**Our Weapon Against Discouragement**

When one studies the armor of God in Ephesians 6 it becomes clear that each piece of the equipment is designed to defeat a particular strategy of Satan. The belt of truth, for example, counteracts the comprising of our integrity. Satan knows that if he can lead us into dishonesty or duplicity he can inflict all manner of trouble in our lives. An old Chinese proverb says, “When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when integrity is lost, all is lost.” Satan knows that full well, but the belt of truth keeps us living a truthful life.

What battles against discouragement? Which piece of the armor? Let me put three verses together and it becomes clear. Then let’s consider this piece of armor.

Take the helmet of salvation, Ephesians 6:17a
For a helmet the hope of salvation, 1 Thessalonians 5:8
Hope does not disappoint us, Romans 5:5

Note that it is clear that the helmet of salvation refers to final salvation, what we are still hoping for. Salvation in all its totality is in view, but particular emphasis falls on our future glorification which we are still hoping for when Jesus comes. And this hope will not disappoint us because Jesus cannot be defeated and will bring about the completion of our salvation when He returns.

Putting this together the helmet of salvation is the piece of armor that keeps us from discouragement. Knowing that we cannot ultimately be defeated, that Who we have placed our confidence in cannot fail, gives us hope and confidence in the times when life in a fallen world does disappoint us. We can keep our head up for we know our ultimate victory will transcend every discouraging thing in this life. Let’s consider three applications of this.

Satan is already defeated at the cross, John 12:31-32. Jesus said that at the cross the prince of this world would be judged and “will be driven out.” Jesus said that He “will draw all men to myself.” So Satan is already a defeated foe. The decisive battle has been won. Only the final sentence upon Satan awaits to be carried out. We are not called on to defeat Satan, but live in the victory already provided by wearing the armor.

We may lose spiritual battles, but not the final war, John 21:15-15. Peter lost a spiritual battle when Satan sifted him like wheat as Jesus predicted, and Peter denied his Lord three times. We can lose spiritual battles too. But, like Peter, Jesus can restore us and we can go on living for the Master once again. Despite failure we will still share in His victory.

God always has a remnant of faithful believers, 1 Kings 19:18. God told discouraged Elijah that there were still 7000 faithful Israelites. That was a small remnant but God was still working through them to accomplish His will. All faithful believers belong to Jesus remnant and so are His tools to accomplish His will. Since this is always the way God has worked, we can take great courage in knowing He is still working through us in that way today, outnumbered as we often feel. So, let’s put on the helmet and face down the discouragement of our day.

Your friend, fighting with the weapons,
Pastor Brian (:¬);}.
From the Family Life Pastor:

Some of my random thoughts:

I’ve really appreciated Pastor Brian’s series on “The Parables of Jesus” before he went on his sabbatical, and then yesterday when he came back and preached his first message since the sabbatical, he picked up on the last message from this series. I thought that the message was very timely and very powerful. I am grateful that Jesus, back when He was teaching His disciples knew the hearts and actions of people and that He loves us so much that His Kingdom has not been and never will be canceled, but rather it is delayed. I’m also grateful that in spite of all the recent news coming from “court decisions” which are really political puppets making humanistic decisions do not have the final say, and that Jesus has the final word, and I’m grateful that He has given us the “end” result of all things – HE WINS!

Revelation 22:7 “Behold, I am coming soon!”, Vs. 12 – “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End”. Vs. 20 “Yes, I am coming soon! Jesus clearly teaches that He is God, that He is the ONLY WAY to God’s heaven, and that He conquered the grave and that He is still alive in heaven preparing a place for us and HE WILL COME BACK!

On a different note:

I am grateful for all those who put in so much work for the outdoor service that we held on July 19th. We had well over 300 in attendance and working at the service, enjoyed some wonderful fellowship with believers from other churches, and were blessed to also have seven (7) people baptized. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this service God honoring and so powerful!

From that service which was so beautiful, one woman Peggy Sue Larsen came to the service with her husband Andy, and two days later went to be with the Lord as the result of a tragic automobile accident. As we entered the church where her memorial service was being held, there were photos of her being presented on the screen, and there were some photos of Peggy from her baptism in Lake Superior, pretty much in the same place that we had the baptisms at her last church service.

One very encouraging thing that was said at the memorial service was how Peggy had been immersed in the Word of God in the weeks and months leading up to her death. God was speaking into her life, and perhaps preparing her for her home going through her Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

In the book of Job 19:25 we read: “I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth, and after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes”, and as believers we know that Christ is our Redeemer – Galatians 3:13 “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it I written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree’”. And then in 1 Peter 1:18-21 “For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him, and so your faith and hope are in God!.

Something else:

This summer we have been doing something a little different with ABFs. We have what we are calling “Summer Mixups”. Everyone who has been involved in ABFs and even those who were not have been invited to participate in one of four classes with different teachers, all of whom were teaching through a book/study by John MacArthur titled “Fundamentals of the Faith”. This has been a great study, and many people have expressed how much they have enjoyed the teachings and study, and those who have listened to MacArthur’s sermons from which this study originated have gained much.

I know that we have enjoyed the study very much and I am grateful to all of those who have participated and to those who work so hard to be prepared to lead discussions on this study.

In the Fall we will go back to ABFs. I am in the process of putting this together, we will add at least one (1) new group. I will be looking for people who are willing to serve in leadership roles within these ABFs, and am praying about who those might be and who the teachers should be. I am hoping and praying that you will all choose to participate, and look forward to what God will do through these ABFs in the coming year.

In Christ – Pastor Hank
Junior High Youth Group  
Mondays 6:30 - 8:00 PM  
Incoming 6th graders are encouraged to attend Junior High Youth Group.

Swim & Smores Night  
Monday, August 3rd  
Pastor Hank & Ann’s home  
114 Parkwood Lane, Negaunee Township  
Bring your swimsuit and towel.  
(Weather permitting)

Senior High Youth Group  
Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM  
Incoming 9th graders are encouraged to attend Senior High Youth Group.

Swim S'mores Night  
Sunday, August 2nd  
Pastor Hank & Ann’s home  
114 Parkwood Lane, Negaunee Township  
Bring your swimsuit & towel.  
(Weather permitting)

All youth will join their parents in Summer Mix-Ups meeting at 10 AM in the church building. Adolescent Bible Fellowships will begin again in September at The House.

A couple weeks ago, we sent out an email inviting anyone and everyone to join us on that Friday at Bethel for Ultimate Frisbee. We are sending this notice because we are going to continue to meet EVERY Friday until school starts for ultimate Frisbee. We meet at Bethel in the church lawn and play until everyone is too tired to continue (or if Miles is there, until his team wins). Come on out! Any age any athletic ability level, it's just good clean fun! Any Questions contact Miles Bagley or Noah Roberts.

If you have questions, contact our Director of Youth Ministries, Miles Bagley at 360-0006 or by email at miles.bagley@bbcmqt.org

Prayer Chain & Official Notices  
bethelemail@gmail.com

If you have a prayer request or information that you want shared, please send that to the email address above. If you are not receiving email prayer requests or notices, please contact Ann in the church office.

Items for the September Issue of Bethel Matters are due in the office by Wednesday, August 19th.

Items for the Happenings are due in the office by Wednesday noon.

Have you visited our Bethel Website?  
Check it Out at:  
www.bethelmarquette.com

Audio Sermons are posted weekly along with items of interest, Bethel Matters, Calendar, and Happenings.

Happy August Birthday/Anniversary to:
1. Kathy Johnson, Abbie Tireman, Bob Nelson, Anna Stewart
2. Spencer & Jean Johnson (A)
3. Jim Noe
4. Dan & Kathy Johnson (A), Dave & JoAnn Buhl (A-25)
5. Troy & Nicole Steppke (A)
6. Walt Anderson
7. Drew & Amy Quinn (A)
9. Kathy Morabito, Sue Goodwin
10. Cliff & Eleanor Maier (A-60), Jim & Laurel Perko (A)
12. Rebekah Mackey
13. Jeff Millin, Caden Steede
15. Ed & Marilyn Morrison (A)
16. Julie Glover, Judy Larson, Maynard & Leenamari Bowers (A)

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17. Dan & Becky Nelson  
18. Tim Larson, Walley & Karen Helmlia (A), David & Mandy Erickson (A)  
19. Walt & Chris Anderson (A)  
20. Holly Glover, Jordan Smith, Annette Brown, Amy Quinn  
22. Don & Karla Salo (A)  
23. John Morabito  
25. Brian Steede  
28. Adelin Deering  
30. Shelley Janofski, Karl Thomsen  
31. Adam Smith

Activities for Men

Bible Study  
Tuesdays, 6:30 AM, Perkins Restaurant  
Questions: contact Pastor Hank 228-7589  

Congratulations to:

Mike & Julie Leppanen on the July 1st birth of their daughter, Edith Elaine. She weighed in at 8 lbs. 1 oz and was 20 1/4 inches long. Proud grandparents are John & Kathy Morabito.

Rick & Terri Schroeder on the July 20th birth of their granddaughter, Aili Susanne, born to their daughter Holly & Cole Minton. She weighed in at 7 lbs. and was 20 inches long.

Ed & Marilyn Morrison on the July 22nd birth of their granddaughter, Violet Marie, born to their son Trevor & Jessica Morrison. She weighed in at 8 lbs. 5 ozs and was 20 inches long.

Matthew & Laura Songer on the July 25th birth of their first grandson, Bran Godric, born to their son, Jason & Lori Songer. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 6 ozs and was 21 inches long.

Brian & Patti Lingle for renewing their wedding vows at a beautiful wedding renewal ceremony on July 25th.

Cindy Pawley on her retirement from Fed Ex.

In Sympathy to:

Dave & Susan Michels following the recent death of Dave’s father, Fred Michels. The funeral will be on August 1st in Eustis, Florida.

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Summer Mix-Ups 10 AM

Each class is studying “Fundamentals of the Faith” by John MacArthur. This is a great way to meet other folks and great friendships can be made. Our junior & senior high youth have joined the classes. Families have been assigned to the same class. Adult Bible Fellowships will return in September.

From the Mailbox:

Dear Bethel Family,
Thank you for the nice flowering plant at my Dad’s memorial service. His service was a very positive testimony to a life well-lived. His favorite Bible passage was I Corinthians 13, and he lived it! He set a wonderful example for my brother, and sister, and me to follow.

Sincerely,
JoAnn Buhl

Dear Bethel Baptist Church,
Thank you for gift of $500 to support my ministry this summer. Thank you for praying for me and for taking the time to talk to me before I left (even if it was for a short time). Your support means more to me than you know. Praise God – He raised all the support I needed before I left for mission. He also raised up an amazing team of encouragement.

I have been in Gatlinburg, TN with a missions team of 13 students and 12 staff. We are small, but I believe God has great plans for the summer.
There are hundreds of international students working here for the summer. I have already spoken with people from Russia, Serbia, Ukraine, Jamaica, Poland, Bulgaria, Philippines, Malaysia, Czech Republic, Uzbekistan, Peru, Honduras, and more. Most of them speak little English. Most of them have little to no spiritual beliefs, many of them have never been to America, and many of them have never heard of Jesus. Please pray with me for these countries and their students. Pray that their hearts would be opened and they would accept and trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Imagine if one of these students brought the gospel home to their family.... Pray also that our team would have one heart united, and that we would all continue to take steps of faith. Thank you again for your support, and for providing a family for me through Bethel’s community. I’m so grateful to God for providing a church for me and other students at NMU.

May the Lord bless each of you.

With Love,
Elisabeth Hollis

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you for your generosity to the Care Clinic. Out church family raised $3,025.00 through the Life Walk fundraiser this Spring. That is wonderful! Many babies will be blessed through your gifts.

I especially want to thank Adelin Deering, Elizabeth Dahlstrom, Amy Hovis, Sandy Petrovich, Chris Anderson, and Matthew Songer for helping to raise those needed dollars. And grateful thanks to each of you who gave out of your heart.

Bethel, you are an amazing family of believers! Your actions follow your hearts.

Thank you so much,
Jean Johnson

Dear Church Family,

Greetings! Thank you for your faithful support for CEF, as the ministry God is growing across the region! We appreciate you. We are praising God. I have another youth group coming in to the VBS and 5 Day Clubs and I head back to Kenya, August 6–25 with 2 tribes of young ladies.

Blessings,
Cheryl and Jim Doan

Help Needed & Treasured Mementos
Lynn Porter Harmacek, daughter of the late Glen & Marian Porter is in Marquette now cleaning out her parent’s house to prepare it for sale. It will take a number of weeks as her mom enjoyed saving many mementos. If there is anyone who would treasure a keepsake she will be glad to accommodate you. Lynn can be reached at 978-788-4480. Glen & Marian were members of Bethel for many, many years beginning back when the church was located at the corner of Third and Ohio Street until the time of their deaths. We would also ask if there is anyone that is willing to volunteer to help Lynn go through the things at the house. It can be an overwhelming task.

Seniors’ Garden Party
Saturday, August 7th, 12 Noon
Cliff & Eleanor Maier’s
1903 Mildred, MQT
Call Carolyn to RSVP (249-9466)

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**Primetimer’s Picnic**  
**Wednesday, August 26th**  
(Details to follow)

**Operation Christmas Child**
Put a smile on a child’s face and the Word of our Savior in their hearts. Start packing your shoe boxes today!

**Personal Items:**
- soap, washcloth, toothpaste & brush, hair brush, hair bands, barrettes, combs, flip flops, undies baseball caps, visors, sunglasses, sock, t-shirts, bubble gum, candy (nothing that will melt)

**Toys:**
- jacks, stuffed animals, jum ropes, cars, slinky, balls, dolls, coloring books, picture books, puzzles, watercolor paint set (brush also), play dough, necklaces, bracelets, beads, hacky sacks, recycled bags, Frisbees

**School Supplies:**
- pens, pencils, erasers, colored pencils, markers, crayons, calculators, scissors, note books

**Do Not Pack:**
- damaged items, war related items, liquids or lotions, medications, vitamins, glass.

You get the idea, now go have fun packing your box. This is the time of year that you can get great deals on school supplies.

Don’t forget to pray for the person who will receive your box, prepare a personal message to include in your box, or perhaps a family photo.
- questions contact Sandy at 226-7232

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I have been reading a book by Franklin Graham entitled “Operation Christmas Child, the Story of Simple Gifts”. The following is an excerpt from this book: “My grandparents were the witch doctors of my village. I am Lucia and I live in Chiriqui, Panama. One day I was invited to a children’s program sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse and they gave me a shoebox. I had never had one before. They told us to come back the next Saturday for another program, but my mom wouldn’t let me go. I cried so much that she finally gave in. When I arrived with some other children, we were given some Bible lessons, but I couldn’t read too well. They told me to take it home and maybe my mother would help me read. When she saw what it was, she was afraid to read them. She had always been told that if we read the Bible we would die. I was so disappointed. But as she thought about how happy the shoebox gift had made me, she started reading the book to me when my dad was away at work so no one would know. We went through many lessons and were surprised that nothing bad happened to us.

The book told us how we could receive Jesus in our hearts, and we prayed to Him to forgive us, and Christ accepted us as His children. My dad and brother started reading the book and we began going to church as a family. We were surprised when my grandparents began looking through the material and now they no longer practice witchcraft. Thank you for giving this to me and please keep giving it to all the children who get shoebox gifts. It’s the best part of the gift and my family is proof.”

A shoebox isn’t sent forth without prayer and the Lord is hearing, answering, and blessing those who are faithful. Start today to look for sale items that would make great shoebox gifts for a child in need.

- Ann Steede

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**Summer Camping Report**
Bethel sent 32 children/youth to either UP Bible Camp, Lake Ellen Camp, or Lake Lundgren Bible Camp through our camp
scholarship program. I would like to thank the Christian Education Board and the folks at Bethel for supporting our camping efforts by budgeting a line item for camp scholarships and giving our tithes and offerings to fill that line item. We have spent a little more than what was budgeted, and will probably ask for an increase in that line item for 2016. 11 of those campers are from outside of Bethel, but earned a camp scholarship through our AWANA program. Thank you Commander Josh for encouraging AWANA clubbers to earn a camp scholarship by learning Bible verses and passing sections in their handbook.

Bridal Shower
for Tristan Lombard

Thursday, August 13th, 6:30 PM
at Eleanor Maier’s
1903 Mildred, MQT

If you are interested in giving towards a group gift, contact Sandy at 226-7232 or by email at sissyno3@yahoo.com

Everyday Evangelism (EE)

A new semester will begin on Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at Bethel. It is a twelve-week seminar that meets weekly. Note the day of the event has been switched back to Wednesday evening due to conflicts we encountered so often on Thursdays.

EE is a training ministry to train anyone to be able to witness effectively. Whether you are a teenager or a senior citizen, or anywhere in between, this can become a helpful way for you to learn how to share your faith and share in the thrill of possibly helping others to accept the gift of eternal life. It is one thing that will give you reason to rejoice about throughout all of eternity. For those of you who find it difficult to memorize, we have helps that can facilitate you as you learn to share the Gospel. So don’t let age, weather, or anything stop you from becoming equipped to do this important ministry that Jesus COMMANDED us to do. There are so many out there who still are outside the fold. As Jesus said, The laborers are few.

A word to those of you who have already participated in this ministry, we encourage you to join us again, either as a trainer, assistant trainer, or someone who wishes a refresher course. Everyone is welcome.

For questions, please contact Pastor Brian Oberg or Eleanor Maier. Also please let us know of your intention so adequate supplies can be ordered.

EE BANQUET: scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 10 at 6:00 p.m. at Bethel. Watch for more information in the bulletin and next Bethel Matters. This will be an exciting time of rejoicing and learning of some of the ways EE has been a helpful ministry in our church and a blessing to many. All are welcome whether you have participated in EE or not. Plan to join us and invite someone else to join you.

FALL FEST: COMING UP FAST: -- Monday, August 24 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In the event of rain, it will be held on Tuesday.

In the past, at this event, the Lord has blessed us with helping us obtain the names of about 200 students who indicate that they would be interested or maybe interested in a discussion of the spiritual dimension of their lives. This happens when they are given an opportunity to throw darts to win a can of pop or bottle of water, but before they do, we ask them to fill out a brief questionnaire about their interests in spiritual matters. It has become a tradition for Bethel and the means of providing EE with an abundance of leads that we in a sense have permission to go and visit and usually are able to share the Gospel. During each semester about ten students make professions of faith. Of course a good number of those who sign up are already Christians and it becomes a good way to help encourage them to continue to grow and go to church. Some otherwise just might not do so.

To make this happen we need lots of helpers. No experience necessary. We need helpers to hand out the prizes, pick up darts, hand out literature, talk to students, set up, and clean up, etc. You don’t necessarily have to stay for the whole time. Join us. You will be blessed and be a blessing.
Quarterly Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, August 26th, 1:15 PM

There will be a luncheon after the second service for those that will be attending the quarterly meeting.

Millard’s Care Package Project

Dave and Breanna Millard along with their three little boys are missionaries with Pioneer Bible Translators seeking to translate the Bible into a tribal language that has no scripture. The African country they’re working in has been racked with civil war and violence for over 10 years. Even the new country created to resolve the fighting has seen violence in recent weeks. When the fighting came to their own village the Millards were forced to leave their home and escape to Uganda for safety. While in Uganda their home was looted. Everything except the bunk beds was taken. As a result they have had to purchase clothes and household things to replace what was stolen. This has put an added financial burden on them. They plan to return to their village when it becomes safe again and when they do they face additional expenses to build a secure fence and replace the solar energy system that was stolen. All this adds up to a need of about $12,000. While this need is huge, they are confident in God’s provision. Dave expressed it this way, “There are a lot of ways to help, but we just want to say that people can feel free to do what God has led them to. He is really taking care of us, and we know He will continue to on the road ahead. Thanks for your support and prayers. To God be the glory.”

While in Uganda God has providentially enabled them to continue their language learning process. They met a university student in Uganda from the same tribal language group they are working with. With his help they are continuing their progress of learning the tribal language so they can begin the translation work as soon as possible. This means their time away is not wasted. They are eager to get back so they can once again be immersed in the language and culture of the village but in the meantime they are able to continue making progress toward the ultimate goal of translating the scriptures into the tribal language.

Now is the time for us to come alongside them by praying and giving. Prayer is our wartime walkie-talkie asking our Supreme Commander to send resources to the aid our brothers in need. And as we pray we also have the opportunity to be part of God’s answer to those prayers. Over the next two weeks would you consider giving an extra gift for their financial needs? You can contribute by giving cash or a check made out to Bethel in an envelope marked “Millard’s Care Package”. Please have these gifts in by August 9th.

Thank you,
Jim Ferris