



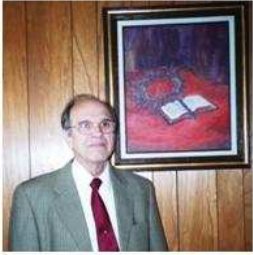
# Arthur Church of Christ

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



## The "Sower"

October 25, 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](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).

## Lessons From God's Word

"*THE OCCULT—PART 1*" will be this morning's lesson. Part 2 will be next Sunday. This evening, the being the last Sunday of the month, we will have our **Monthly Singing**. Let me know if you have a selection.

## For Your Information

**THE HIGHWAY CHURCH** in Sullivan will be hosting a Gospel Meeting beginning today and ending Wednesday with David Pharr preaching.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** (10:30) to Nim

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Paul has not been doing well and may face surgery. \*\*\* Lester was not doing well this past week. \*\*\* Continue to remember Woody, Inez, Linda, Lyla, Rodger, Mary's mother, 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.

### SPECIAL POEM FOR OLDER FOLKS

A row of bottles on my shelf Caused me to analyze myself.

- One yellow pill I have to pop Goes to my heart so it won't stop.
- A little white one that I take Goes to my hands so they won't shake.
- The blue ones that I use a lot Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.
- The purple pill goes to my brain And tells me that I have no pain.
- The capsules tell me not to wheeze Or cough or choke or even sneeze.
- The red ones, smallest of them all Go to my blood so I won't fall.
- The orange ones, very big and bright Prevent my leg cramps in the night.
- Such an array of brilliant pills Helping to cure all kinds of ills.

But what I'd really like to know..... Is what tells each one where to go! There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example, I am sitting here right now thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

(The above was sent me by granddaughter, **Kristen Cooper**. I can't imagine why she thought of me when she saw this poem!)

## “A WISE MAN BUILT HIS HOUSE....”

You and I have heard the children’s song, “A wise man built his house upon the rock...the foolish man built his house upon the sand...” This is a concept easy to understand, but it may rob us of a lesson Jesus was trying to teach. After all, who would really build their house upon sand?

Matthew 7:28 says that the crowds listening to Jesus were astonished at His teachings. One of these teachings was the lesson about building on the rock. That doesn’t sound so profound, does it? Hmmm. We all know of people who have built houses. Do any of us know some who’ve actually built on sand? If so, do those who’ve built actually expect the house to stand very long?

This message Jesus uses deserves more careful attention. In the U.S., people who build houses commonly dig down deep into the soil and then lay a concrete foundation, placing bricks to form the lowest walls, and then build upward from there. This requires an awful lot of work. However, this analogy that Jesus uses may not have the impact it could because we are less familiar with building in Israel at the time Jesus lived. Apparently they only built houses in the summer. The rains came in the winter months. Imagine wanting to get a house built before the winter rains. Might it be very tempting to hurry? As difficult as it is to build houses here in the U.S., it may have been doubly hard in Jesus’ lifetime. People might have been tempted to build on the bronze-hardened clay that sat *atop* the rock instead of the rock itself, which would have provided security. And when the rains came, and the floods followed, that bronze-hardened clay turned to jello pudding. The structure of houses not built upon the rock would be compromised and would fall....

The crowds were astonished at Jesus’ teachings. They needed not to hurry to build their houses upon the popular concepts of their time. They needed to do the arduous work in the heat of the summer day to build their spiritual house upon Jesus Christ and His teachings.

It is also very tempting for us today to not dig down to the “rock” and to speedily “build a house” on the “bronze-hardened clay”.... “The wise man built his house upon....”

--Ty Nicol, Kemp church bulletin, Arcola, IL

## THE ROCK OF AGES

From 1 Peter 2:4-10, we see Jesus referenced as a stone several times. Jesus is indeed the solid rock. Each adjective in reference to Jesus in this section of Scripture tells of a different aspect of the Rock of Ages.

### Notice that Jesus is a...

- **...living stone** (v. 4), meaning that He is ever alive. He is eternal.
- **...chosen stone** (v. 4) and **elect stone** (v. 6), indicating that He was chosen by the Father. He is the Anointed One—the Messiah.
- **...precious stone** (v. 4, 7), demonstrating the incredible value of His sacrifice for us.
- **...chief cornerstone** (v. 6), revealing that He is the builder of the church and foundation of our faith.
- **...rejected stone** (v. 4, 7), showing that, sadly, many will reject Him and His way of salvation. They do this by not obeying His word (v. 8).
- **...transforming stone** to those who believe and obey Him (v. 5-7, 9-10, implied), declaring that it is only through Him we can ever receive eternal life. Jesus is the One who can transform us from darkness to light, who can give us the mercy we need, who can make us living stones, “built” into His spiritual house.

Jesus truly is the monolith (from the Greek, meaning “one stone”). Is He your rock of salvation?

--Edd Sterchi, via *Family Talk*, Sunnyside Rd. church, Decatur

## **JOB CURSED THE DAY OF HIS BIRTH**

*“Afterward Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. And Job said, Let the day perish on which I was to be born, and the night which said, ‘A boy is conceived.’”—Job 3:1-3.*

People have mixed feelings about their birthdays. Some people never want to pass 29 or 39, and don't want anyone to remember their birthdays are coming. Others can't wait to celebrate and get their party. Job had recently lost everything. He was very low. He cursed the day of his birth, and tore the day off his calendar. He didn't want to celebrate anything at that time. Fortunately, he remained faithful to the Lord, and patiently waited for His blessings. He learned to trust in the Lord, and in due time his blessing and joy were restored. Let's hang in there. We may be down today, but there are better days ahead. Let's go ahead and plan our party. God is faithful.

--*Grace For Your Spirit*, submitted by Paul Kent, Georgetown