where we roam.

--Helen Steiner Rice