



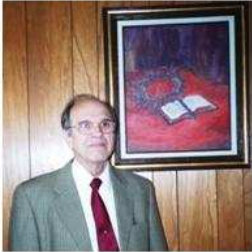
Arthur Church of Christ

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



The "Sower"

October 11, 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 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).

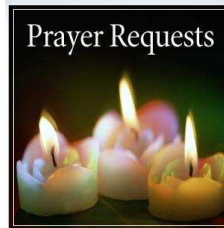
Lessons From God's Word

"CHRISTIAN' HUMANISM" will be the morning message, with 1 Peter 5:8-11 as the reading. The evening lesson, another in the series on Worship, will be, "Prayer--the First Business of the Church," the text being 1 Timothy 2:1.

For Your Information

AREA EVENTS: Gospel Meetings—Effingham, 4th & Wernsing, Oct. 4-8; Shelbyville, S. Charles at S. Second, Oct. 11-13; and Highway church, Sullivan, Jackson at Grant, Oct. 18-21; Area-wide Singing—Shelbyville, Oct. 11, 2 to 4 p.m., with refreshments following.

- **THE SHULTS-LEWIS CHILDREN'S HOME VAN** will be here next week. Needed: pantry items (see bulletin board), education box tops, printer and copier cartridges, and donations.
- **AREA SONG SERVICE:** Shelbyville, this afternoon, 2-4:30, Forest Park Lions Club bldg. 9th Street (east).
- **GOSPEL MEETINGS:** Shelbyville, today through Tuesday, 7 p.m., Highway, Sullivan, Oct. 18-21.



Continue in prayer :Paul; Lester; Woody; Rodger; Inez; Linda; Lyla; Mary's mother; Inez's sister (Guinn); Charles Moore (Tex.); Lewis & Mary Carter (Ind.);our service men and women, and our nation's and world's leaders as a way for peace is sought.

COINS WITH JOSEPH'S NAME FOUND IN EGYPT

(The following article is from The Jerusalem Post. It is not likely that you have seen such a report in the media in our country. The media generally is silent on anything that is supportive of the Bible, sad to say. Plenteous are the voices that would attempt to discredit it. One attempt has been to treat Bible accounts as myths, rather than as reliable history. The story of Joseph is one supposed myth. It will be interesting to see what skeptics do with this information. We'll probably never hear.)

Archaeologists have discovered ancient Egyptian coins bearing the name and image of the biblical Joseph., Cairo's Al Abram newspaper recently reported. Excerpts provided by MEMRI

show that the coins were discovered among a multitude of unsorted artifacts stored at the Museum of Egypt.

According to the report, the significance of the find is that archaeologists have found scientific evidence countering the claim held by some historians that coins were not used for trade in ancient Egypt, and that this was done through barter instead.

The period in which Joseph was regarded to have lived in Egypt matches the minting of the coins in the cache, researchers said.

“A thorough examination revealed that the coins bore the year in which they were minted and their value, or effigies of the pharaohs [who lived] at the time of their minting. Some of the coins are from the time when Joseph lived in Egypt, and bear his name and portrait,” said the report....

“Studies by Dr. Thabet’s team have revealed that what most archaeologists took for a kind of charm, and others took for an ornament or adornment, is actually a coin. Several facts led them to this conclusion: first, the fact that many such coins have been found at various archaeological sites, and also the fact that they are round or oval in shape, and have two faces: one with an inscription, called the inscribed face, and one with an image, called the engraved face—just like the coins we use today,” the report said.

SATAN’S STRATEGY OF RELIGIOUS CONFUSION

I believe it was in one of C.S. Lewis’s books, published years ago, that he portrayed an arch-demon instructing subordinates regarding an effective satanic strategy for causing confusion in religion: “Insert yourself into the simple situations which call for plain and obvious duties, and complicate them; and complicate them again, until at last no one involved in them can make sense of the confusion.” Of course this was fiction, but the author certainly recognized the fact of religious confusion, and one of the main causes—taking what God has plainly declared, but endeavoring to make it mean something entirely different. It was what Peter warned of in 2 Peter 3:16-17: “[T]hey that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. Therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.” Confusion reigns in a world of spiritual darkness. Steadfastness in the word of God is the only remedy. --Ron

ILLINOIS 1870 PREAMBLE

With all the parroting of the phrase, “separation of church and state,” in an effort to make our nation “no longer a Christian nation,” we would do well to realize that our nation was founded on Judeo-Christian principles, and that the founders had no qualms about it. Although our government is not, and never has been, Christian, yet our heritage and culture are. State constitutions have freely acknowledged God. One example is the preamble to the Illinois Constitution, written in 1870, which begins, “We, the people of the State of Illinois, grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy, and looking to Him for a blessing on our endeavors....”

Until 1947 any reference to “separation of church and state” was virtually ;unknown in our country. Such was not in our nation’s Constitution. It was then that Justice Hugo Black virtually rewrote the first amendment in the “Emerson V Board” decision. President Eisenhower and Congress were obviously unaware of the Constitution forbidding mention of God as they included “under God” into the Pledge of Allegiance. From 1620, with the signing of the Mayflower Compact, until 1962, prayer was a daily practice in most schools. Doris and I are both old enough to remember the reading of scripture in our schools. Now it is “illegal.” In 1980, the Supreme Court, secular humanism’s black-robed priesthood, decreed in the Stone V. Graham decision that the 10 Commandments could no longer be permitted in government schools because (and this is unbelievable), “if the posted copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any effect at all, it will be to induce the schoolchildren to read, meditate upon, perhaps to venerate and obey, the

Commandments.” Now wouldn’t that be a tragedy?!? Sports teams are not even allowed to have a moment of prayer before a game. Now efforts are constantly being made to remove all references to God from public monuments and buildings.

What we have allowed to happen is the high jacking of America because we have allowed ourselves to be bullied by such God-hating organizations as the ACLU and National Education Association. As a result, atheism and secularism now are in control of our “public school” classrooms. These are as much a religion as is Christianity. Religion is defined as “a cause, principle, or system of beliefs held to with ardor and faith.” The god of “self” has displaced our Creator, even though recent polls by CNN admit that 75% of Americans still regard themselves as Christians. We have, for the past 60 years, witnessed the enemies of God undermining what has been the strength of our nation.

Step by step we have seen atheism and secularism displacing Christianity in our nation, and step by step we are seeing our nation decline. It is time for us to heed God’s call: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”--2 Chronicle 7:14. --Ron

WORDS FROM COLUMBUS

Tomorrow being Columbus Day, I thought it appropriate to give a quotation from his book, Libro de las profecias (Book of Prophecies), in explaining his conviction that it was God’s will and direction that led him to make the longest voyage ever made out of sight of land to that time:

“I am a most unworthy sinner, but I have cried out to the Lord for grace and mercy, and they have covered me completely. I have found the sweetest consolations since I made it my whole purpose to enjoy His marvelous presence.

“For the execution of the journey to the Indies (we now know—to America—RB) I did not make use of intelligence, mathematics or maps. It is simply the fulfillment of what Isaiah had prophesied. (I do not know what prophecy he referred to.—RB) All this is what I desire to write down for you in this book.

“No one should fear to undertake any task in the name of our Savior, if it is just and if the intention is purely for His holy service. The working out of all things has been assigned to each person by our Lord. But it happens according to His sovereign will even though He gives advice.

“He lacks nothing that it is in the power of men to give him. Oh what a gracious Lord, who desires that people should perform for Him those things for which He holds Himself responsible! Day and night, moment by moment, everyone should express to Him their most devoted gratitude.”