

# Arthur Church of Christ

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



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.

November 8, 2009

## EVEN IN MAYBERRY



Yesterday morning I was reading headline -news from across the nation and one headline in particular grabbed my attention. It read, "Man Charged With Killing 4 In Mayberry Model Town."

On Sunday, November 1, 2009 four men were murdered in the small town of Mt. Airy, North Carolina. For those of you who are not fans of the Andy Griffith Show, you may not know that Mt. Airy is the hometown of Andy Griffith and served as the model and the inspiration for the fictional town of Mayberry on "The Andy Griffith Show."

Police have not released the reasons for the murder, but they did say that they did not believe the killings to be random. Mt. Airy is a small town and has a population of around 8,700. This violent act has turned this little community on its head.

Isn't it ironic that even in "Mayberry" we see the influence and power of the world. A town that is supposed to be the model of "small town America" is not immune to the influences of the world. Have you ever just contemplated how fallen the world is? Have you ever sat and watched the evening news and felt terrible after doing so? Have you ever wondered how people can do the "unthinkable" things they do? The evening news feeds us a steady diet of immoral and unconscionable acts perpetrated on fellow human beings. After a while, such "bad news" can have a negative impact on our emotional and spiritual well being.

But here's my advice...Don't allow the events of this fallen world to bring you down. Rather, let this fallen world cause you to lift your eyes in expectation and hope for a better world that is yet to come! Remember that God never promised us that we would have Heaven on Earth, but He did promise us Heaven after Earth!

Through the years, many have wistfully wanted "Mayberry" to be their hometown. For the child of God, they have claim to a hometown that far surpasses that of "Mayberry," for our citizenship is in Heaven itself (Philippians 3:20).

-Steve Higginbotham

Have you checked our web site lately?

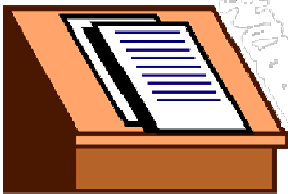
[www.arthurchurchofchrist.com](http://www.arthurchurchofchrist.com)

Be sure to visit the "Apologetics Press" link, now in both English and Spanish. Also newly added: Sermon Outlines and "Family Minutes" (Dale Smith).



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.

## SERMONS



"*THE CHRISTIAN AND THE HOLY SPIRIT*," will be this morning's message, John 14:16-17 being the text. The evening lesson will be, "*The Holy War*", and the text will be Psalms 2.



Continue to remember Paul, Lester, Inez, Linda, Rodger, Lyla, Mary's mother, Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis & Mary Carter (now in

Fla.), our service men and women, and our nation's and world's leaders as a way for peace is sought.

## ***“COME, LET US REASON TOGETHER”***

**(The following two articles on the above theme are from *House to House/Heart to Heart*)**

*“All propaganda has to be popular and has to adapt its spiritual level to the perception of the least intelligent of those for whom it intends to direct itself” (Adolph Hitler, Mein Kampf).*

The secret to propaganda, in other words, is to bring all of society down to the level of the lowest common denominator. It must appeal to the basest prejudices, the shallowest thinking. Hitler’s propaganda was a mix of fabrications and half-truths. It took Europe’s most organized and advanced civilization and dumbed it down till it was the dictator’s dupe.

What could be worse than a dictator who imposes thought control on his people? Here is a possibility. What about a society that imposes limitations on itself, a sort of ignorance by peer pressure?

It is said that early Christians out-thought their contemporaries. They didn’t say: “Be shallow, unthinking, gullible dummies.” They said: “Prove all things: hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

They didn’t say, “Unscrew your heads when you enter worship. God doesn’t want you to understand His will; He just wants you to love Him with all of your heart.” Instead, Jesus told them to “love the Lord with all your heart, soul...and mind (Mark 12:30). The Bible does not glory in ignorance.

They didn’t say: “That song’s words are too difficult. We want songs we can understand.,” or “I loved your sermon; it was so simple.” They said: “Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord” (2 Peter 3:18).

Bertrand Russell, the skeptic, once sneered, “Most Christians would rather die than think...in fact, most do.”

There is no contradiction between knowing God’s will and loving Him: those who love Him will know His will! It’s not as if knowledge is cold and indifferent, while feelings are warm and loving! Ignorance of God’s word is the danger. Learning half-truths and reinforcing prejudged conclusions of Scripture is a danger in the church!

The church is not in the business of leveling our understanding and service down to that of the average twelve-year-old. It’s the business of raising all of us to God’s level! --Stan Mitchell, Henderson, Tennessee

Two people were sitting on a park bench discussing what had made them failures. The first said, “I am a failure because I didn’t take anybody’s advice.” The second said, “I am a failure because I took everybody’s advice.” Among the greatest mistakes man can make are these: (1) Never listen to anyone; and (2) Accept what others say without investigation and thinking for one’s self!

In religious matters, God expects us to listen (Romans 10:17), but He also expects us to think for ourselves. The Bereans were commended because, after Paul preached to them, “They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11). In other words, they “checked up” on the apostle Paul! The message is obvious: “Don’t accept anything religiously just because someone says it is so, but check for yourselves whether or not it is “true to the Book.” --David Roper

(You may visit the *House to House/Heart to Heart* web site through a link you’ll find on our web site, above.)

## CHIEF PALESTINIAN JUSTICE: TEMPLES NEVER EXISTED

(The following, under the above title, is an article from the *WorldNetDaily Digest* section of *Whistleblower* magazine, October, 2009, pointing out how far-removed from reality the religion of Islam is. False religion thrives on false information. -Ron)

The Jewish temples never existed, and Jews have no historic connection to Jerusalem, declares chief Palestinian justice Sheik Taysir Tamimi.

Tamimi condemned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for stressing in Europe the long Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

Tamimi claimed “all Jewish rabbis and extremist organizations” as well as Netanyahu are lying when they state Jerusalem was a historically Jewish city.

He called such claims “baseless and untrue.”

“Jerusalem is an Arab and Islamic city and it always has been so,” he said.

Contradicting finds from scores of archaeological digs, Tamimi claimed all of Israel’s archaeological work since 1967 has not proved “that Jews ever had a history or presence in Jerusalem, or that their ostensible temple had ever existed.”

During a WND exclusive interview in March 2007, Tamimi, one of the most influential Muslim leaders in Israel, took his assertions even further, arguing the Western Wall really was a tying post for Muhammad’s horse. The AlAkqsa Mosque was built by angels, and Abraham, Moses and Jesus were prophets for Islam.

Tamimi is considered the second most important Palestinian cleric after Muhammad Hussein, the grand mufti of Jerusalem.

(NOTE: I suppose people who can be convinced that the Jewish holocaust never happened find it easy to accept such nonsense as the above. It is on the basis of such indoctrination that Israel is being pressured, even by our own government, to surrender more of their territory to the Palestinians. Of course the stated goal of Islamists is to drive the Israelis into the sea.) --Ron)

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***Ezra 7:10—“For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.”*** Could each of us substitute our name for that of Ezra, and our town for “Israel”? --Submitted by Wayne Polk, Shelbyville

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