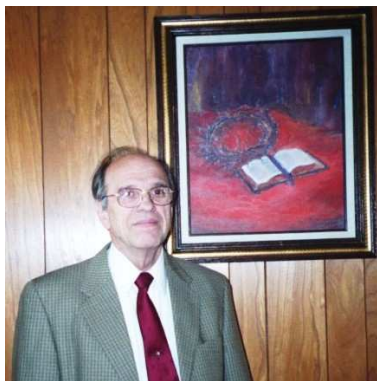

The Sower

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.

May 25, 2008

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND! As we as a nation pause to remember those that have so valiantly laid down their lives that we might continue as a free people, as well as to remember other loved ones and friends who have passed from this life, may we never forget those also that have also made the supreme sacrifice in defense of the Gospel of Christ. I have read that within this generation there have been more martyred for their faith in Christ than during all prior years of church history. As you read this, there is undoubtedly someone's life being taken because of refusing to renounce Jesus Christ and disown Him as their Savior and Lord. These are a "cloud of witnesses" similar to those portrayed in Hebrews 11 who "loved not their lives even unto death" (Hebrews 11:1-12:1; Revelation 12:11). In our sheltered lives, protected by our nation's Constitution, we assume we stand in no danger. Such is a false security. As we ever more frequently see an increase of hostility directed towards God, Jesus Christ, the Bible, and those that stand up for the truth, even here in the United States, we should remember that our Lord warned His disciples, "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you... "If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you...." (John 15:19, 20b, NKJ) Let us hold fast to the faith for which others have died. -Ron

If At First You Don't Succeed

A well-meaning friend, trying to comfort Thomas A. Edison, said, "It must be very discouraging to fail seventy-nine successive experiments." Edison replied, "I am not discouraged in the least, and I've not made one failure. I've just learned seventy-nine ways it cannot be done." Thomas Edison continued on with experiments surpassing six thousand things

that did not work until he was finally able to make a functioning electric light bulb.

Today there are many in God's church with the attitude of Thomas Edison's friend. Their view of life is through a negative prism. But, thanks be to God there are others who have the attitude of Thomas Edison himself. They understand God's goal and are steadfast in their efforts to accomplish it even though there are often more perceived failures than accolades for success. They would be become discouraged if the accolades was the goal for which they keep on striving.

These are God's servants who understand that God knows their heart and sees their motives as well as their results. These are the ones who heed the voice of the prophet Ezekiel (Ch. 3) when he teaches us the importance of being a faithful witness. God is not willing that any should perish, but alas most do. Even so, if the watchman has faithfully sounded the warning, he is vindicated in the eyes of God. Thus, there is no failure so long as we press on trying everything we can think of to persuade men to be saved

Phil. 3: 13-14: "But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."
—Shelbyville church bulletin

A SHINING LIGHT

God needs our light where the world is the darkest. The reason: The blacker the night, the greater the need for a light bulb. If the bulb does not shine, it is not because of the darkness. Darkness cannot put out a light. If the darkness increases until it is black as a cave, it is still not dark enough to extinguish a light. No one has yet smothered a light by increasing the darkness. Darkness gets darker because the light fails. When we fail to reflect Christ's light, we let the darkness win.

Jesus said, "Even so let your light shine before men: that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). --Tom Moore, Temple Tex., submitted by Paul Kent, Georgetown

"Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments. Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful" (Psalms 119:137-138).

- **WELCOME** to today's Bible class and/or worship assembly. We especially want to welcome any that may be VISITORS. It is our hope that you will return at every opportunity.
- **GUEST SPEAKER:** Wayne Polk from the church in Shelbyville will be speaking this morning, and I will be taking his place at Shelbyville. Bro. Polk will be preaching on ***"The Exact Cause of Death,"*** with Romans 6:12-23 as the reading.
- **THIS EVENING,** being the last Sunday of the month, we will have our monthly **Song Service.**
- **NEXT SUNDAY,** the morning message will be, ***"A Handful of Corn,"*** with Psalms 72:5-16. The evening lesson will be, ***"Hebrews—God's Word of Encouragement,"*** and the reading will be Hebrews 2:1-4.
- **BIBLE CLASSES: Wednesday,** our study in Church History will begin with ***"XL. Ben Franklin"*** on our lesson sheet. Currently we are seeing some of the more prominent Restoration Movement leaders. We need to understand and appreciate those who have been "trail-blazers" in the effort to restore primitive New Testament Christianity. None of these would be our authority—that is in Scripture alone—for they have all had different views on different issues. Some we would agree with, some we would not. While they are not our authority,, we can be enriched by their example, and warned by their mistakes.
- **Next Sunday,** our study in Acts will probably be near the conclusion of chapter 19, or the first of chapter 20, depending upon this morning's progress. I believe Bro. Polk will

be teaching from Acts this morning, beginning with 19:21.

- **NURSING HOME:** Join with us Tuesday evening (the 27th) at 6:45 for a half-hour service at the Arthur Nursing Home.
- **ARTHUR DAYS:** We will be putting up a tent for the “Arthur Days” festival in downtown Arthur June 6-7. We will be distributing tracts and Bible Correspondence Courses to any that show interest. Pens advertising the church will also be given out. Too, a study-Bible will be given to someone whose name, address and phone number is drawn from a box. We need volunteers to greet and talk with those that come by. We know that some of our number will be unable to do this for health reasons, but if you are able we would appreciate it. If you can assist in this way, let me know which day(s) and time(s) you would be available so we can work out some kind of schedule. Since we no longer have a weekly ad in the paper, and will not be having a spring evangelistic meeting, this will be a different means of reaching our community with the gospel. Most of all—PRAY for the success of this effort. Pray that God’s blessing of increase will be given for our efforts in sowing the seed (1 Cor. 3:6).
- **IN OUR PRAYERS:** Friday we received a good report concerning Paul. For the first time since he became ill in January he has now begun to eat and drink. Prayers for him continue to be answered! He is at Northwestern Hospital in Chicago for therapy. *** Lester continues to do well following his carpal tunnel surgery. He is not sure when he will have the surgery on his other hand. *** Boyd has been having trouble getting his sugar controlled. *** Continue to remember Dean, Inez, Doris, Woody, Rodger, Charles Moore (Tex.), Lewis Carter (Ind./Fla.) our men and women in the service, and our nation’s and world’s rulers as they seek a way for peace. Most of all pray that more will find Him who is the Prince of Peace.