

The Maranatha Village Trumpet



HEROES WORK HERE

"The Lord Cometh!"

October – December 2020

Volume XXXIV 4

"The Manor Lockdown!"



Mrs. Patty Dale

March is usually the time when we're looking forward to spring break and enjoying cooler weather when our friends and families come to visit. This March was like no March we've ever experienced at Maranatha Manor. I'm sure everyone heard on TV or radio that the CDC was announcing the spread of the Corona virus throughout the United States.

By the second week of March, we were hearing that thousands of cases of this virus were spreading throughout Florida. Governor Ron DeSantis announced, as other governors did, The Emergency Stay at Home Order. As the virus continued to spread and the death toll rose, an Executive Order was issued stating that nursing homes and long-term care facilities must stop all visitation by locking their doors to protect the most vulnerable, those with pre-existing health issues and age-related diseases. Yes, this affected everyone in our Maranatha community. We could no longer allow our church family or the residents' families into our building. That was only the beginning of the ways our lives as residents and staff would have to change. **Maranatha Manor is a State Licensed facility;** therefore, as the Administrator, it was my responsibility to keep our folks safe. I was mandated to call every day through the remainder of March and April to hear updates from the CDC, DOH, EOC, and AHCA. These updates provided rules for protecting our residents and staff. No longer could we gather in large groups. We needed

to stay 6 feet apart when eating or in a common area; masks had to be worn by staff at all times; residents had to wear masks when out of their rooms. Sunday school and church were experienced in small groups, listening on the radio. Once no one could attend services with the rest of the congregation, residents watched taped services. Now at the beginning of September our residents are still not allowed to attend church, Sunday school, or Chapel.

They miss the fellowship and especially being able to share in communion, but they do enjoy watching the services on channel 195.

Dining rules have been changed to room service; no group activities are allowed. Birthdays are celebrated with cards and special request meals with special placemats, one on one visits from other residents with mask and social distancing, flowers, and balloons. We had been allowed visitors on the porch with masks and a 6-foot rule, but once the virus escalated, no visits were allowed unless through a window or door. Other rules came as well: screening staff with temperatures taken before entering the building, temperatures of staff and residents taken and recorded three times during a shift and oxygen levels are also monitored. COVID-19 testing has been mandated every two weeks for staff and any maintenance or contracted support staff. The State is supplying the test kits, and residents are tested by the health department now every two weeks.



(continued on page four)



The Administrator's Perspective!

Maintaining A Mindset!

Dr. Gerald Webber



Jerry

A little over ten years ago, I found myself parked in the same Bible neighborhood as Pastor Schmidt, preaching through Paul's letters to the Thessalonians. In recent days, I've been revisiting those texts

during my quiet time.

These letters, Pastor Ernie has reminded us, are among the Apostle's most personal and intimate writings. Even a cursory reading reveals his deep concern for his readers' well-being. He cares, and it shows. As someone said, he cloaks his grip of steel in a glove of velvet.

Paul had to deal with some thorny subjects. He is compelled by the Holy Spirit to talk to them about moral impurity. He had to pull some of them up short for taking unfair advantage of their brethren. Still others had to be scolded over their shiftless lifestyles. He takes on all these issues and more—and does it with grace. You can almost imagine his readers responding with a “Thanks—I needed that!”

If Paul had a secret, it's probably found in 1 Thessalonians 2:6-7: “...when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ... we were gentle among you.” He fleshes out that attitude in the first two verses of chapter 4, where he reminds them that, far from lording it over them, his approach was “we beseech you... we exhort you... we urge you....”

When he said “we urge you,” he was approaching them as a *colleague*. In the Greek, the message is almost like “Would you please do this?” He wasn't

talking down to them as spiritual babies (which they were) but as partners in the work of the Lord.

When he said “we exhort you,” he was acting as a *coach*, a mentor, who believed in them and wanted to encourage them to do whatever was called for. The words are a “you-can-do-it” address.

When he said “we urge you... in the Lord Jesus,” he was speaking as a *companion*. He was counseling fellow members of the Body, wanting them to know that what he was asking was based on their mutual relationship in Christ.

Paul couldn't fulfill his calling without occasionally “laying down the law.”

But when he did, it was as a colleague, a coach, and a companion, not as those who would presume to be “Lords over God's heritage” (1 Peter 5:3).

...the goal of this administration is to mimic the apostle in our relationships with fellow-residents. It's a given that policies have to be enforced; procedure has to be followed, and rules have to be respected.

I say all that to say this: however successfully we are accomplishing it, the goal of this administration is to mimic the apostle in our relationships with fellow-residents. It's a given that policies have to be enforced; procedure has to be followed, and rules have to be respected. Someone must insist upon that. But, as we're doing so, we're asking for the grace to do these things as Paul did: to urge one another as *colleagues*, to exhort one another as *coaches*, and to counsel one another as *companions*.

As we maintain this mindset, chances are very good that we can fulfill our corporate mission to “... worship and serve God together, cultivate meaningful friendships and care for one another's needs 'til Jesus comes.” *Selah!*

Maranatha's New Residents!

Steve & Fran Bowers



Steve & Fran

We came to spend our winter in Maranatha Village in January 2020, renting a promotional villa on Matthew Street until we decided to buy a mobile home being sold by the Mayo's at 254 Timothy Road. We

moved into this lovely mobile home in April 2020. We had no plans to buy a place, when we first arrived, but fell in love with the Village and the people here!

We learned of Maranatha Village from Phyllis Sparks whom Fran met at a "Hymn Sing" at America's Keswick in Whiting, New Jersey in 2018. The Sparks' daughter and son-in-law are the music directors at America's Keswick, and we love attending their events, especially the Hymn Sings. We came for a tour of the Village in February of 2019 and met with Gerry Carlson at that time. Our application was accepted, so we headed here in January 2020 for a four-month stay. Now that we own a home here, we plan to spend six months here and six months in New Jersey, although Steve winks at everyone who asks about our becoming year-long residents. We're hoping more folks will come from New Jersey so we can have our own picnics!

Steve was saved in 1989 while attending a small church in the Farmington, New York area. He was greatly influenced and witnessed to by his daughter and her husband who had been saved previously. Fran was saved in 1972 at a Christian Women's Club luncheon in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania under the ministry of Ron and Diane Susek. We were both baptized at our local churches soon after being saved.

We met through eharmony.com in 2003, knowing pretty quickly that we were meant to be together. Of course, we sought the Lord's guidance and had many folks praying for us. We married before the end of that year. Fran lived in Royersford, Pennsylvania when we met but, after our marriage, joined Steve in Delaware where he was living and serving as a deacon in his church. We retired (on the same day!) in August, 2012 and moved to a retirement village in Manchester, New Jersey soon afterwards. We enjoy attending Redeemer Fellowship Church in Toms River, New Jersey, where Steve serves

on the finance committee; Fran serves in the nursery and on the prayer team. We also serve as volunteers on a local Church Relations Team for *Operation Christmas Child*, one of *Samaritan Purse's* ministries.

Several years before we retired, we attended a Financial Peace University (FPU) class being held by our church because Steve wasn't sure of the security of his job. We felt we could do better in preparing for retirement. God blessed us tremendously as we learned to live more frugally and on a written budget every month. We started facilitating FPU classes in our church in 2008, and we have continued to do so. We were also able to go to Dave Ramsey Master Coach training in Tennessee and got qualified to be financial coaches. The Lord has blessed us tremendously as we manage our finances and coach others either through classes or as our pastors refer folks to us.

Steve worked as an assistant manager in a large insurance company's group pension department but left after 17 years to start his own business. He established a small printing business, which also offered graphic design services. He enjoyed many years of working with MacIntosh computers - first in graphic design, then in computer sales, and finally in desktop support for an advertising department of a major bank. Fran worked in various administrative, secretarial roles and is thankful for the wonderful opportunities she has had to assist senior level executives. Her final position was in Human Resources where she was able to support others through employee onboarding, benefits administration, and payroll change processes.

We each have two children from previous marriages, seven grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters. We consider it a privilege to pray for each one for what he or she needs.

We have so enjoyed living in Maranatha Village and look forward to returning next season. We have really appreciated the good preaching and sweet fellowship here. Fran has enjoyed getting to know some of the ladies in the Manor - almost feels like this is her purpose for being here! We are both very thankful for the wonderful prayer support of the Village residents when Fran's daughter, Gina, was diagnosed with COVID-19. We hope to be encouragers here as we get to know everyone better.

Our favorite verse is Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

The Manor Lockdown!

(continued from page one)



We are happy to say that with all the testing that's been done since March our staff and residents have all tested negative. To God be the glory. As many of you know, there have been several deaths in Highlands County, and thousands have tested positive for this virus. I'm receiving emails daily and must continue to report on the health and well-being of our residents as well as to make a weekly call on Thursday afternoon at 4:15 to receive all State Department updates on the virus and any new changes in rules. The County and State Department of Health have visited our building twice to inspect our sanitation procedures, to know our plans for isolation or quarantining, and to insure we have plenty of Personal Protect Equipment on hand should a resident present symptoms of the virus, and to approve our plans for emergency situations such as hurricanes or other disasters.

We were instructed that we could not do puzzles or play games such as Mexican Train in the common area. Our three times a week exercise has continued with social distancing and is a good workout to keep muscles strong and flexible. Residents can work puzzles in their own rooms, but books and magazines had to be removed from common areas to hinder the spread of germs in the building. We have relocated those articles to an empty room where residents can still have access to reading material without being in an open area.

Arrangements have been made for Covid-19 testing within the community allowing the residents to have



haircuts. As with some of you, residents have missed doctors' appointments, and the staff has needed to contact physicians on behalf of them to ascertain protocols and arrange TeleVisits when possible to avoid sitting in a car until a room is



available for an examination. Podiatrist visits started on the porch, but now the doctor must meet with our residents in their rooms. Our team of staff members have been outstanding, never giving a second thought to the sacrifice they have made to give of their time and energy and to risk their health to care for their Manor family.

We knew from the very beginning of this pandemic that our Maranatha Baptist Church family were praying for us. We received notes and cards. However, at the end of May the Ladies' Missionary Fellowship asked church members to sign up to encourage our residents with phone calls, cards or some other form of connection so they would know they had not been forgotten. The outpouring of your love has been overwhelming. Your efforts have cheered us emotionally, enabling us to deal with the isolation that can breed depression. Some of our residents' families are Face Timing or Skyping with their loved ones. This is so helpful, allowing

the residents to see whom they are talking with which puts smiles on their faces. We are thankful for: Wendy's Frosties, three different Saturday special breakfast foods being delivered, pillows, and flowers that lasted almost a month. Pizza parties and ice cream sundaes are in the works for September, cookies and caramel rolls were delivered by a special lady who also does shopping for the residents. Our Pastors have been tested and are allowed to come in to sing and share a message, following the social distancing practices.

We are truly blessed. Even in the long days of suffering through this process God has given us lots of time to spend with Him. My prayer is that each resident and staff member is using this time to be thankful for what we have been given by our Heavenly Father, as He continues to develop our faith for His good purpose of glorifying him.

Mrs. Patty Dale, Administrator





Cook's Korner

Mexican Eggs

1 lb. Jimmy Dean Sausage
1/4 lb. mushrooms
Medium onion chopped
Brown sausage, onion, mushrooms.

Combine: 6 eggs and
3 tablespoons sour cream
Beat until fluffy.

Pour eggs into greased 9x13 pan and bake until set
Bake 400 degrees
Time about 8 minutes

Remove eggs from oven and pour on 1/2 large bottle of taco sauce.

Add the sausage mix

Then top with these three cheeses:

8 oz. each shredded:

Cheddar cheese

Mozzarella cheese

American cheese

Return to oven until cheeses are melted, bubbly and lightly browned.

Bake about 20-25 minutes.

Submitted by Deb Kershaw

Vanilla Chip Maple Cookies

1 cup shortening
1/2 cup butter, softened
2 cups packed brown sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon maple flavoring
3 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 cups vanilla or white chips
1/2 cup chopped pecans

CREAM shortening, butter, brown sugar.

ADD eggs, one at a time, beating well after each one.

BEAT in vanilla and maple flavoring.

COMBINE the flour and baking soda; gradually add to creamed mixture.

STIR in vanilla chips and pecans.

DROP by rounded tablespoons onto ungreased baking sheets, 2 inches apart.

BAKE at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until golden brown.

COOL 2 minutes before removing.

FROSTING

1/4 cup butter, softened
4 cups confectioner sugar
1 teaspoon maple flavoring
4-6 tablespoons milk
3 1/2 cups pecan halves

In mixing bowl, cream butter and confectioner sugar. Beat in maple flavorings and enough milk to achieve spreading consistency. Frost cooled cookies. Top each with a pecan half.

Submitted by Deanna Porter



Maranatha's New Resident

Annette Williams



Annette

Annette grew up in eastern Kentucky as the middle child of three daughters. Her parents were saved through the persistent evangelism of a Methodist pastor, and they attended his church for many years. She came to know Jesus as Savior when she was seven

years old during a vacation Bible school run by independent home missionaries. She was encouraged to grow in the Lord through the youth ministries maintained by the missionaries and through summer camp experiences at Camp Evangel (Southern Highlands Evangel) and Camp Nathanael (Scripture Memory Mountain Mission). During her first year at the University of Kentucky, she dedicated her life to whatever God wanted for her after another student witnessed to her and challenged her with the question, "If Jesus loved you enough to die for you, do you love Him enough to live for Him?"

God led her in preparation to serve Him through her educational achievements: a diploma in nursing (R.N.), one in Missions, Christian Education, and music from Southland Bible Institute (1974), then a B.S. degree in Medical Missions from Bob Jones University. At each point, God provided her with practical

experiences in children's work, music ministry, and church planting. Later, during her furloughs, He also led her to earn a B.S.N from Cedarville University and an M.S.N from Marshall University.

Association of Baptist for World Evangelism (ABWE) appointed Annette as a missionary in 1976, and she served in Togo for 41 years. She assisted in planting three churches, which are now autonomous. She was part of the original medical team which started the Karolyn Kempton Memorial Christian Hospital in southern Togo where she served as a nurse, nursing supervisor, nurse educator and finally, for her last 10 years in Togo, as the hospital general director. Although she officially retired in December 2019, she continues as an active, though part-time, member of International Healthcare Ministries (IHM), a division of ABWE which mobilizes healthcare professionals for missionary service, promotes health in the ABWE missionary family, and assists all the healthcare ministries on ABWE fields.

Maranatha Village is a good choice for her retirement, even though she would like to be closer to her sisters in Kentucky. She looks forward to the ministry opportunities available at Maranatha Village and to making new friends. She loves reading, cross-stitching, and cooking.

One Day At A Time

"The most important thing in life...JESUS!
The most useless thing to do.....Worry
The greatest Joy.....Giving
The greatest loss.....Loss of self-respect
The most satisfying work.....Helping others
The ugliest personality trait.....Selfishness
Most effective sleeping pill.....Peace of mind
The most crippling failure disease..Excuses
The most powerful force in life.....Love
The most dangerous pariah.....A gossip

The worst thing to be without.....Hope
The deadliest weapon.....The tongue
The two most power-filled words....."I Can"
The greatest asset.....Faith
The most worthless emotion.....Self-pity
The most prized possession.....Integrity
The most beautiful attire.....A SMILE!
The most powerful channel of
Communication.....Prayer"

(copied)

Maranatha's New Residents!

Steven & Rita Smith



Steven & Rita

Around the first of September of 2020, Steven and Rita Smith will permanently take up residence at 222 Timothy Road. For the past four years, they have served as pastor and pastor's wife at First Baptist Church of Matlacha in Cape Coral, Florida. The ministry there

was sweet, and we love the people, but God has led us to this next step in our walk with Him.

Steven and Rita first met at a small Baptist church in Danvers, IL. She was visiting her grandmother for the summer, and Steven instantly had an interest in this new girl in the church. It was not long before they were going out. For the next three years they grew closer. Steven was in the United States Air Force, and when he came home on leave, he asked Rita to marry him. She, of course, accepted, but they had to wait for her to graduate from high school before they wed. In July of 1967 they exchanged vows at Danvers Baptist Church, and a journey of now fifty-three years was begun.

Steven grew up in Danvers Baptist Church, was saved and baptized there, and grew as a boy and young man through the ministry of several pastors. Rita thought she had been saved in a small Baptist church, but the pastor failed to deal with her when she went forward in a service, leading her to a false assurance. Several years after they were married and were back at Danvers Baptist, she was preparing to teach an after-school class of children. Part of what she was studying was how to lead a child to Christ. As she studied, she came to realize she had never accepted Christ as her Saviour. She was saved at that time and baptized shortly after.

While Steve was in the military, they were stationed in New Hampshire, where their first child, Corey, was born at the naval hospital at Kittery, Maine. After four years, they returned to Danvers where God gave them two more sons, James and Mark. Once back in Danvers, they became involved in the ministries of the Danvers Baptist Church, especially working with the youth. In 1977, Steven accompanied four young people on a mission trip to Mexico. During this trip, the Lord showed him that he should prepare for fulltime service for the Lord. This was not an easy decision with a family to support and the security of a good job. However, the

next year found the family packing up, selling their home, and moving to Pontiac, Michigan so Steve could attend Midwestern Baptist College. The next four years they prepared for ministry while he worked a fulltime job, sent two of the sons to a Christian school and tried to keep up with his studies. We know this is not a unique experience, but it was to us!

Upon Steve's graduation, the pastor of Danvers Baptist Church invited us to return so Steven could be assistant to the pastor. It was a time of mentoring and learning more about the workings of a church.

After three years, the Lord moved us into a position of senior pastor in a small church in Virginia, Illinois. This time proved to be our time "in the fire." Would we quit the ministry or keep going for Christ? After three years of struggle, the Lord graciously moved us into the work at Calvary Baptist Church in Beardstown, Illinois where we spent the next fourteen years, serving and teaching the people of that church.

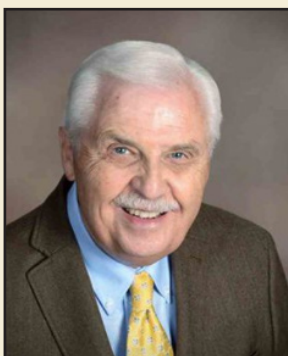
While at Calvary, we were introduced to a mission organization that worked with and for national pastors. After taking several short-term missions trips, we felt the Lord calling us to serve with Independent Gospel Missions. Steve worked as an evangelist to national pastors, as international Bible teacher, and we were orphan coordinators to the country of Haiti. We served with six pastors in Haiti who had orphan ministries, promoting the support of orphans and providing accountability for the churches and individuals who were supporting orphans. By taking trips into Haiti, we visited the orphans to assure their care and to learn of their needs. Steven had many opportunities to preach in the churches of the pastors involved in this ministry.

In 2008, Steven's mother had a stroke and could no longer live alone. We felt it was our responsibility to move in with her to care for her. Over the next seven years, we ministered to her while continuing the work of the mission as best we could. In 2015, she went home to be with the Lord. At that time, because of health concerns, we felt it was time to leave the work of the mission and seek God's direction. Through a miraculous chain of events, we were called to pastor the church in Cape Coral.

Due to Rita's weakening condition, Steven decided that it was time to leave the pastorate and seek a less strenuous life for her sake. We are open to, seeking and willing to do, as the Lord leads.



~ Treasure In Heaven! ~



Gerry

Randy Alcorn in his best-selling book *The Treasure Principle* wrote these words, "If we invest in the eternal instead of in the temporal, we store up treasures in Heaven that will never stop paying dividends." Those wise thoughts reflect Jesus' inspired words in the Sermon on the Mount when He said: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21.

In his book, Alcorn fashions a parable that fleshes out the truth found in Matthew 13:44 where Jesus says, "...the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

Alcorn tells the story in this fashion:

"A first-century Hebrew walks alone on a hot afternoon, staff in hand. His shoulders are stooped, his tunic stained with sweat. But he doesn't stop to rest. He has pressing business in the city.

"He veers off the road into a field, seeking a shortcut. The owner won't mind—travelers are permitted this courtesy. The field is uneven. To keep his balance he thrusts his staff into the dirt.

"Thunk. The staff strikes something hard.

He stops, wipes his brow, and pokes again.

"Thunk. Something's under there, and it's not a rock. The weary traveler's curiosity wins out. He jabs at the ground. Something reflects a sliver of sunlight. He drops to his knees and starts digging.

"Five minutes later, he's uncovered a case fringed in gold. By the looks of it, it's been there for decades. Hands shaking and heart racing, he pries off the lock and opens the lid.

"Gold coins! Jewelry! Precious stones! A treasure more valuable than anything he's ever imagined.

"Some wealthy man must have buried the treasure and died suddenly, its secret location dying with him.

There's no homestead nearby. Surely the current landowner has no clue this ancient treasure is here.

"The traveler buries the chest and marks the spot. He turns to head home—only now he's not plodding. He's skipping like a child and smiling broadly.

"What a find! Unbelievable! I've got to have that treasure! But I can't just take it. By law, whoever buys a field assumes ownership of all that's in it. But how can I afford to buy it? I'll sell my farmland crops...all my tools...my prize oxen. Yes, if I sell everything, that should be enough!"

"From the moment of his discovery, the traveler's life changes. The treasure captures his imagination. It's his reference point, his new center of gravity. The traveler takes every new step with this treasure in mind."¹

In a recent *Trumpet* article, I quoted our business manager Jerry Johnson as saying, "***Maranatha Village is a special jewel in the purpose of God.***" Considering the above story, and our Lord's teaching, we could rephrase that statement to say, "Maranatha Village is a special treasure in the purpose of God."

Over the years, residents, family members of residents, and faithful friends of Maranatha Village have poured their treasure into this special place. Because of financial gifts and their eternal rewards our Village has been enabled to serve many choice servants of God, and to make it possible for those of us privileged to live here in our "retirement years" to continue to serve our Lord as He gives us strength.

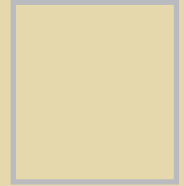
If our heart values earthly things alone then all our treasure will be trapped on this earth. But if our hearts value heavenly treasure we will invest in things on earth that will last for eternity.

If you would like to participate in the ministry of Maranatha Village through a financial gift or investment, please contact me at: gcarlson@maranathavillage.org.

Dr. Gerry Carlson

¹ Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving*, revised and updated edition (Multnomah, 2017, Colorado Springs, CO), www.The+Treasure+Principle

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

The Days of Quarantine!



Helen

Dear Friends of Maranatha Village,

We are over halfway through the year of the virus and friends have helped us think of better things during these days of quarantine.

As I was paying my August bills, my room became warm and my mouth dry and parched. Mariah opened the door and said, “Jan Burgess is here with a Wendy’s frosty for everyone!” She then placed a cold frosty in my hand. Oh, what a timely, refreshing drink. I miss Jan’s faithful visits to me, but she was continuing to minister in kind ways to all of us!

Wednesday afternoon Pastor Turbett came and brought us up to date on the sick folks and their needs. He also shared encouraging devotional thoughts with us. Later that afternoon, noise in the hall attracted my attention. Opening the door, I saw Patty and Mariah with large gift bags swinging on their arms- gifts for everyone! The Craft Cottage ladies had made (and

purchased) clever gifts for us. Everything had been personalized for the recipient. I love my squeeze ball!

The flowers brought to us last week had wilted, but Friday the Luttrells brought new bouquets. S-o-o-o, let it rain, let it rain. We continue to have color in our lives.

Saturday’s menu offered a surprise Burger King egg sandwich as one of the choices. “Might as well try it,” and I am so glad I did. It was yummy! This treat was from Cheryl and Dick Fleser, former residents here and now living in Michigan. How sweet of them.

Every gesture by numerous people has been a special blessing. We fear we are becoming spoiled.

Everyone can look back on difficult times which they could not understand. Now, on the other side of those trials, we look back and see that God was in control working out His plans and purposes for us.

All of us in the Manor are very vulnerable. Please pray that we will remain steadfast, unmovable, and expecting great things from our Lord.

Love in Christ,

Helen Jones