

The Maranatha Village Trumpet



October – December 2019

Volume XXXIII 4

Succession

Dr. Jerry Webber, Village Administrator



Jerry

Other than our immortal souls, not much on this earth can be considered permanent. I was reminded of this during a recent meeting of mission agencies I was invited to attend (Fellowship of Missions.) It

was noted that, out of the twenty or so organizations represented, six of them would soon see the retirement of their chief executive officer. Several are already actively involved in a succession process.

Here at Maranatha, we are not immune to change. One of those changes recently occurred, when after fifteen years and eight months of faithful service, Steve Milligan, Operations Manager of Maranatha's maintenance department, passed the baton of leadership to his successor, Bill Katka.

Steve was fêted at the September village dinner, where he was presented with a commemorative plaque, the proverbial gold watch, and a check expressing gratitude for all he has meant to our residential community during this decade and a half.

Steve and Carol came to Maranatha in November 2003 from Naples FL, where he had served as Operations Manager for 1st Baptist Church and Aston Gardens Senior Living Community. Steve had a rich and varied



Steve & Carol

career, working at various periods as a youth director, Word of Life representative, camp director, as well as a Sheriff's patrol officer, park policeman, and Assistant Chief Fire Marshal. While in Sebring, he worked closely with the local Emergency Operations Center, and gave direction

to our own Emergency Management Team, protecting us from damage and danger during hurricane threats.

Even at 81 years of age, some of his family was surprised that he actually retired. They are all happy for him, however. His son sums up their feelings when he says in a tribute, "No matter what he decides to do we want him to know how proud we are of him, his commitment to the Lord and our family."

Steve's successor comes to us from Dublin, New Hampshire, where he and wife Ellen taught at Dublin Christian Academy for some thirty-five years. During much of that time, Bill also worked as maintenance supervisor at the Lake Club, an exclusive residential community on beautiful Lake Dublin. His leadership ability and acquired skills made him an outstanding candidate for Maranatha's new Operations Manager. He has quickly earned the respect of his maintenance staff and is endearing himself to the community with his cheerful servant spirit.

The Milligans and the Katkas are part of an unbroken chain of men and women whose service for the Lord have made Maranatha a great place to live!

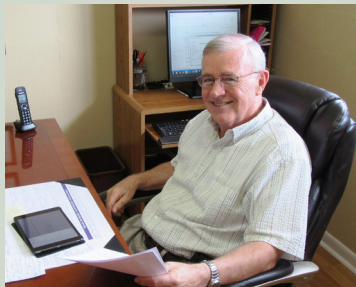


Bill Katka

The Administrator's Perspective!

Synergy

Dr. Gerald Webber, Village Administrator



Jerry

Synergy...there's a word you don't hear every day. And yet, it's a good word, and describes relationships between the several entities at Maranatha Village to a "T."

The Oxford Dictionary has one of the best technical definitions of synergy, describing it as ***"the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects."***

Question: What does that have to do with Maranatha Village? Answer: almost everything.

I am humbly grateful for my unique vantage point. For nearly nine years I served as Pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church. In that role, I was also involved in the operational aspects of Maranatha Manor. And now, for coming up on four years, I have been privileged to be Administrator of Maranatha Village.

From that vantage point I can see, up close and personal, a strikingly clear example of synergy: ***"the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations...to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects."***

Maranatha Village is a happy blend of the qualities of three distinct but interrelated organizations: Maranatha Baptist Church, Maranatha Manor and Maranatha Village. None would be quite the same without the existence of the other two.

While the church might not be here had the village not been founded, it's impossible to exaggerate its importance today. The world could

probably do without another retirement village, but the church is the pillar and ground of the truth and serves as the spiritual rudder for community life. There are other fine churches ministering to the greater Sebring area, but Maranatha's worship services, prayer meetings, Bible conferences, missionary emphases and musical events cast a lengthy shadow over the lives of our residents, guests and beyond.

Maranatha Manor, a ministry of the church, provides a happy and wholesome environment for seniors no longer able or wanting to live independently. Its very existence provides residents with assurance that, when the time comes that they can no longer adequately care for themselves, there is a place to go without leaving friends and neighbors behind and moving into a strange environment. It would be interesting to know how many folks have come to live here for that very reason.

Although it provides a congenial home for both of these entities, Maranatha Village could probably exist without either. For that matter, either of these entities might be viable without Maranatha Village. But let's face it: each is better for that which the others contribute to the relationship. That's what synergy is all about. Together, the three are enabled to ***"produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects."***

If there is a moral to all of this, perhaps it's that we should each appreciate the others in a greater way, as we work together for the glory of God. We do well to remember that ***"the whole is greater than the sum of its parts."***

New Village Residents

Art & Regina Maxwell



Regina & Art

We live at 7 Matthew Street here in the Village, having been here four months and blessed beyond measure.

We heard about Maranatha Village from Pastor Reid and Bev Kitchen, who have lived here for over 6 years.

They joined us on a mission trip to India several years ago. We visited Maranatha Village in December 2018, and God opened all the doors for us to move here.

Art trusted Christ as his Savior at the age of six, after attending VBS. His dad, a Baptist pastor, and his mom led him to the Lord. Gina trusted Christ as her Savior at age sixteen; her twin sister led her to Christ at a church camp. God has brought us through some refining fires, but has never let go of our hands. He is so faithful.

In August 1991, we were called to our ministry as Mission Coordinator and Orphan Coordinator to Haiti with Independent Gospel Mission, a baptist mission Agency. It was the first such position created in the agency. Within the Haiti ministry, a total of 20 national pastors were established and the orphan ministry grew to 350 children. The Lord allowed this ministry opportunity by using an early buyout offer from Eastman Kodak Company where Art had worked for twenty-six and a half years. Regina was Sales and Marketing Director for the Rochester Convention Center in Rochester, New York, before our call. Our ministry to Haiti was expanded to include Jamaica, the Bahamas, and Grenada after the embargo took place in Haiti. We then became focused on the island of Jamaica. The Lord enabled the work to grow from one national pastor to fifteen national pastors. During this time we also took in many short-term mission teams, ranging from: building, evangelism, medical and dental work, VBS, and training schools for the national pastors. In January 1999, Art felt the call of the Lord on his heart to India. During October of that year, he took a survey trip with the director of the agency. When God supplied three

couples to take over Jamaica, Grenada, and Haiti, our call to India was confirmed. We made our first trip in January 2000. As we began our ministry in India, the national pastors' core group provided a basis for us to take in mission teams, two to four times a year, staying for one to three months. When we weren't in India, we traveled to churches here in the States, representing the national pastors, their needs, projects, and raising support for the orphans' ministry.

Regina became severely ill in India in 2008. After two surgeries and a difficult recovery, she was unable to return to that country, and our work was completed in August of 2008. In the seventeen years we served in missions, 32 people were called to missions after being on a mission trip with us. We give Him all the glory as we watched the Lord work in people's lives. We continued to be active in our local church, teaching Sunday school, discipling young believers, and working in the VBS program.

Our family is located up and down the east coast. We have one daughter and four sons. Our oldest son Dean died at the age of 42 from pancreatic cancer. Betsy, Todd, and Darin are married, and Bryan, our youngest, is single. We have eight grandchildren ranging in ages from 15-33 years. We are blessed!

Our stay at Maranatha Village has been a joy-filled experience, and we have just begun! We are looking forward to many years of serving the Lord here at Maranatha.

Our life verse is Proverbs 3:5,6. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding, in all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths." The hymn "*Sweeter As The Days Go By*" is certainly our theme song since moving here. Art remarks often that Maranatha Village is the "Gateway to Heaven."

New Village Residents

Bill & Ellen Katka



Bill, Mia & Ellen

We arrived at Maranatha Village in early June after retiring from 35 school years at Dublin Christian Academy in Dublin, New Hampshire. Bill was born in Longview,

Washington; I was

born in Portland, Oregon. Bill pretty much stayed put; I wandered about a bit (Hawaii, Texas, Oregon, Washington).

Bill and I met while playing *“Kanga,” “Owl in House,”* and *“Pooh’s Corner”* (children’s theatre) in college. I had just gotten saved. We became friends,

started a Bible study group, and began growing in Christ. Over the course of our 48 years of marriage, we have travelled across country to Greenville, South Carolina (Bob Jones University), then to Dublin, New Hampshire, and now to Sebring, Florida.

We have four children: two biological girls and two adopted boys (long story and testimony about them). Our oldest daughter, Sarah, is teaching speech and English at Dublin; our oldest boy is in need of your prayers; our younger son was seriously injured in Afghanistan (many praises there); our younger daughter just graduated with her M.A. in Biblical Counseling and is interning at *The Wilds of North Carolina* this year. It’s been a wild ride, and God has been marvelously good to us! (Pictured with our only grandchild.)

New Village Resident

Mrs. Diana Spence



Diana

In January, 1951, I was born in Pennsylvania, the youngest of 5 children. In January, 1979, I was born again. A lot happened between those two births - here are some highlights.

My parents weren’t Christians, but my siblings and I walked to a little church in

town nearly every Sunday, and that is where I learned about God through childrens’ Bible stories and through sitting in church with a neighbor couple.

In 1964, my parents and I moved to Lakeland, Florida, where I graduated from high school and then was married. Later my husband and I visited a Baptist church in Lakeland where I learned more about the God of my childhood. I learned that in order to be allowed into heaven, a person had to come through Jesus and His forgiveness of our sins.

More years passed; my two sons were in Trinity Christian Academy, and I was helping with homework, some of which was memorizing Scripture. My younger son was working on John chapter three, and I was memorizing along with him. The Lord spoke to me through this conversation that Jesus had with Nicodemus about the need to be born again. Digging out a Bible someone had given me in that church in Lakeland, I started reading and the Holy Spirit showed me my need to trust Jesus as my Savior. I was born again. That was 40 years ago and my Lord has been by my side every step of the way.

I moved to Maranatha Village on April 30th of this year as a result of contact with a missionary friend.

If there is only one thing I’d like everyone to know about me, it’s this: I’m a child of God solely by virtue of the blood of Jesus and His finished work on the cross. I want to live for Him and serve Him until He takes me home.



Cook's Korner

Strawberry Rhubarb Bars

My favorite way to use rhubarb! These bars include layers of buttery oat crumble, and a sweet, slightly tart, juicy strawberry rhubarb filling. A must-try recipe!

Ingredients

Crumb layers

- 1 1/3 cups (188g) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 1/3 cups (120g) rolled old fashioned oats
- 1/2 cup (110g) packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup (110g) granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup (170g) unsalted butter, melted
- 2 tsp vanilla extract

Filling

- 1 3/4 cups (273g) hulled and diced strawberries (from 12 oz whole)
- 1 1/2 cups (190g) diced rhubarb, sliced 1/4-inch thick
- 1 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 1/3 cup (71g) granulated sugar
- 1 Tbsp (9g) cornstarch

Instructions

1. **For the crumb layer:** Preheat oven to 350° F. Butter a 9 by 9-inch baking dish and line with parchment paper, butter parchment *.
2. In a mixing bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda and salt. Add in oats, brown sugar and granulated sugar and whisk to blend, while using fingertips to break up small clumps of brown sugar.
3. Whisk vanilla into melted butter, then pour melted butter over oat mixture. Stir with a spatula until mixture is evenly moistened.
4. Press 2/3 of the mixture into prepared baking dish, set aside remaining 1/3.
5. **For the filling:** Add diced strawberries and rhubarb to a medium mixing bowl. Toss with lemon juice.
6. In a small mixing bowl, whisk together sugar and cornstarch. Pour sugar mixture over strawberry mixture and toss to coat.
7. Pour strawberry mixture over bottom crumb layer in baking dish. Evenly sprinkle remaining 1/3 crumb mixture over top.
8. Bake in preheated oven until top is golden brown and crisp and filling is bubbling, about 45 - 50 minutes.
9. Cool on a wire rack until warm then cut into squares. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream, if desired.

Recipe Note * *If you don't care to lift the bars out of the pan before cutting, you can just butter the dish, no parchment need.*



The Honeymoon Fly

Penned by
Jemimah Cotswold

From the archives in honor of the return of the **Love Bugs!** *Plecia Nearctica* ~ Latin for “**Splat!**”? Well, not exactly, although that is the way one writer coined it.

Plecia Nearctica is the name of an insect. You may know these amorous insects by another name ... **Love Bugs**. It is Love Bug Season. Love Bugs are not native here. So why did the honeymooners come to Florida? One writer said, “***Presumably in search of theme parks and retirement communities.***”

Thankfully *plecia nearctica* are not capable of biting or stinging. Good thing! 'Cause there sure are a lot of them.

It is impossible to open the door without having some fly into the house. It is impossible to get into Hi-Ho Silver (our truck) without having couplets enter the cab, apparently they think of him as a taxi. Before sitting on Little Red Riding Hood (our golf cart), which we have renamed “**The Tank**”, they must be brushed off the seat and flicked off the steering wheel.

The Love Bugs are so enamored with each other they don't seem to notice, or care, about anyone else. Even though they spend their brief adult lives honeymooning you will not find them crooning, “***I Only Have Eyes for You,***” seeing as when attached, they face in opposite directions. Which makes it interesting when you first notice them – are they coming or going? They're like a circus car, the front end on the front and the front end on the back.

A little research revealed the males hatch first and swarm feverishly waiting for the females to arrive. I will try to refrain from making further comment about that except to say visualizing it and filling in little word bubbles above their heads had me laughing out loud.

When the females finally come out, the males fight to impress them. However, the female selects her mate.

Once the female selects her mate, they will be hitched for life. The female lays as many as 100–350 eggs. Can you imagine having to diaper all that lar-

vae? Good thing they're bugs and not babies. The Love Bug life cycle is really quite interesting; you might enjoy doing some digging around on your own.

The Love Bug season here only lasts 2–3 weeks and occurs twice a year. Some get aggravated with the bugs, consider them a nuisance, and become very frustrated over them. But why expend so much negative emotional energy on something that is so brief? Especially when those 100–350 per female adult undiapered larvae are voraciously consuming massive amounts of partially decayed material. They are a benefit to us. Being surrounded 4–6 weeks out of the year with honeymooners in exchange for 46–48 weeks of sanitation service sounds like a decent trade-off.

Besides, how can you help but smile when a pair of honeymooners lazily float by on a light breeze reminding us of how special it is to be able to spend time with those you love?

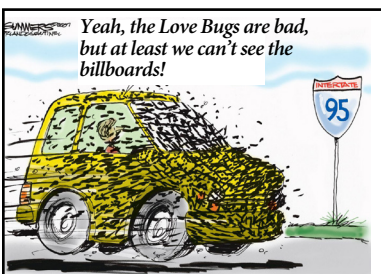


The Love Bug

Plecia Nearctica

“The species was first described in 1940 by D. E. Hardy, but was seen in Louisiana as early as 1911. At that time, he reported the incidence of lovebugs to be widespread, but most common in Texas, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. However, by the end of the 20th century the species had spread heavily to all areas bordering the Gulf of Mexico, as well as Georgia and South Carolina. L. A. Hetrick, writing in 1970, found the bug was also widespread in central and northern Florida and described its flights as reaching altitudes of 300 to 450 metres (980 to 1,480 ft) and extending several kilometers over the Gulf.

Lovebugs' larvae feed on partially decayed vegetation in the landscape and, in this respect, are beneficial to humans. Adults primarily feed on nectar from various plants, particularly sweet clover, goldenrod, and Brazilian pepper.”
(Copied From Wikipedia)

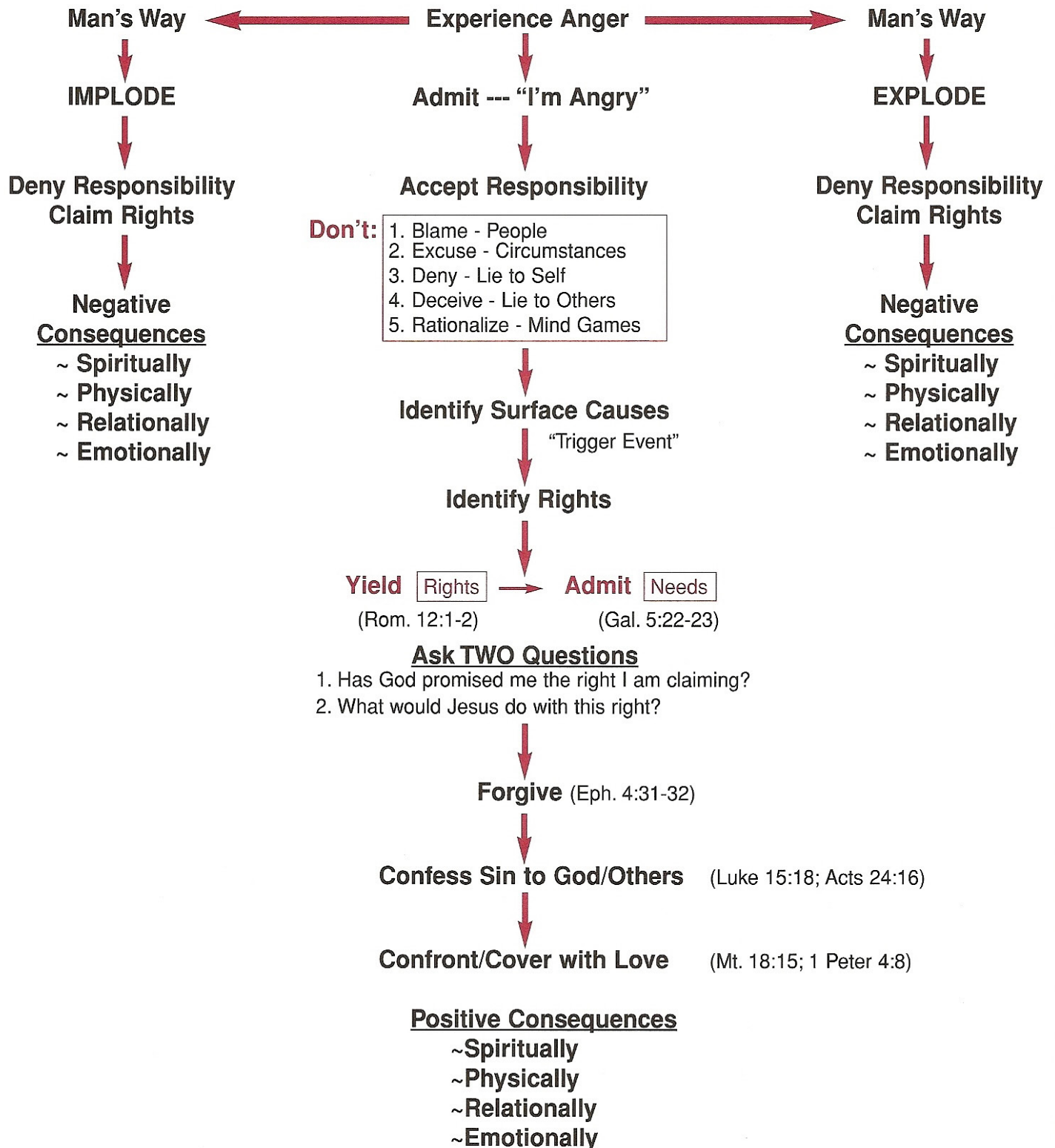


Handling **ANGER** God's Way

Pastor Jim Jeffery

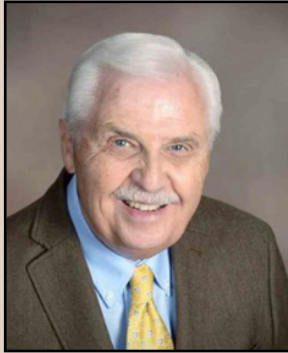
Calvary Baptist Church, Grand Rapids, MI

James 1:19-20 & Ephesians 4:26-32





~ Gift Income Blessings ~



Gerry

Down through the years, Maranatha Village has been blessed to receive many greatly appreciated gifts from residents and friends. In the last several years, there has been a notable increase in giving that has allowed us to meet the financial challenge that Hurricane Irma brought and to accomplish some

needed and beneficial improvements.

In early 2017, the Village board launched the New Horizons Fund. Jerry Webber, our Village Administrator, wrote an informative article in the February-March 2017 issue of the *Trumpet* explaining the rationale and vision for the fund. He stated: ***“The purpose of this fund will be to provide for improvements and enhancements that will benefit the residents and guests of the Village without adding extra burden to the annual budget.”***

In that article, Jerry laid out several possible projects that could be beneficial to the Village – but all required funding. Among his suggestions were a digital sign at the “guard house” to keep residents and guests aware of what’s going on at Maranatha Village, and remodeling of the Village office and conference Room. What a blessing it is to know that both of those projects have been accomplished. The office has been completely remodeled, and the digital sign is now a reality.

The fund was originally established with an initial seed gift of \$4,000. Since that time, total contributions of \$63,449.38 have been recorded with a little

over one-half coming from an estate gift received in the summer of 2017.

“Then Hurricane Irma hit!”

After the hurricane severely damaged the Village Office Building, it was necessary to shift focus and replace the roof and completely rebuild the interior of that structure. Plus, there was considerable clean-up needed and numerous other repairs across the 213 acres of the Village campus. But God meant these challenges for good!

A host of friends came to the assistance of the Village and sent in funds to aid in repairing the damage. In a few short months, we received a total of \$25,713.66 in gifts to help toward the restoration costs. The Village general fund only had to contribute a little over \$5,000 toward the almost \$76,000 required to repair and remodel the office facility. Insurance coverage provided 59% of the funds, while gifts and general revenue supplied the rest.

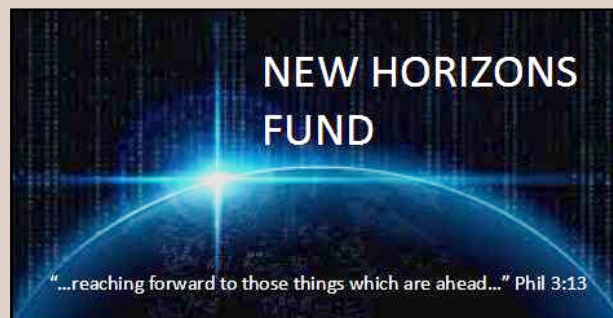
Within six months after the hurricane, things were back to normal – except for the very much appreciated, “not-normal-to-us,”

remodeled office complex. Since launching the New Horizons Fund, records indicate that the Lord has blessed the Village with gift income of over \$100,000. Three needs have been addressed: a new disc golf course, the new digital sign,

and the procurement of a “new to us” garbage truck.

Will you pray about how you can participate in advancing the ministry of Maranatha Village through the *New Horizons Fund*? We are dedicated to our motto of ***“Helping one another until the Lord comes!”*** Your gift will be used to help achieve that goal.

Dr. Gerry Carlson



Maranatha Village

11 MARANATHA BOULEVARD

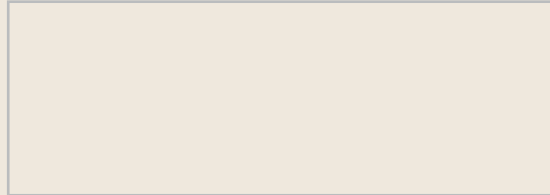
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*“Believe on the
Lord Jesus Christ
and you will be saved.”*

In Loving Memory 10/15/2018 thru 9/23/2019

Mary Ann Darling	10/15/2018	Martha Rose	5/19/2019
Ruth Compton Brock	11/08/2018	Homer Dalton	5/29/2019
Joan Cole	11/09/2018	Barbara Treleaven (former resident)	7/16/2019
Marian Hammerstrom (former resident)	11/11/2018	John Eiler	7/26/2019
Rabon Warren (winter resident)	11/18/2018	George Kearsley	8/18/2019
Wayne Hyder	12/03/2018	Marilyn Townley	8/20/2019
Marilyn Jennex (former resident)	1/05/2019	Cathy Witham	8/20/2019
Paul Whipple (former resident)	1/17/2019	Aline Stoughton	8/20/2019
RoseMarie Ertle	1/27/2019	Allegra Whipple (former resident)	8/31/2019
Mark Staley, President of C.O.M.E.	2/05/2019	Laura Smith Curtis (supported missionary)	8/03/2019
Irene Elkins (former resident)	2/22/2019	Gloria Day	9/03/2019
Charlie VanderMeer (winter resident)	2/22/2019	Mike Hamblen	9/04/2019
Cleo Magnuson Shidler (former resident)	2/21/2019	Margaret Tolosa	9/04/2019
Inez Swartz (former resident)	2/26/2019	Ruth Ball	9/21/2019
Dorothy Sollenne	3/06/2019	Gene Peterson	9/23/2019
Wayne Fincham	5/06/2019		