

# 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.

July 15, 2007

## God & The Spider

During World War II, a US marine was separated from his unit on a Pacific island. The fighting had been intense, and in the smoke and the crossfire he had lost touch with his comrades.

Alone in the jungle, he could hear enemy soldiers coming in his direction. Scrambling for cover, he found his way up a high ridge to several small caves in the rock. Quickly he crawled inside one of the caves. Although safe for the moment, he realized that once the enemy soldiers looking for him swept up the ridge, they would quickly search all the caves and he would be killed.

As he waited, he prayed, "Lord, if it be your will, please protect me. Whatever your will though, I love you and trust you. Amen." After praying, he lay quietly listening to the enemy begin to draw close. He thought, "Well, I guess the Lord isn't going to help me out of this one." Then he saw a spider begin to build a web over the front of his cave.

As he watched, listening to the enemy searching for him all the while, the spider layered strand after strand of web across the opening of the cave.

"Hah, he thought. "What I need is a brick wall and what the Lord has sent me is a spider web. God does have a sense of humor."

As the enemy drew closer he watched from the darkness of his hideout and could see them searching one cave after another. As they came to his, he got ready to make his last stand. To his amazement, however, after glancing in the direction of his cave, **they moved on.** Suddenly, he realized that with the spider web over the entrance, his cave looked as if no one had entered for quite a while.

**"Lord, forgive me," prayed the young man. "I had forgotten that in you a spider's web is stronger than a brick wall."**

We all face times of great trouble. When we do, it is so easy to forget what God can work in our lives, sometimes in the most surprising ways. And remember with God, a mere spider's web becomes a brick wall of protection. –Submitted by the Fentons, friends in Indiana

# QUALITY OF LIFE

**“Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold”** (Proverbs 3:13-14).

If we are serious about improving our “quality of life,” we need to work harder at improving our thinking. As we reach forward to better things, both in this life and the one to come, we need to spend less time on our circumstances and more time on our wisdom. Better thinking is what our progress usually depends on. It is a valuable key that opens a great many doors.

Often, the thing that holds us back in life is some wrong idea that is lodged in our minds. Wise people work every day to remove as many falsehoods as they can from their thinking. Like a farmer patiently removing the rocks from his fields, we need to be getting rid of the untruths that hinder our productiveness and our progress toward God.

Sometimes it is not an untruth that hinders us but simply a failure to see enough of the truth. Many of the most frustrating things in life are frustrating because we are so bogged down in them we cannot see what else is true. We should get in the habit of “going to the balcony” and looking down on our difficulties from a vantage point that offers a more complete view.

To God, our ill-informed efforts at self-improvement must appear quite silly. We continue to hammer away at problems with thoughts and attitudes that have proven over and over again to be the wrong tools for the job. Wouldn't it be smart to get better tools? “The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them” (Albert Einstein). Without better thinking, we will stay stuck in our ruts.

Ultimately, of course, the path to better thinking always takes us into the Scriptures. Nothing can remove falsehoods and widen our perspective more helpfully than God's own mind, and we are at our problem-solving best when we are honestly searching the Scriptures. In the long run, neither our thinking nor our doing will get better if the Psalmist's prayer is not our own: “Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law” (Psa. 119:18).

Because there is no limit to how much you can improve the quality of your thinking, there is no real limit to how much you can improve your life. -- Tom Moore, Malvern, AR, contributed by Paul Kent, Georgetown, Ind.

## News & Notes

- **WELCOME** to today's Bible class and/or worship assembly. If you are a VISITOR, we are especially appreciative of your decision to meet with us, and hope for your return at every opportunity.
- **“REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD”** will be this morning's message, with Acts 20:17-21 as the reading. This evening's lesson, a continuance of our **Genesis** theme, will be **“Joseph—the Ruling Prince,”** and Gen. 47:1-11 will be the reading. This will conclude our evening series in Genesis.
- **NEXT SUNDAY'S** messages will begin a series of lessons on **“Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.”** The morning subject will be, **“Let There Be Light,”** and the reading will be Gen. 1:1-3 and 2 Corinthians 4:3-6. The evening lesson will be **“Jesus—the Lord of Light.”** The reading will be John 1:1-18.
- **BIBLE CLASSES:** Wednesday evening's study will begin with VIII-10 in our lesson sheet. I hope to have the next sheet available also. **Next Sunday's** study will probably be somewhere near the middle of Acts 8, depending upon this morning's progress.
- **NURSING HOME:** I hope nobody read last Sunday's announcement about the Nursing Home visit too closely, and went for the Nursing Home service. It will be **this** Tuesday (17<sup>th</sup>), not last Tuesday. I just noticed my mistake as typing this. The time for the service is 6:45.
- **PRAYER LIST:** Lester will be having some medical tests this Tuesday. \*\*\* Continue to remember Dean, Inez, Woody, Charles Moore (Tex., out of hospital in rehab), Ed Stocker (Ind.), our men and women in the armed services, and the world's and nation's leaders that a way for peace may be sought and found. Above all, pray that more will find Him who is the Prince of Peace.



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