

# BETHEL MATTERS

Volume 22 Issue 6 (June 2016)

Published Monthly By: Bethel Baptist Church

829 Grove Street, Marquette, MI 49855

## Inside This Issue:

Graduation  
Open Houses

AWANA

Vacation Bible  
School

Outdoor Service,  
Baptisms,  
and Picnic  
Information

Discipleship  
Training

### *Suffering and the Christian Life*

As the Tuesday Men's Bible Study has been moving thru the Book of Acts, we came to the conversion of the Apostle Paul in Acts 9. I was struck by Jesus words in v. 16 that *"I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."* Right from the beginning Jesus made it very clear that suffering would be part of God's calling for the Apostle Paul. In the previous verse 15 Paul is called *"a chosen instrument"* to accomplish a very special ministry. And yet that ministry would bring with it from the human side opposition, rejection and suffering.

Down thru the centuries most Christians have expected the same. They have assumed, like Paul that suffering would be a part of the call to follow Jesus and minister for Him. Brother Andrew wrote the best seller *"The Calling"* about his ministry of smuggling Bibles into closed countries. In one incident they were planning to smuggle one million Bibles into China. Meeting with leaders of the Chinese house-church they asked them if they knew what the risks were if they were caught with just a portion of the Bibles by the Chinese authorities. Here is what they said:

All five of us have been in prison for the Lord. All together, we have spent seventy-two years in jail for Jesus. We are willing to die if it means that a million brothers and sisters can have a copy of God's Word. (*The Calling*, pp. 395-96)

Because Chinese Christians are a tiny minority in an atheistic, communist country they live in circumstances similar to the early church. They read about suffering in the Bible and realize immediately that it is a part of following Christ. They know they are living New Testament Christianity. Because we in the West have largely enjoyed the support of a Christianized culture (complete with Blue Laws in the South until recent years), when suffering comes we are surprised by it and may become offended. We have become softer than our Chinese counterparts. How should we balance our view of suffering and the Christian life?

**We should expect suffering rather than be surprised by it.** To believers being persecuted for their faith, Peter writes, *"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you,"* 1 Peter 4:12. Charles Spurgeon once said, *"God has one Son without sin; He has no sons without suffering."* Even the sinless Son of God had to suffer to qualify to be our Savior and Great High Priest. If that was true of Jesus, then we must understand that suffering is the way that God prepares His children for glory. None of us can avoid the painful process that God uses to perfect us.

**We must understand that suffering comes in different ways.** In Luke 9:23-26 Jesus said it would involve self-denial and bearing shame. Self-denial includes the willingness to give up our own rights to a comfortable life and bear whatever trial God allows to come our way. Illness, death, wayward family members, financial loss are just some of the sufferings in this category. Bearing shame obviously has to do with the suffering of ostracism and rejection by the world. Chinese believers are more familiar with that while we face it on a much smaller scale. Why should we accept this? Jesus said He will come *"in His glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels,"* Luke 9:26. We are being prepared to share that glory. It will be worth it.

Your friend, pressing on,  
Pastor Brian (-:}).

**From the Family Life Pastor:**

**Various thoughts:**

As I write this, it is Monday morning, the day after our “Youth Sunday”. Yesterday’s service was very well planned and demonstrated in practical ways the blessing of having so many young people in the body who are gifted and talented in many different ways. Last night at our small group meeting person after person commented on what a blessing the service had been. Thank you to all of you who planned, participated in, and worked so hard to make this service the blessing that it was to all of us who were in attendance!

Part of the service was recognition of the graduating seniors. We have ten (10) young people from our church who are graduating this year. I could be wrong, but I think that this is the largest graduating class from our church that I can ever remember.

The “messages” that were shared by Miles Bagley, Ryan Salo & Elise Wixtrom were very well done and very challenging. All the musicians, singers, readers and actors did an outstanding job! We were truly blessed.

I also want to thank those who were behind the scenes helping with the planning and those who put together the great “biker” play. Dan Nelson and his leadership team did a great job!

Whenever I think of the verses from Luke 10 dealing with who is my neighbor again: *In reply to the question “who is my neighbor”? Jesus said ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw the him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan (biker), as he traveled, came to the place and saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. The he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’* It was interesting that all the people who took part were people we can identify with, and the actions are sometimes all too familiar. I know that there are times when I look at how someone look on the outside and judge them. This was a great reminder and excellent visual of scripture.

**On a different note:**

Our small group, that meets at the Anderson’s house concluded our meetings last night with a wonderful time of fellowship. I am so grateful to belong to such a wonderful group of folks who love to come together and study God’s Word and fellowship together! I hope that all of the small groups are finishing strong, and that we will have several more small groups next year!

Our ABFs have been functioning very well, and I am so thankful to all those who stepped up to give leadership and be willing to teach. I know that Sandy Thomsen does a great job of getting the Primetimers together for times of fellowship and they are truly blessed by that.

The group that I teach is so blessed to have Dave Dahlstrom who plans several activities and makes sure that all of the “Halftimers” are invited to participate and be blessed and encouraged.

If you are not part of an Adult Bible Fellowship (ABF), I would encourage you to check one out.

I am also very thankful for our wonderful staff here at Bethel. First of all, Pastor Brian is a wonderful preacher and teacher, and we are blessed to have a man who “*rightly divides the Word of Truth*” – the Bible for us week in and week out. We are also blessed with our new Director of Youth Ministries and Discipleship, Chris Mauser. Chris is working at developing young healthy Christ Followers. Our director of Music, Julie Motta does an excellent job week after week, making sure that our music is God centered. Our Director of Children’s ministry, Becky Nelson has a huge responsibility & does it with excellence. Rick Pawley directs our senior ministries. He and his wife, Cindy make many calls & visits to our seniors. We are blessed in the office with Ann & Ellen as well! Thanks to you all!

God Bless you  
Pastor Hank

\* \* \* \* \*

Discipleship Training

Summer is here and Bethel’s discipleship program is underway with the Antioch School’s First Principles Series! For more information on how you can be involved in future classes, please contact Chris Mauser via email at [christophermauser@gmail.com](mailto:christophermauser@gmail.com)

## Youth Events & Activities

### Junior High Youth Group

6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions: contact Jon or Julie Motta

### Senior High Youth Group

9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions: contact Dan or Becky Nelson

Chris Mauser, Director of Youth Ministries

330-550-0141

[christopher.mauser@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.mauser@gmail.com)

\* \* \* \* \*

## Prayer Chain & Official Notices

[bethelemail@gmail.com](mailto: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 July Issue  
of Bethel Matters  
are due in the office  
by Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**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](http://www.bethelmarquette.com)

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

## Happy June Birthday/Anniversary to:

1. Ray Hedberg, Kenn & Tracy Hruska (A)
3. Jim Timmons, Edith Jentoft
4. Hannah Riesland, Eric Jentoft
5. Lynn & Irmgard Miller (A)
8. Dick & Montie Motta (A)
9. Eleanor Maier
10. Julie Motta
12. Cori Steede, Ethan Lingle, Dave & Alma Thomas (A)
14. Irene Janofski
17. Don Wernholm
18. Marj Brown
20. Ann Steede, Matt Nelson, Bob & Alice Nelson-A
21. Matthew & Laura Songer (A)
22. Matt Tireman, Dave & Irma Powers, Bill & Sarah Johnson (A)
25. James Glover
26. Bill Johnson, Dan & Laurie Short (A), Dennis & Judy Caldwell (A)
27. Ed & Carolyn Deyo (A)
28. Pastor Hank & Ann Steede
29. Jim & Gwen Timmons
30. Raylee Perko

If your information is missing from the above list, please contact Ann in the church office.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Congratulations to:

**Olivia Erickson** on being selected to read her Young Authors Book to NMU President Fritz Erickson.

**Seth & Beth Wixtrom** on the May 18<sup>th</sup> birth of their son, Austin Michael. He weighed in at 9 lbs 10 ozs and was 21 inches long.

**Noah Roberts and Ryan Salo** for being co-valedictorians at NorthStar Academy.

**Madi Kytta, Abby Nelson, Laura Norton, Jay Oberg, Hannah Riesland, Noah Roberts, Ryan Salo, Sam Salo, Noah Shevy, and Adam Smith,** our 2016 High School Graduates.

**Patti Lingle** on her graduation from Northern Michigan University.

**Rob Hanson** on his promotion to the rank of Corporal with the Marquette City Police Department and on his selection as Officer of the Year amongst all of the departments.

**Jim & Jane Noe** on the May 5<sup>th</sup> birth of a granddaughter, Eleanor Hope Noe, born to their son Robert & Erica. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 10 ozs and was 21 inches long.

### In Sympathy to:

**Bruce & Pam Roberts** on the recent death of Bruce's grandma, Millie Roberts.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Bible Studies

### For Men

**Tuesdays, 6:30 AM, Coachlight Restaurant**  
Questions: contact Pastor Hank 228-7589

### For Women

The Tuesday evening and Thursday morning studies will begin again in the Fall.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Adult Bible Fellowships

Sundays at 10 AM

**Group #1 College - 29 years old**  
Meets in Room #1 in Family Life Center  
Topical Studies

**Group #2 Ages 30-42**  
Meets in Room #2 in Family Life Center  
Studying the book of James

**Group #3 Ages 43-55**  
Meets in Room #6 in Family Life Center  
Studying "Feasts of the Bible"

**Group #4 Ages 56-69**  
Meets in Room #3 in Family Life Center  
Studying the book of Ephesians

**Group #5 Ages 70+**  
Meets in the Wheat Room  
Studying "Growing Older & Wiser"

**Newcomers Class**  
Meets in the Church Library

## AWANA News

Thank you to each one that volunteered to work in any capacity in AWANA this past club year. We couldn't have done it without each of you. AWANA will begin again in mid September.

\*\*\*\*\*

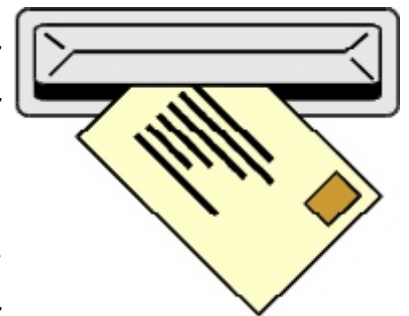
## Bible Camp Information

If you have a child/youth attending summer Bible camp this year and has earned a scholarship, please contact Ann or Ellen in the church office at least one week before they head to camp so that their scholarship money can be sent to the either Lake Ellen Camp, UP Bible Camp, or Lake Lundgren Bible Camp.



\*\*\*\*\*

If you consider Bethel your home church, please periodically check your family mailbox in the church library. If you don't have one, please let Ann know in the church office.



Vacation Bible School  
June 20-24



**Graduation Open  
Houses**

The Bethel Family is invited to these Open Houses:

**Laura Norton**

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM - 12 Noon  
at Bethel

**Noah Roberts**

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 12 Noon - 3 PM  
at 16 Stephen Lee Lane, Harvey

**Abby Nelson**

May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2 - 5 PM  
at Bethel

**Adam Smith**

May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1 - 4 PM  
at Lost Creek Community Building

**Jay Oberg**

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 - 8 PM  
at Bethel

**Hannah Riesland**

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1 - 4 PM  
at Bethel

**Madi Kytta**

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2 - 5 PM  
at 455 Bishop Woods, Marquette

\*\*\*\*\*

**From the Mailbox:**



Dear Bethel,

Thank you for the beautiful plant given to our family in memory of our Mother, Helen Ray. We appreciate your kindness and the many expressions of sympathy shared with us. A big thank you to all who helped with the memorial service and a special thanks to my friends who organized and served the lunch.

Jan Brondyke

Needed Decor Items:

- green & blue crepe paper
- blue plastic tablecloths
- pool noodles

Needed Craft Items:

- multicolored cupcake liners
- solid color and plain white paper plates
- craft jewels
- tacky glue
- sea shells
- hot glue sticks - both sizes
- large googly eyes
- pony eyes
- masking tape
- baby wipes
- glue sticks

**Check the sign up sheets on the VBS table!**

**Needed Volunteers:**

- small group leaders & helpers
- craft leaders & helpers
- games helpers
- music helpers
- clean up crew (Friday around noon)

**Registration:**

Online at:  
[answersvbs.com/vbs/BBCMOTVBS2016/](http://answersvbs.com/vbs/BBCMOTVBS2016/)

By Phone at:  
906-228-7589

\*\*\*\*\*

# Outdoor Service, Baptisms, & Picnic

Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> - Presque Isle

Service at 10 AM  
Band Shell



Baptisms at 11:30 AM  
Lake Superior

**Picnic to follow - Pavillion**  
(this year, no one will be able to eat until after the baptisms)

**Please bring:**  
last names A-K a dessert  
last names L-Z a large salad  
lawn chair

**Meat, buns, & beverages will be provided.**

