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# The Sower

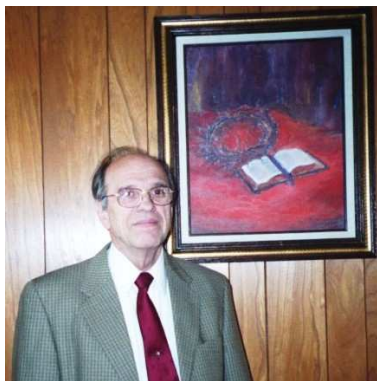
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## Arthur Church of Christ

415 West 4<sup>th</sup> 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.arthurchofchrist.com](http://www.arthurchofchrist.com))

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

April 27, 2008

### HOLY HUMOR: CHURCH SIGN BOARDS—

"If you don't like the way you were born, try being born again."

- "This is a ch\_ \_ch. What is missing? – UR."
- "In the dark? Follow the Son."
- "Running low on faith? Step in for a fill-up."
- "If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd."
- "Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world."

--From the Internet, submitted by Don Henwood

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*"Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have my being. Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help" (Psalms 146:1-3).*

- **WELCOME** to today's Bible class and/or worship assembly. We want to especially welcome any that may be a VISITOR with us. It is our hope that you will return at every opportunity.
- **"WHAT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SHOULD MEAN"** will be this morning's message, with Acts 2:41-47 as the reading. This evening we will have our monthly **Song Service**. Your selections will be welcomed.
- **NEXT SUNDAY morning's** lesson will be, **"The Walk of the New Man**, with Ephesians 4:20-32 as the reading, as we continue our series in the book of Ephesians. The **evening** message will be, **"When the Earth Quakes,"** and the reading will be Matthew 24:1-8.

- **BIBLE CLASSES: Wednesday** evening's study will begin with "XXXVI-1" in our latest lesson sheet, as we continue in our survey of church history, now focusing on some of the early problems in the Restoration Movement. **Next Sunday** we should be in the latter part of Acts 18, which concerns Paul's third missionary journey.
- **Prayer Requests:** Lyla still awaits the results of recent tests. \*\*\* Continue to remember Paul, Dean, Inez, Doris, 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.

### "LIFE IS FRAGILE"

"...[Y]et you do not know what tomorrow will bring"  
(James 4:14a).

The news came quickly this past Sunday evening: a bus belonging to one of our sister-congregations and carrying several elderly Christians was hit by another vehicle. The resulting crash left one Christian lady dead and several people from both vehicles injured. Phone calls went out to area congregations requesting prayers on behalf of individuals and that congregation. Having just been affected by an earthquake, we were once again jolted into renewed awareness that life is uncertain. Though we know that truth, it took an accident such as the bus wreck above to remind us of it.

May the following reminders serve to spur us on to wise and faithful living (2 Peter 1:12, 13).

1. **We are not assured of even the next minute upon this earth.** A routine activity was transformed into a life and death situation. *"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring."* (Proverbs 27:1)
2. **Bad things can happen at anytime, and, to anyone.** A bus delivering Christians to worship was struck by a family returning from a family outing. *"I am not at ease nor am I quiet; but trouble comes."* (Job 3:26)
3. **Burden shared is a burden lessened.** A plea for support transcended county boundaries and resulted in prayers and offers of help. *"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."* (Romans 12:15)
4. **The prayers of the righteous are effective.** A grieving church met as a family and prayed to their

heavenly Father. *"The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."* (James 5:16b)

5. **The Lord's work must continue in all circumstances until Jesus comes.** The church will move forward and continue to proclaim God's grace and goodness. *"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain."* (1 Corinthians 15:52)
6. **God's people can be assured of Him blessing those who die in Him.** *"And I heard a voice from heaven saying, Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. 'Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!'"* (Revelation 14:13)

--Lance Cordle, *The Encourager*, 4-27-'08

(The following is from the Internet, and regards a new film that is showing in some area theaters. We have not yet seen it, but hope to do so. I don't know that I can or cannot endorse all that is in it, but it holds promise of being worthwhile. I'll let the following digest of an article by Dave Berg speak for it.)

**I like rebels**, especially ones who go against type. Take Ben Stein in his latest film, *Expelled....* The film's endeavor is to respond to one simple question: "Were we designed, or are we simply the end result of an ancient mud puddle struck by lightning?" Big science doesn't like that question because they can't answer it. Underneath their antagonism toward explanations that suggest an intelligent cause lies a fundamental egoism. Science wants to deny any evidence of a supreme being precisely because it wants to be a supreme being. Moreover, representatives of big science in the film are unsettlingly snippy, suggesting that they feel threatened by rival opinions, rather than assured of their own....

Richard Sternberg, a biologist, publishes a peer-reviewed paper which posits evidence for intelligent design (ID) IN THE UNIVERSE. For his efforts, Sternberg's bosses at the Smithsonian Institute trashed him so badly that it led to a congressional investigation. Iowa State University denied tenure to Guillermo Gonzalez, an accomplished astrobiologist. University officials admitted that Gonzalez's work on ID is a factor. For Richard Dawkins, by contrast, job security is not a problem. To this superstar Oxford University evolutionary biologist, and devout atheist, ID is nothing more than an "ideological cousin of creationism." Interviewed, Dawkins concedes that an intelligent being may have created life on earth. But that being cannot be "God." Instead, he suggests it may be an alien, itself a product of

“Darwinian evolution.” Oh, the scientific imagination—  
there’s nothing like it on  
God’s green earth. ...

In the end, the film isn’t really about intelligent design as much as about a relentless attack on an authentically free inquiry. As Ben Stein points out, “Freedom of inquiry has been greatly compromised, and this is not only anti-American, it’s anti-science. It’s anti-the whole concept of learning.

(Dave Berg is also a senior segment producer at *The Tonight Show*, with Jay Leno. He is also an Emmy-winning actor, lawyer, professor, economist and speechwriter for both Nixon and Ford.)

(What the film reveals is nothing really new. It is increasingly well known that Darwinists resist all credible evidences of Creation by a personal God. Numerous scientists that see the universe as far too complex for it to be the product of purposeless evolution are not allowed a hearing, but are attacked and belittled. Any theory of origins is acceptable to these except that of Creation. As it was said of earlier egoists, “[T]hey did not like to retain God in their knowledge....” (Rom. 1:28a). We would hope the film will open some eyes to the fact that true science is not without God, and that there is a “science falsely so called.” (1 Tim. 6:20b] --Ron)