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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.arthurchurchofchrist.com](http://www.arthurchurchofchrist.com))

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

**March 23, 2008**

### THE EMPTY EGG

Eight-year-old Steven was mentally retarded. His problem seemed to be getting worse day by day, and was becoming more apparent to his school teacher and also to his classmates. The teacher was becoming worried about how the other students would treat him. She wondered if they would continue to identify with him, love him, and include him in their games and activities as they became aware of his differences.

In April, the teacher asked the class to each put together one plastic Easter egg filled with a small object that represented new life in the spring.

Thinking that Steven did not catch on, and not wanting to embarrass him, the teacher had the children place the plastic eggs on her desk so that she could open them. The first egg contained a tiny wildflower. The teacher acknowledged that the flower was truly an indication of new life. The little girl that brought the flower was overjoyed, and told the class that it was her egg. Next came a rock. The teacher thought that this egg must be Steven's since rocks don't symbolize new life or growth. But as she opened the egg with the rock in it, a little boy shouted out from the back of the room that the rock had moss on it, and that is new life. The teacher agreed. A butterfly flew out of the next egg, and the little girl that brought it bragged that the butterfly was the best indication thus far. The fourth egg was empty! The teacher thought that this had to be Steven's egg, so she nervously passed it by, and quickly moved on to the next egg. But Steven announced that the empty egg was his. Hesitating, the teacher replied, "But it's empty."

"That's right," said little Steven, "Just like Jesus' tomb, and that means new life for everyone."

Later that summer, Steven's condition worsened and he died. At the funeral, on his casket the children had nestled plastic Easter eggs among the flowers. Some people that did not know the story were puzzled; but no floral spray, no matter how beautiful, could ever convey the wonderful message those empty plastic eggs told. An empty tomb almost two thousands years earlier gave Steven the hope of a new life.

—Submitted by a friend, Scott Fenton

**“Buddha finger makes journey from China.”** I recently came across the following news item that I had filed in 2002.

“TAIPEI – Clasp their hands in a sign of worship, thousands of Buddhists welcomed the arrival Saturday of what they believe to be the remains of a finger that belonged to Buddha. Earlier Saturday, hundreds of monks helped transport the finger, said to be 2,500 years old, from Famen Temple in Xian in central China to Taiwan, where it will be displayed for one month.”

I'm thankful as a Christian that we do not have any members of Christ's physical body to remind us of Him—not even a finger! The reason: He was raised from the grave, and was taken bodily into heaven. Not even a finger was left behind! The remains of a finger speaks of death; the empty tomb speaks of life! --Ron

## A HOUSE OF LOVE

Living a life of mere existence without setting spiritual goals is sad, to say the least. We usually focus on the things that mean the most to us. We make ourselves busy with our hobbies and leisure activities. We entertain our lives with all the pleasurable things money can buy. The fact remains that all these things wear out through the course of time.

The Grand Architect of life itself designed life to be lived at a higher standard. Our toys wear out, and then they are gone, and it leads to regretful consequences. Taking time out in life for the pleasurable things is not in itself wrong. It's when we store up all those things as if our lives depend on the material, and we cannot see the spiritual. Jesus teaches us with these words:

*“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”* —Matthew 6:19-21

Our valued assets tell a lot about us.

Give me a house where love is—  
That's the best of all.

Give me a house where love is,  
Where praises fill its halls.

Give me a house where love is,  
You can have all the rest.

Give me a house where love is,  
Where all can feel really blessed.

Give me a house where love is,  
You can have the gold.

Give me a house where love is,  
This house will never be sold.  
For in the house where love is,  
Hearts focus on the treasure.  
In this house where love is  
Jesus gives us pleasure.  
So, give me a house where love is,  
Where everything is old and worn,  
For in the house where love is,  
Thereinto we are all reborn.

--Rick Woodall, Logansport, IN, slightly edited

## ***BITS OF WISDOM—***

- “Nothing makes people go into debt like trying to keep up with people who are already in debt.”
- “Sign in clothing store: ‘Use our easy payment plan: 100 percent down. Nothing to pay each month.’”
- “The Federal Reserve makes money the old-fashioned way—they print it!”
- “God answers knee-mail.”
- “Don't give up: Moses was once a basket case.”
- “What most of us learn from experience is that most of us don't have nearly enough of it.”

***“The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined”*** (Psalms 50:1-2).

- **WELCOME** to today's Bible class and/or worship assembly. If you are a VISITOR, we especially appreciate your decision to join with us in honoring our Lord. We hope you will return at every opportunity.

- ***"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE"***, another in our series, *John—the Theologian*, looking especially on the "I AM" claims of Christ, will be the message this morning, with John 11:19-27 as the reading. This evening's lesson, as we continue in the book of **Ephesians**, will be ***"A Prayer for Believers,"*** with Ephesians 3:13-21 as the reading.
- **NEXT SUNDAY morning's** message will be the last of the 7 "I Am" statements of Jesus as we continue in our series on John—***"I Am the True Vine."*** The reading will be John 15:1-8. Sunday evening, being the last Sunday of the month, will be our monthly **SONG SERVICE**. Your suggestions for songs, new or old, will be welcomed.
- **BIBLE CLASSES:** **Wednesday** evening's study in church history (currently, the Restoration Movement), will begin with "XXXIII. DIVISIONS" in our last lesson-sheet. **Sunday** we should be somewhere between the middle and latter part of Acts 17, depending upon this morning's progress.
- **IN OUR PRAYERS:** Paul continues to improve, although he has some infection. \*\*\* Continue to remember Inez, Dean, Doris, Lyla, Lester, Woody, Boyd's brother (Vic), Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis Carter (Ind., but in a hospital in Florida, but hopes to be out soon), and our nation's and world's leaders as they seek a way for

peace. Most of all, pray that more will seek and find Him who is the Prince of Peace.

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