

# The SOWER

## 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 9, 2008

### PREACHING THE MIRACLE OF MONEY

The apostle Paul warned of deceptive teachers who "serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" (Romans 16:18). Similarly, Peter warned of false teachers who "through covetousness shall with feigned words make merchandise of you" (2 Pet. 2:3). Such passages came to mind as I read a recent article from [www.news.com](http://www.news.com). Following are some excerpts from the article (in quotation marks), plus some summaries.

In a Brisbane, Australia "miracle crusade", faith healer Benny Hinn, in his limo, arrived at the auditorium in a "white shot silk suit. Standing in front of a 350-piece choir, the televangelist, whose sermons are broadcast in 192 countries, strutted the stage, his brass buttons flashing and Madonna-style microphone headset firmly in place. The 10,000-strong crowd reacted. Young children, teens, adults and elderly rose to their feet. They wept, rocked and chanted, cried silent tears, spoke in tongues and smiled as the Californian preacher, who lives in an \$8 million waterfront mansion in Orange County performed a 20-minute rendition of the hymn, *I Love to Praise Him*. In a roped off section of the entertainment centre, faithful in wheelchairs, unwell elderly and other infirm waited for a 'miracle'....*But business comes before miracles when Pastor Hinn is in the building, it seems.* After an hour of songs, Hinn preached a recurring topic, Gold and silver, Silver and gold. The flamboyant...preacher, who receives an estimated \$110 million in donations per annum, used scripture to encourage crowd members to give.... Hinn, who owns a \$36 million private jet, continued in the same 'rich' vein. For 90 minutes he talked dollars. The term "wealth transfer was uttered 20 times in 10 minutes. "Gold" and "silver" was said 35 times in six minutes alone. 'If God tells you to give \$5,000, obey him.... If God...says give \$10,000, obey him. Do not argue with God.' Yet, as he talked of God's love, the pastor couldn't hide his quick temper. The 56-year-old became angry when a crying child interrupted the sermon. 'People came to hear God's word, not children crying,' he

snapped, singling out a distressed mother. 'Do something with that baby.'" Then came the pledging... One student who gave \$1000 and pledged to give more, said, "'Pastor Hinn says the more you give, the more wealth and love you receive'... For Ms Smith, the Friday night event was a disappointing affair. 'There was too much talk about money, about the more you gave the more God loved you,' she said. I feel drained, let down, and let's face it. I still can't walk."

(The following article, by Ty Nicol, is from the March 2 issue of the Kemp church bulletin. Ty is speaking here today in a "pulpit swap" with me. We appreciate Ty and the good work he is doing at Kemp, as well as the mission activities he engages in. Below the article is some information concerning Ty.)

### **A Strange Hymnbook**

The psalms, like many of our hymns, were written by individuals when they were in a certain mood. Note the different tone and subject in so many of them. But sometimes we "preach" too much on texts and don't "sing" them. Sometimes I think of a Jew lying there in the shade somewhere grinning and admiring the whole world situation with God in it—that's Psalm 1. That's how the book opens and it closes with this: "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!"

Psalm 1 is like a boy, under a tree, contented and smiling, watching his pup, admiring it and rejoicing in it, seeing all its great qualities and listening to its snuffing and growling, full of life and spreading it around while the boy looks and thinks, "You're some-thing else!"

The whole book of psalms is called "tehillim"—praises, the book of praises. Even the lament psalms are part of the five books that make up the "tehillim". The protests of the psalms, the weeping and complaining were all brought to God as part of their trust in God. They didn't go down the road to some Ba'al shrine or over to Molech's place and complain about Yahweh. No, they came to God. ....

But they all sang out of the same hymnbook. The people of Israel by the Spirit of God and in light of their history with God put all their songs together, put them in a hymnbook and stamped PRAISES on the cover.  
-Ty Nicol, Kemp church bulletin

(AN INTRODUCTION: Ty Nicol was born and raised in Decatur, IL. He is now 36 years old. Ty left for Southern Arkansas University in 1990 and ended up going to col-

leges in southern Illinois and southwest Oklahoma as well. It was not until 1996 that Ty obeyed the Gospel and one year later made the decision to enter Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, TX. In the year 2000 he began his first work as an associate minister in Baltimore, Maryland. Ty spent two years there and then became the full-time minister in Roxboro, North Carolina. In October of 2004 he moved back to central Illinois and became the minister for the Kemp Church of Christ. He has also been on two mission trips to Ukraine (1997 & 1998), and one to Paris, France (2003), Athens, Greece (2003). From March 19th to April 11th he will return to Athens for a three week period to help with a seminar taught by Sammy Flanary, representative for SIBI to Europe. Ty will also be teaching the minor prophets while there.)

*"Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments" (Psalms 112:1).*

- **WELCOME** to today's Bible class and/or worship assembly. We especially appreciate the presence of any that may be VISITORS. We hope you will return at every opportunity.
- **"GOD IS ANXIOUS TO FORGIVE"** is to be Ty's message this morning, with Luke 15:1-10 as the reading. I will be bringing the evening lesson—another in our series on Ephesians, **"One Plus One Equals One"**, with Eph. 2:11-22 as the reading. It would be well for you to read it beforehand to gain the most from the lesson.
- **NEXT SUNDAY morning's** message will be another in our series, **John—the Theologian**, as we see John's portrayal of Jesus, as He declares another "I AM" claim: **"The Way, Truth and Life."** The reading will be John 14:1-6. The **evening** lesson next week, in our **Ephesians** series, will be **"The Mystery."** The reading will be Eph. 3:1-13.
- **THE WEDNESDAY CLASS** will begin with point 5-g on the new Church History lesson sheet (XXXI 5, Other Reformers/Restorationists). The preacher we're considering is Samuel Rogers. We hope you will join us in this study. The new study-sheets are on the literature table.

- **THE NURSING HOME SERVICE** will be this Tuesday, March 11, at 6:45 p.m. We hope you will be with us.
- **IN OUR PRAYERS:** Paul is still showing improvement, but progress is slow. \*\*\* Doris continues to improve following her stent-implantation, though she tires easily. \*\*\* It was good to see both Inez and Lester able to be with us Sunday morning. \*\*\* Woody fell recently, but suffered only bruises and broken glasses. \*\*\* Continue to pray for Dean, Boyd's brother, Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis Carter (Ind.), our service men and women and our nation's and world's leaders.

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