



Arthur Church of Christ

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



The "Sower"

September 27, 2009



Ron Bartanen, Minister

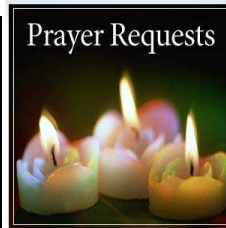
Times of Worship

Bible Classes-----9:30 am

Morning Worship-10:30 am

Evening Worship—6:00 pm

Wed. Bible Study---6:00 pm



Prayer Requests

Continue in prayer for: Paul; Lester; Woody; Rodger; Inez; Linda; Lyla; Inez's sister (Guinn), our daughter-in-law (Crystal), Charles Moore (Tex.); Lewis and Mary Carter (Ind.);

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

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

"**IN MEMORIAM**" will be this morning's message, another in a series on **Worship** as it was observed in the early church. It will concern the partaking of the Lord's Supper. This has been our evening series, but since our singing is this evening, I will bring the lesson this morning. Too, the Lord's Supper this morning will be observed following the message instead of before it. As mentioned, **THE MONTHLY SINGING** will be this evening.

For Your Information

THE SHULTS-LEWIS CHILDREN'S HOME VAN is scheduled for our area Oct. 18. Suggested items you may want to donate would be pantry items. For a more detailed list, see the bulletin board. Also, used printer and copier cartridges are welcomed, and checks for perishable foods.

AREA-EVENTS: A Gospel Meeting will be at the Effingham church, 4th & Wernsing, Oct. 4-8, with Dennis Curd preaching. *** **An area-wide Song Service** will be at the Shelbyville church, S. Charles St. at S. Second, Oct. 11 from 2 to 4 p.m., with refreshments following. *** **A Gospel Meeting** begins today and going through Wednesday at the Centralia, IL church, 1640 E. McCord, with John Polk preaching. *** **A Gospel Meeting** will be at the Shelbyville church Oct. 11-13, with John Evans III preaching. See the bulletin board for more information regarding the Shelbyville events.

“HELPERS”

“And God appointed in the church...helpers” (1 Corinthians 12:28).

God appointed in the church some very impressive folks. Just go down the list and see for yourself: apostles, prophets, teachers, workers of miracles, healers, administrators and speakers in various kinds of tongues. There's a certain glamour and sheen to be found in each of these words. They are folks to be looked up to and respected because of the gifts God has given them.

But right in the middle of such distinguished company the Lord saw the need for “helpers.” And maybe that's where I can fit in. If so, I will be rubbing shoulders with some very elite folks in God's scheme of things.

I think of some helpers in the first century. There was Dorcas who sewed and ministered to practical human needs. There were four men who let the paralytic down through the roof of a house so that Jesus might heal him. And there were those who held the rope so Paul could slide down the outside of the city wall in a basket and escape those seeking to kill him. Apollos is said to have greatly helped those who through grace had believed. Timothy and Erastus are both called helpers of the apostle Paul, and Paul says of Phoebe that she was a helper of many, and of himself as well. I even read of some who helped by praying (surely something all of us can do). And who can forget those ladies who worked side by side with Paul, “whose names are in the book of life”?

There's a place in the Kingdom for you and for me. We can all belong to the “Honorable Order of Helpers!” Remember the words of Paul to Titus, “And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful” (Titus 1:14).

--John Gipson, Little Rock, Ark.

YOU ARE A TARGET

You may not know it, but you are a target! Even if you are a Christian, you are a target! He has you in his sights. His hate for you is filled with evil intentions, far beyond your wildest imagination. He is bent on your destruction. Everything you stand for, he stands against.

- You tell the truth, he tells a lie.
- You try to save and he destroys.
- You try to help and he creates confusion.
- You try to love and he fosters hate.
- You try to forgive and he brings resentment.
- You try to overcome weaknesses and he helps you indulge in them.

He is absolutely bent on your destruction. He is filled with hatred for all you are and all you have, including your family, the church, and your very life. You must understand this fact: He is your enemy. He is real. His name is Lucifer, Satan, Beelzebub, the Devil.

But here is the GOOD NEWS: Nothing happens to a Christian that God doesn't allow to happen. You are God's child. He is your Father. Therefore, no matter what happens to you in life, God can use it for good. Think about Joseph. God can use these things to help us grow. He can teach us to trust Him. What are your circumstances right now? Do you have a trusting faith? “Resist the Devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). --*The Edifier*, Ferris, Tex.

BAD NEWS/GOOD NEWS

As a minister of the Gospel, above everything else I am to be a proclaimer of Good News. In fact, the word "Gospel" means just that—Good News. When I look at the world, however, I am made very much aware of a lot of bad news. I do not believe we should ignore the bad news. As I am writing this (Friday), I understand there is a day-long prayer meeting in progress on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol. 50,000 Muslims were expected for this event. A Muslim website announcing the gathering read: **"IN THE NAME OF ALLAH.... The objective of this gathering is to invite the Muslim communities and friends of Islam to express and illustrate the wonderful diversity of Islam. We intend to manifest Islam's majestic spiritual principals as revealed by Allah to our beloved prophet Muhammad (PEACE BE UPON HIM) of Arabia. Likewise we intend to inspire a new generation of Muslim to work for the greater good of all people. We shall serve all people, regardless of race, religious or national origin."** While we in the U.S. Prize our freedoms of religion and speech, we should view with caution this attempt to portray Islam as a "religion of peace," as some have described it. The only "diversity" I can think of in Islam is seen in its many warring sects. It is certainly not in diversity of allowable opinions. The expression of desire to "serve all people regardless of race, religion or national origin" rings hollow when we think of the persecution of Jews and Christians in Muslim nations. When I think of Islam putting on this facade of peace and good will, I think of the second "beast" of Rev. 13:11 with "two horns like a lamb," but which speaks "as a dragon" (Satan). Jesus spoke of such as wolves in sheep's clothing. (Matthew 7:15). **The good news** is that we are overcomers through the blood of the true Lamb (Christ), and our testimony of the Gospel.(Rev. 12:11). --Ron