

The Maranatha Village Trumpet



"The Lord Cometh!"

April – June 2019

Volume XXXIII 2

Satellite View of FL DOC - Avon Park Correctional Institution

Maranatha's Ministry To Prisoners!



The Avon Park Correctional Institution is located some 10 miles east of Avon Park on Highway 64. The area is shared by a bombing range known as Avon Park Air Force Range.

The prison Mission Statement reads as follows: ***"Avon Park Correctional Institution supports and enforces the De-***

partment's mission to protect the public safety, to ensure the safety of Department personnel, and to provide proper care and supervision of all offenders under our jurisdiction while assisting, as appropriate, their re-entry into society."

The overall prison population is approximately sixteen hundred inmates plus some five hundred security staff. The so-called "Religious Programs" include a variety of organizations, most of which present little or no Gospel.

Some twenty or so years ago, two men from Maranatha began holding Bible studies in both sections of the prison: the Main Unit and the Work Camp. Gradually other volunteers got involved. Several of these were Don Bond, Jerry Vornholt, and Bruce Hendsbee. Presently active participants include: Al Anger, Barry Byrne, Angel Gonzalez, Bruce Hendsbee, Ray Jensen, Jerry Johnson, Paul Kintner, Jim O'Keefe, and Gil Seddon. They serve under the team name, "Maranatha Ministries."

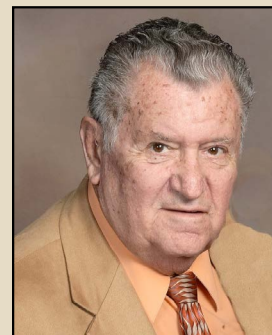
These outreaches include Sunday preaching and teaching, weekday Bible studies, witnessing, counseling, and some visual presentations.

The overall goal of the Maranatha prison ministry is to lead the inmates to Christ, followed by discipling work and teaching them how to witness to other inmates. Amazingly, in the Work Camp, one hundred or more inmates are witnessing and holding services and Bible studies on their own.

Inmates are encouraged, upon their release, to get involved in a Gospel-preaching church as soon as possible. They are strongly admonished to make new friends wisely, stay away from drugs, alcohol, and immoral relations, and remain involved with their church.

Only eternity will reveal the final results. The Psalmist says, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

Those who are able to participate in this ministry are thankful for the opportunity to serve the Lord in this manner. It has been a tremendous joy and a time of rejoicing to have seen the Lord work in some of these men's lives.

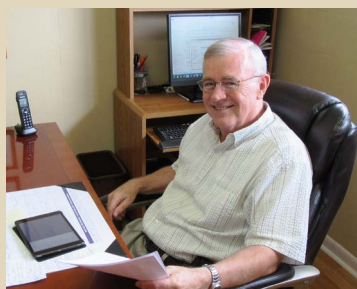


Rev. Gil Seddon



DOLLARS & SENSE, A Reprise

Dr. Gerald Webber



Jerry

Note: If this were a musical composition, it would be called a reprise (a return to the first theme or subject.) It's essentially an update of my Administrator's Perspective column in the October 2016 edition of the Trumpet. It bears repeating.

Did you know that Maranatha Village has no source of income other than what is provided by its residents and guests? In a former life, my primary appeal for support was to those outside the mission family who believed in our ministry and helped pay the bills. In my present capacity, such appeals would be wasted effort. I could extend a public plea for people to underwrite our payroll, pave our roads, replace our roofs, repair our water and sewer lines, pay our cable and power bills, mow our lawns and common areas, replace carpets and floor coverings, paint our buildings, and contribute to our insurance costs. I could do that—but it would be an exercise in futility!

You see, folks out there have no “skin in the game.” Residency in Maranatha Village is a “user pays” proposition. You and I—whether as 1) owners of manufactured homes; or 2) occupants of one of our villas—You and I are the stake-holders who derive the benefits and thus bear the burden of keeping Maranatha Village viable. Here's a reminder of how it happens.

To initiate the “Life Lease” process, one remits an “Acquisition Fee” which provides funds for preserving and improving buildings and grounds. The transaction is completed upon taking occupancy, when an Occupancy Bond is secured, the proceeds of which go into an investment account. Years ago, when interest rates were high, income from those investments

provided revenue for current expenses. In today's economy, the picture has changed (providing the rationale for the adjusted ratio between the acquisition fee and the occupancy bond.) Although not technically a restricted fund, this account is rarely tapped except for emergencies or repayment of bonds upon the departure or death of the bondholder.

Additionally, we pay monthly maintenance fees. It's easy to forget all the expenses those fees cover: basic cable, water/sewer, garbage and recycling, lawn-mowing, maintenance and lighting of common areas, property and liability insurance, road maintenance, use of park facilities and lakes, swimming pool and spa, etc.. All these benefits and more are applicable to all residents, including those in personally-owned mobile homes.

Additionally, villa residents enjoy extensive maintenance of their units. Many of our neighbors have been homeowners and appreciate the fact that they will never again replace a roof, repair termite or pest damage, fix or replace a faulty A/C unit, or pay the “full shot” for new floor covering or major appliance replacement. Why? Because these things are paid for, entirely or in part, by our maintenance fees.

Here's the bottom line: we're in this thing together—for better, for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health—and more often than not, “'til death do us part.” I don't want to stretch the marriage metaphor too far, but it is a “union” of sorts, a blending of lives in a close-knit environment, sharing the benefits and accepting the challenges. I'm delighted to be part of it. I trust you are too.

Avon Park Correctional Institution

Rev. Al Anger



Al

Maranatha Baptist Church has been given a tremendous opportunity of ministering to the men incarcerated in the Avon Park Correctional Institution. Our volunteers minister to the prisoners through visits, Bible studies, periodically preaching in their chapel services, counseling, encouraging and praying with them.

It is good when the Christian inmates find encouragement from one another. One of the prisoners, Wayne, prayed one morning that he would be able to find another Christian with whom he could partner in prayer. Later that morning as he was walking in the prison exercise yard, he saw another inmate with a sign which read, "Would you like me to pray with you?" Wayne and Frank got together and have been Christian friends ever since. They both were transferred to Avon Prison at the same time and have been faithful in attending the Sunday morning Bible studies ever since.

At present, we have seven men who go out to the prison each week. On Sunday, Paul Kintner and Angel Gonzalez teach a Hispanic Bible study while Al Anger teaches an English Bible study in another room. Two Sundays a month, one of them preaches in the chapel service, attended by about 50-75 men. We always rejoice when someone responds to the invitation to receive Christ as their Savior.

The ministry at the Work Camp (which is a separate area of the prison) consists of a Sunday night Chapel service where Jerry Johnson preaches once a month and Ray Jensen taught a Bible study on Tuesday mornings. Jim O'Keefe, who has a doctorate in psychology and has worked in prisons in the North as a counselor, teaches a Bible study on Thursday mornings. Gil Seddon shows a Christian Video on Friday mornings and counsels with men who desire to talk and pray with him.

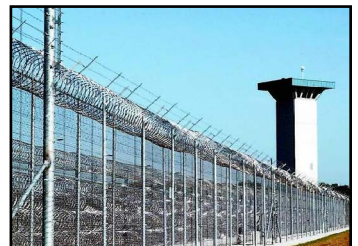
The inmates have many needs, including the obvious spiritual ones: loneliness, separation from family and friends, concern for their wives and children and

their problems, as well as the feeling of helplessness concerning what their families are suffering. Their children are growing up without their father, and usually without any spiritual guidance. Many of the families face financial difficulties, and some also have drug related problems.

We need more men to volunteer for this outreach in the prison, especially during the summer. It is a very rewarding ministry, and the inmates really appreciate the time we give to them. One does not have to be a pastor or have a seminary degree; all that is really needed is a genuine love for the Lord, love for souls, and a willingness to serve. The inmates participate in the Bible studies by asking questions, and engaging in discussions. In chapel services, some of them play instruments and lead in the singing of praises to the Lord. Many of the born-again men witness to unsaved inmates and invite them out to Bible studies and chapel services.

Some of the prisoners in the work camp have started their own "church behind bars." One of the men was chosen as their preacher and others as a counseling and praying body (somewhat like a deacon board). They pool some of their meager finances in order to provide toiletries (soap, toothpaste, etc.) for men who have no money given to them by family or friends. Recently this "church behind bars" has set aside a couple of weeks for prayer and fasting for the spiritual needs of other inmates.

It is always an exciting time when an inmate's time in prison is up. The prison system provides classes for these men, helping to prepare them for civilian life from a secular point of view. We try to encourage them to find and faithfully attend a good Bible-preaching and teaching church, and when possible, direct them to one. We also encourage them to have daily time with the Lord in Bible reading, studying, and prayer.



New Village Residents

LeRoy and Deanna Porter



LeRoy & Deanna

We would like to preface our testimony by saying that we are so thankful for the Lord's leading in our lives. His leading us to Maranatha Village and church has been a wonderful illustration of His providence.

Deanna was born in Stanberry, Missouri, to unbelieving parents; however, her mother did take her to a Baptist church occasionally. At the age of six or seven, she received Christ as her Savior while her Sunday school teacher dealt with her and her sister. She was baptized approximately a year later. In 1951, at the age of eleven, her family moved to Ogallala, Nebraska, where she began attending and later joined the Berean Fundamental Church. During the next six years, while faithfully serving in the church, teaching in Backyard Bible Clubs, and counseling in summer camp, she felt the Lord leading her to enroll in Bible college. After graduating from high school, she became a student at Grace Bible Institute in Omaha, Nebraska.

I grew up on a farm near Winterset, Iowa, with four brothers and four sisters. My parents were saved when I was a baby. They became part of a local church and began living for the Lord and having family devotions. Early in life, I became very much aware that I was a sinner and needed to be saved. Subsequently, I asked Jesus into my heart.

At age eleven, I dedicated my life to the Lord and was later baptized. My parents encouraged all of us children to plan to go to Bible college after we graduated from high school, not only to get a Christian education, but also to allow us to find good, Christian mates. It was at Grace Bible Institute in Omaha, Nebraska, that I met Deanna, and we were married after my senior year. I then transferred to Bob Jones University, but Uncle Sam had different plans, and I was drafted into the army where I served as chaplain's assistant for two years. After my release from service, we returned to Greenville, South Carolina, to continue my studies at Bob Jones University. Deanna worked on staff and took classes toward a degree in elementary education. I received a BS degree in music education in the spring of 1968. We sensed the

Lord's leading into Christian education and soon received an invitation to join the staff at Calvary College, a newly formed Bible college in eastern Kentucky. My position was director of music and instructor in English, later adding the duties of college registrar. We were then called to the Calvary Baptist Church in Meadville, Pennsylvania, where I served as minister of music in the church and as principal and teacher in the academy. Our next move was to Saginaw, Michigan, where I joined the ministry of Grace Baptist Church as minister of music and principal of the school. While in the service, I had been stationed at Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs, Colorado, so we were excited when we received the call to Faith Baptist Church in Longmont as minister of music in the church and teacher of music and English in the school. Several years later, we moved back to Greenville so that our daughters could get their college education at Bob Jones University. While there, we were active in Faith Baptist Church in Taylors, South Carolina. Each of our three girls graduated from the university, and all of them met their future husbands there. All of our children and seventeen grandchildren have been saved and are serving the Lord. We thank the Lord for His goodness.

Eventually, we moved to Wisconsin where our two oldest daughters and husbands were serving at Falls Baptist Church in Menomonee Falls. They both were expecting their first child, and we wanted to be close to them. While there, we became involved in the music program and taught in the adult Sunday school department. After several years and ten grandchildren, we decided it was time to look for a place to retire. Deanna's sister and husband lived in Paducah, Kentucky, and told us about a three-acre mini farm with a fixer-up house near them that was to be auctioned. Our brother-in-law won the bid and bought the property, and we moved to Kentucky once again. A short time after joining the Rickman Road Missionary Baptist Church, the choir director left, and I was asked to take the position. Even though totally remodeling a house and directing a choir were not items on my retirement list, we had a wonderful seventeen years there. When I was facing my eightieth birthday, it was time to talk about retirement again. Yes, Maranatha Village! We have now officially become full time residents living at 55 Daniel. We particularly want to thank the Lord for bringing us here to this wonderful place!



Cook's Korner

One Hundred Dollar Cake

1 cup sugar
2 cups flour
4 Tbls. cocoa
2 tsp. baking soda
pinch of salt
Stir together dry ingredients in large bowl
Add: 1 cup mayonnaise
1 cup water
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix well

Pour into a greased 9" x 13" pan or 2 9" pans
Bake 350° for 25-30 min.

White Fluffy Frosting

3/4 cup sugar
1 egg white
1/4 tsp. cream of tartar
Put in a bowl and add 1/3 cup boiling water.
Beat at once with mixer until good peaks form.
(This is not good in humid weather)

Annie Waldron

Raw Apple Cake

1 cup sugar	2 1/2 cups flour
1 cup brown sugar	1 tsp. baking soda
1/3 cup oil	1 tsp. baking powder
2 eggs	1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup milk	1 tsp. cinnamon
2 cups apples (chopped fine)	

Cream sugar, brown sugar, oil and eggs in a large mixing bowl.
In a small bowl stir together dry ingredients.
Add the dry ingredients and milk alternately to the mixture in large bowl. Stir together (don't use mixer). Stir in apples.
Pour into a greased 9" x 13" pan.

Topping: (Mix together)
4 tablespoons brown sugar
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 cup chopped walnuts (nuts are optional)

Sprinkle sugar topping over cake.
Bake until tooth pick comes out clean.
Serve warm with fresh whipped cream.

Bake 350° for 40-45 minutes

Annie Waldron

Refrigerator Cookies

1 cup shortening
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 eggs

Mix thoroughly.

Add: 2 3/4 cups sifted flour

1/2 teaspoon soda

1 teaspoon salt

1 cup chopped nuts

1 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Mix well, shape into rolls, wrap and chill.

Remove wrap - cut into 1/4 inch slices

Bake on ungreased cookie sheet for 8 to 10 minutes
until lightly browned

350 degrees

Yield 5 dozen.

Sharon VanNatter



“How Yah Doing?”

Rev. Jerry Johnson,
Maranatha Village Financial Manager



Jerry Johnson

“How yah doing?” We hear that question asked often around the Village. At our age that could elicit an “organ recital” for an answer. The question for this column is “How’s the Village doing financially?” I offer no organ recital, but I can give an informed response.

When asked by the Village Board to write an article for the Trumpet, explaining the financial condition of the Village, I struggled with the best way to do so. Financial statements can be confusing, especially if you aren’t trained to read and understand balance sheets or profit & loss statements. (However, if you want to see these documents, stop in to see me, and plan for 30-45 minutes). I had an elementary analysis instructor in college who repeatedly told us that financial statements would confuse more than enlighten the average person; therefore, when giving financial information to the public, we should always talk in everyday, plain language. So, I will seek to answer the question, “How is the Village doing financially?” in that manner. The short answer is, “Just fine,” and the longer answer is, “Fine, but we mustn’t get too cocky.”

By the grace of God, the Village has no debt and is making ends meet without serious difficulty. While we are running in the black, we must always seek His wisdom in our efforts to be good stewards of His resources. Besides His grace, God is using three elements to allow us to be healthy and financially sound. While in no particular order, all three are essential to good financial health.

1. Volunteers

The Village was raised up on the backs of serious, committed volunteers, and is still dependent on volunteers to support the work of the Village. John Olson, Coordinator for Village Volunteers, fills a valuable role in Village affairs as he seeks to recruit, organize, and direct our volunteers. Without their efforts in a variety of jobs around the Village, much would either

not get done, or we’d have to pay others to do the work. Pennies quickly add up to dollars.

2. Donations

When Hurricane Irma visited our Village in September of 2017, it left behind much work to be done. Volunteers did step up, and much was accomplished. Many also gave donations to help offset increased costs. We received over \$29,000; about \$20,000 of it from individuals burdened to help us with the clean-up and repairs. Without those donations, we would have been hard pressed to cover the costs. Just as important, throughout the year, donors give generously into the General Fund to have their monies used wherever needed.

Our hot dog roasts and other Village activities help cover the costs for the pool and other facilities and services. There are no charges, for instance for use of the pool, the Disc Golf Course, the fishing ponds, park facilities, or the Craft Cottage. However, each of these items costs to maintain. Again, pennies do add up to dollars.

3. Change in funding structure for Villas

For many years, the funding structure for purchasing a life lease for a Villa was 75/25: 75% of the cost went into an Occupancy Bond kept in escrow for the lease holder, and 25% went to Village overhead and infrastructure. The Board, on the recommendation of Village Administration, voted, as of January 2017, to change the percentages to a 50/50 split. Without that change, the financial picture would be much different.

Our maintenance fees fall short of covering actual operating expenses. A study done in 2016 determined that, to cover all operating expenses without raising acquisition fees, maintenance fees would have to increase by as much as 30%, effectively raising the current average fee of about \$340 by over \$100 per month, and the fees for mobile homes to nearly \$300.

The Village was founded to enable full-time Christian workers to retire to a place they could afford.

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Pastor, I've Spent 27 Years In Prison!



Avon Park

Correctional Institution

A prisoner told me: “Pastor, I’m 50 years old and have spent 27 of those 50 years in prison. I’ve been released, rearrested, and resentenced several times. The last time was the best thing that ever happened in my life – I got saved. Now I need someone to teach me God’s truth from God’s Word.”

No prisoner needs to be taught his brokenness; these men recognize that only too well. They do want and need to know how to live in a way that honors their Savior. They have been con-men all their lives, and they will not settle for pat answers, platitudes, and

proof texts. They demand truth and integrity from you, the chaplain – and from themselves. These they have seen precious little of in their lives to this point.

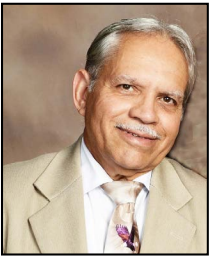
Another man showed me a picture of his 7-year-old daughter, now being raised by his mother. He’s never seen her in person nor she him. He got saved in prison and is due to be released in 14 months. He wants to know how to be the godly father the Bible talks about.

If you want to genuinely impact this dark world for Christ, even at our age, you can do it! These incarcerated men are hungering and thirsting for righteousness, and you can be the one God uses to “fill them.” Become a volunteer chaplain at the Avon Park Correctional Institution and see the ways that God’s grace still performs miracles.

Rev. Jerry Johnson

Prison Ministry

Angel Gonzales



Angel

I have been asked to share about our prison ministry. I have been busy in ministry in the past, and I wanted to be active for my dear Lord Jesus Christ here at Maranatha. The prison ministry seemed to be fruitful, so I asked Rev. Gil Seddon if I might go with him, which I did in September 2018. Brother Seddon made arrangements so that I might join him regularly at the Avon Park Prison on Friday mornings.

It has been a blessing for me because I must study and prepare. I also earnestly pray and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as I counsel and teach Bible lessons to the Spanish-speaking prisoners. I am now a partner with Brother Paul Kintner in the Spanish Prison ministry on Sunday mornings. We teach a Bible lesson and deal with prisoners individually. We are able to lead some of these to faith in our Lord Jesus. We minister joyfully for our Lord on Friday mornings as well as Sunday mornings. I thank my dear Lord Jesus Christ for our Maranatha prison ministry.

“How Yah Doing?”

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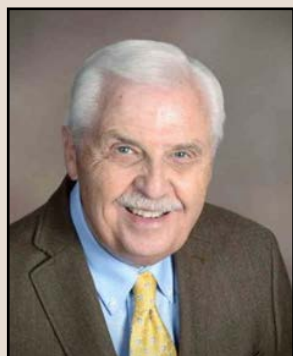
Many missionaries and small church pastors had no retirement and could not afford to retire. While that situation has altered somewhat, and retiring Christian workers typically have more retirement resources, there are still a number of residents who, without Maranatha Village, would have to live with family or in government-subsidized housing, if such were even available. We are keenly aware of that situation and are doing everything in our power to keep the Village

affordable for those who have dedicated their entire lives to ministering for Christ and now need a place to serve, rest and retire.

So now for the “bottom line.” “How’s the Village doing financially?” The Village today is financially healthy and rejoicing in the generosity of our great God. We all need to be thankful, prayerful, and committed to those practices that God has used and continues to use to care for Maranatha Village.



Progress and Blessing at Maranatha!



Gerry

At the January Village Board Meeting, retiring board member Russ Hull brought a thoughtful devotional reminiscing about many blessings at Maranatha Village during his long tenure on the board. Hearing him recite just some of the good things the Lord has done during recent years was a joy. God has been so

good to our Village. Here is the list that he shared with the board, with some additions after he reflected further on God's goodness.

- Disc Golf Course
- Good Life Dog Park
- Fogle Pavilion with picnic tables
- Area for outdoor picnics and events with fire-pit
- Lillian Doane Walking Trail
- Roads repaved at a cost of over \$100,000
- Purchase of 10+ additional acres of adjacent land
- Eleven hole golf course
- Four tractors with mowers
- Completely remodeled offices
- Painting of villas over the past ten years that has brought color to the Village.
- Two air-conditioned storage buildings for use by the residents
- God's protection during two major hurricanes (2004 & 2017)
- Roofs of villas replaced with metal roofing
- A new computerized information sign coming soon – in 2019
- Board of Directors minutes and information now being stored electronically
- Refurbished Hi-Lift acquired for trimming trees and other maintenance activities

These are just some of the tangible blessings that we can list on paper. All of these additions and improvements to the campus have been fully paid for or implemented by volunteer labor donated by residents and visitors alike. Many other blessings have been experienced in lives and recorded in heavenly places. It is amazing how God has brought new residents and guests over the years, which likewise bring their talents and gifts to build and strengthen our Village.

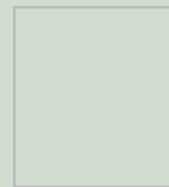
The Lord continues to preserve, prosper and bless Maranatha Village, but we also owe much to those who have gone before us. They invested time, sweat, and considerable money in this ministry – this place that God has raised up for us to enjoy today. Would you consider a gift to the New Horizons Fund to help in the effort to continue this blessed ministry until the Lord comes? Maranatha!

Dr. Gerry Carlson, Director
Marketing and Development

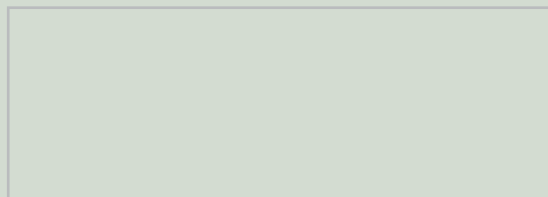


Maranatha Village

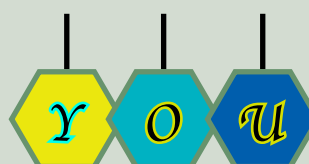
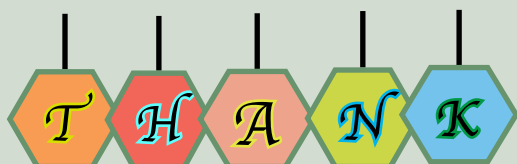
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*"Believe on the
Lord Jesus Christ
and you will be saved."*



WOW! — GREAT DRIVE — MARANATHA VILLAGE



Blood Donor Honor Roll

*Thank you for participating in the blood drive at
Maranatha Village on Wednesday, March 6, 2019*

*Kerr, Beth
Peacock, Douglas
Thorp, Jeanette
Shreckengost, Larry
Taylor, Mary
Cornell, Sandra
Ingerson, Vincent*

*Holland, Darren
Coyle, Ilene
Thorp, John
Byers, Linda
Huff, Samuel
Little, Teresa
Edwards, Virginia*

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Maranatha Village on Wednesday, December 12, 2018.

*Hendsbee, Bruce
Abrams, Dorla
Shreckengost, Larry
Huff, Samuel*

*Doughman, Dennis F
Peacock, Douglas
Hefflebower, Marilyn
Mohr, Stanley*