

The Sower

Arthur Church of Christ

415 West 4th Street
Arthur, IL 61911

Times of Worship

Bible Classes.....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study.....6:00 p.m.



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.

Have you visited our website lately?
(www.arthurchurchofchrist.com)

Be sure to check out the "Christian Evidences"/"Apologetics Press" links Now in both English and Spanish.

April 20, 2008

WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY

- In the home it is kindness.
- In business it is honesty.
- In society it is courtesy.
- In work it is fairness.
- Toward the unfortunate it is pity.
- Toward the weak it is help.
- Toward the wicked it is resistance.
- Toward the strong it is trust.
- Toward the fortunate it is congratulations.
- Toward the penitent it is forgiveness.
- Toward God it is reverence and love.

--Poplar Log church, Glasgow, KY

DON'T MISPLACE TOLERANCE

Tolerance applies only to persons, never to truth. Intolerance applies only to truth, but never to persons. Tolerance applies to the erring; intolerance to the error. --Fulton J. Sheen, *Old Errors and New Labels*

DALAI LAMA VISIT AND GOD

In October, the United States government honored the Dalai Lama with the congressional gold medal, America's highest civilian award. The claim to fame of this reincarnated image of Avalokitesyara is his plea for peace. It is a curious situation as his writings repeatedly emphasize that there is no such thing as a personal God. The brother of the Dalai Lama founded a 108-acre Tibetan Cultural Center in Bloomington, Indiana, the home of Indiana University, in 1979. This award was given by the same government that has opposed churches doing service work to the poor because "it promotes their religion." It seems that any religion except Christianity can be sanctioned and promoted by our government.

--*News & Notes, Does God Exist?* magazine, 4/08

“THE DEMISE OF MARRIAGE IN BRITAIN”

In an article by Chuck Colson received online this past week, it is noted that a report by Britain’s Office for National Statistics observed that new marriages have “sunk to a low of only 237,000 weddings in 2006, the lowest since 1885, when Britain’s population was about a half of today’s. The decline is largely seen as a product of politically correct policies that recognize “civil unions” of both homosexual and heterosexual couples as being equally valid with marriage. Government officials have reportedly “campaign[ed] for all references to marriage to be removed from state documents.” Researcher Patricia Morgan attributes the marriage numbers to what government policies “have tried to achieve...” Morgan charges that the government has encouraged “Marriage Life”—a substitute for marriage. What began as an accommodation to homosexual couples has now been applied to millions of heterosexual couples as well. What is happening in Britain is not unique, however. Peter Wehner of the Ethics and Public Policy Center sees it as an ongoing trend. He quoted Senator Moynihan as saying that the biggest change he had witnessed in 40 years of politics was “that the family structure has come apart all over the North Atlantic world.”

We have no doubts that what is happening in Britain and much of Europe today will be a problem in our nation as well, as we see more marriages in serious trouble and the acceptance of homosexual “civil unions” and same sex “marriage”. It is proven that with the breakdown of the traditional, Biblically mandated home have come an increase in crime and a decline in the well-being of children. As a nation we have allowed ourselves to become calloused to the practice of “shacking up.” Children are being given condoms at school, and taught how to use them, because we can no longer expect them to conform to God’s laws for sexual purity. In the media and in government, the policy is, “Anything goes.” The sexual revolution that has occurred in the past few decades has resulted in an amoral society where “fornication” and “perversion” are forgotten words. With this worldview, marriage, as we have known it, is on its way out, unless there is a return to God and godly values in our country. Candidates in the coming election are being quoted as assuring homosexuals that with the candidates’ election will come changes that will further legitimize their chosen lifestyle. (Obviously the homosexual influence in elections must be viewed by politicians as more powerful than that of “the conservative religious right”!) Such favors to homosexual couples will undoubtedly be seen as discrimination against live-in heterosexual couples, consequently resulting in the devaluing of the sacred institution of marriage. And if all forms of sexual expression are to be accepted in society, what arguments can be made against polygamy, or even incest? Truly, “Evil men and seducers wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived” (2 Timothy 3:13). -Ron

“The LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols; but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary”
Psalms 96:4-6).

- **WELCOME** to today’s Bible class and/or worship assembly. Your presence is an encouragement to us. We especially appreciate any that may be VISITORS. We hope your visit proved to be spiritually fruitful, and that you will come again at every opportunity.
- **“JOHN AND GOD, THE FATHER”** will be this morning’s message, the last in our **“John—the Theologian”** series. The reading will be John 14:19-25. The evening lesson will be, **“The Walk of the Old Man,”** based on Eph. 4:20-32, another in our series from Ephesians.
- **NEXT SUNDAY morning** the message will be, **“What Church Membership Should Mean,”** Acts 2:41-47 being the reading.
- **Next Sunday evening**, being the last Sunday of the month, we’ll have our monthly **Song Service**. Your suggestions will be welcomed.
- **BIBLE CLASSES: Wednesday** evening’s study will begin with XXXV-9 on our latest lesson sheet. We are currently noting some controversies in the early days of the Restoration Movement.
- **IN OUR PRAYERS:** Lyla is still awaiting the results of some recent tests as I type this *** Doris has been put on the nitro patch to alleviate her problem with angina. *** Paul’s progress continues to be slow—some days better than others. *** We want to continue to remember Inez, Dean, Lester, Woody, Rodger, Linda’s brother (cancer) and cousin, Charles Moore

(Tex.) and Lewis Carter (Ind./Fla.) Also remember our service men and women, and our nation's and world's leaders as they seek a way for peace. Pray also that in our presidential election process the right person will be selected to lead our nation in a way that best conforms with the will of God.

NOTABLE QUOTES—

- “**Our Lord** has written the promise of the Resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.”
–Martin Luther
- “**Nature** is too thin a screen; the glory of the omnipresent God bursts through everywhere” --Ralph Waldo Emerson
- “**There is** something definitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter.” –Rachel Carson
- “**In all things** of nature, there is something of the marvelous.” --Aristotle

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