

# The Maranatha Village Trumpet



"The Lord Cometh!"

October – December 2021

Volume XXXV 4

## What's Next?

Rev. Jerry Johnson



Jerry

As we get older, we find that change becomes more and more difficult to accept. Transitions bring uncertainty, and we're not comfortable with change.

Maranatha Baptist Church went through a time of uncertainty in trying to locate God's man to assume the mantle of senior pastor.

However, now that Pastor Jeffers has accepted God's call to be our Pastor, that uncertainty is gone, and we all feel relaxed and eager for what is ahead.

Maranatha Village is entering another time of transition because of Jerry Webber's retirement as Village Administrator. His steady hand will be missed, and we ask, **"What's Next?" or better, "Who's next?"** The Village Board of Directors, to provide as much stability as possible, asked me to assume the role of **Interim Administrator** while they seek God's man to lead in the affairs of the Village. I accepted this new ministry opportunity and challenge.

Having been on the administrative staff for the last six years, I have seen the many different "hats" that will be required to lead the Village forward. President Truman famously had a sign on his desk that read, "The buck stops here." **For the last six years, my desk sign said, "The buck stops across the hall, not here!"** I now must move across the hall and store the sign in my desk drawer.

Facing this new role, I began examining the Scriptures for examples of transition to see what they could teach. I looked at Joshua's replacing Moses, the transitions of the kings of Israel, Timothy's replacing the Apostle Paul, even the disciples' replacing the Lord Jesus in spreading the gospel. As I examined the differ-

ences and the similarities among these examples, I found an essential principle that applies to our transitional situation in the Village.

In all the examples listed above, the absolute necessity of dependence on the Lord made the difference between success or failure. When these leaders followed the Lord, God granted them success, but when they moved forward depending on their own strength, wisdom, and counsel, they failed. And with their failure others were hurt, too. **The new sign on my desk now is a small piece of granite that says, "I fear regret more than I fear failure."** Failure is temporary and can be rectified, but regret is lasting and, apart from the grace of God, final. May God protect me and the Village from my inadequacies.

The Psalmist says, **"In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul."** I find one of those "comforts" in my daily prayer, **"Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things from thy Law."** The Word of God and especially His promises are precious, but at this time of transition, they are essential for me. I have already seen our Lord step in and do some truly marvelous things in the Village. But now Proverbs 3:5-6 takes on new intensity as I realize that if God does not direct my path, I'll continually struggle to discover the way ahead.

Another biblical principle provides comfort also: **"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."** I am thankful for a Board of Directors who are godly, wise, and passionately concerned for the welfare of the Village. Pray for them and for me that we, together, seek always to be in the perfect will of our Heavenly Father and that He will guide us quickly to His man to lead the Village onward. Therein we'll find peace, confidence, and stability.



## ~ New Village Residents ~

### *Herb & Marie Rogers*



*Herb & Marie*

**H**erb Rogers was born in Chicago and received Christ as his Savior in 1944 at Bethany Baptist Church. He was baptized by immersion the following week. Later he joined Marquette Manor Baptist church in the same city. While at a church

camp in Wisconsin, he dedicated his life to full-time ministry. So, he went for his final year of high school to Bob Jones Academy in Greenville, SC. When he graduated from the Academy, he went on to Bob Jones University graduating in 1957.

A few days after his graduation from college, he married the love of his life, Marie Zimmer, in St. Petersburg, Florida, and now, 64 years later, they have retired to Maranatha Village in Sebring, Florida.

While at BJU, Herb formed a trumpet trio that played and preached in churches all over the Southern states. For three summers, the group traveled in evangelistic meetings from coast to coast; throughout Mexico and all the Central American countries. In those years, the group saw several thousand people come to Christ. When the group disbanded, each member went into a different aspect of full-time ministry.

From Bob Jones, Herb went to Central Baptist Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His first pastorate was at Rosemont Baptist Church in Rosemont, Minnesota. Upon graduation from seminary, he started out in youth ministry but then spent about 50 years in the pastorate. The last fifteen

years, before retirement, he served as the GARBC representative for Southern California.

Marie was born in St. Petersburg, Florida. She was fortunate to have Christian parents and lots of good friends growing up in St. Pete. As she was always interested in radio, she conducted a high school program over a local station. At Bob Jones, her major was radio production, enabling her to participate in several programs. After she and Herb married, she enjoyed working with young people in the churches he pastored, directing plays, and working in Awana. She also used her radio ability on commercial stations and a women's program over KTIS, the Northwestern Bible College station.

Along the way, they had two great children. A son lives in Houston, Texas; their daughter and family are in Washington State. They have four grandsons and one granddaughter and nine "greats" — all living in the American West and Germany. Living at Maranatha has made the adjustment to faraway family easier, and they feel blessed to have been here these last eleven months!

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### *True Love!*

**W**hen true love comes, that which is counterfeit will be recognized. For someday, it will rain on the picnic, ants will sting, mosquitoes will bite, and you will get indigestion from the potato salad. There will be no stars in your eyes, no sunsets on your horizon. Love will be in black and white with no piped-in music. But you will say "forever," because love is a choice you have made.

Ruth Senter



# *New Village Resident*

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## *Martha Martens*



*Martha*

I grew up in Central California, in a warm and devout Christian family. Thanks to this upbringing, I was open to God's leading. The Holy Spirit prompted my husband and me and allowed us to be in the ministry for over 46 years. We started a church that is still vibrant today and served in another church for many years, besides speaking on the road while touring with Bible College singing groups after initial "retirement."

God blessed us with five beautiful children, all of whom love the Lord and are active in their churches. Two of them are in full-time ministry as well. I also have 20 grandchildren whom I love very much.

My dear husband passed into Glory about 10.5 years ago. But God is good! He used that event to prepare me and opened opportunities to minister to those

who have experienced loss. The great Healer has allowed me to turn mourning into dancing!

One and a half years ago, due to health reasons, I went to live with my eldest son and his wife in Mooresville, North Carolina. Then this past March, they decided to sell their place and move down to Marathon, Florida, which meant I would be living on my own again. Through some dear friends, I learned of Maranatha Village. I came to tour it and asked God to show me if this was where He would have me live, and He made it very clear that this was, indeed, to be my new dwelling place. I've lived here since early May, and dearly love the folks here.

I use one of my hobbies, knitting, to bless those in cancer centers, hospice homes, nursing homes, etc. by making lap robes, scarves, and other items. Each day I am amazed at how God presents new challenges and opportunities to glorify Him and share His love with others.

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## *God's Say-So*

*"He Hath Said... So That We May Boldly Say..." (Hebrews 13:6).*

My say-so is to be built on God's say-so. God says—"I will never leave thee," then I can with good courage say—"The Lord is my helper, I will not fear—" I will not be haunted by apprehension. This does not mean that I will not be tempted to fear, but I will remember God's say-so. I will be full of courage, like a child "bucking himself up" to reach the standard his father wants. Faith in many a one falters when the apprehensions come, they forget the meaning of God's say-so, forget to take a deep breath spiritually. The only way to get the dread taken out of us is to listen to God's say-so.

What are you dreading? You are not a coward about it, you are going to face it, but there is a feeling of dread. When there is nothing and no one to help you, say—"But the Lord is my Helper, this second, in my present outlook." Are you learning to say things after

listening to God, or are you saying things and trying to make God's word fit in? Get hold of the Father's say-so, and then say with good courage—"I will not fear." It does not matter what evil or wrong may be in the way, He has said—"I will never leave thee."

Frailty is another thing that gets in between God's say-so and ours. When we realize how feeble we are in facing difficulties, the difficulties become like giants, we become like grasshoppers, and God becomes a nonentity. Remember God's say-so—"I will in no wise fail you." Have we learned to sing after hearing God's key-note? Are we always possessed with the courage to say—"The Lord is my helper," or are we succumbing?

—My Utmost for His Highest

# New Village Residents

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## Sue & Don Vander Werf



*Sue & Don*

Don and Sue Vander Werf came to the Village by way of the RV park, having traveled full-time for the last eight years. Although skeptical about weathering Florida heat and humidity year around, the warm and friendly Christian atmosphere was a stark contrast to the secularly run parks they encountered across the country. ***This Village was a community where they could feel like they belonged. The spirit of volunteerism, serving one another, and fulfilling God's will was also what they enjoy experiencing here.***

Don was born in the Netherlands, the youngest of six: five boys, one girl. In 1948, folks at Highland Hills Baptist Church (formerly Holland Baptist and then Quarry Avenue Baptist) sponsored the family so they could immigrate to Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1955, Don's father built a house in Hudsonville, just south of Grand Rapids. One year later, a tornado took the home. In spite of not qualifying for government assistance, God provided a large contract for his father's business, enabling him to rebuild. To acknowledge God's provision, he placed a name plate on the front porch: Ebenezer. This kind of dependence on God, modeled visibly to his family, had a strong impact on Don's life. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior and was baptized at age eight through the witness of his older brother Ralph, who also was a big encouragement, involving Don in a music ministry in convalescent homes and singing and leading songs in churches where he ministered.

Sue (Veldhoen) was born in Ferndale, Michigan. As the youngest of three, Sue was ten years old when she accepted Christ in Sunday school and was baptized. She was involved in youth group at Northland Baptist Church throughout her teen years as well as being

involved in Youth for Christ at school. Sue's favorite pastime has been and is reading. She also took up sewing, making dresses, blouses, skirts, etc. Marriage added shirts, pants, and even suits. After high school, Sue attended Butterworth Hospital Nurses Training to become a registered nurse. Later she earned her degree in healthcare administration. She served as director of nurses, assistant administrator, and administrator during her almost 30 years of employment at Beacon Hill, a Christian Home at Eastgate, Michigan.

Don's working career started in sales at retail stores like Zondervan Book Stores, leading eventually to real estate, followed by almost 25 years of operating a painting business.

During many of these years, both Sue and Don were actively involved in ministries in and outside of church. Sue worked in AWANA with Don, in the library, choir, and special music. They were also active in missions. Don helped organize "***Christ for the Philippines,***" a radio ministry operated by Filipinos. Over a dozen churches have begun as a direct result of this ministry's broadcasts. As chairman of the missions committee, Don and Sue were able to accompany the pastor and his wife from Jamestown Baptist Church to several mission fields to view first-hand the work that was being done and to encourage the missionaries.

They desire to continue working for the Lord here at Maranatha in whatever role God provides.

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PROGRESS is impossible without change: and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.

—George Bernard Shaw



## Cook's Korner

### Washington State Bean Salad

#### Ingredients:

1 small box of frozen cut green beans  
1 (16 oz.) can chickpeas  
1 (16 oz.) can red kidney beans  
1 green pepper, finely chopped  
1 small onion, finely chopped  
1/2 to 3/4 c. sugar  
1 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
1/2 c. vinegar  
1/2 c. vegetable oil

#### Directions:

Cook green beans; drain and rinse kidney beans and chick peas; add green pepper and onion. Mix well. Add remaining ingredients and toss to blend. Refrigerate for several hours or overnight. Drain and serve in lettuce cups. 4 to 6 servings.

Submitted by Fran Bowers

### Buttermilk Scones

3 c. flour  
1/3 c. sugar  
2 1/2 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. baking soda  
3/4 tsp. salt  
3/4 c. butter, softened  
1 c. buttermilk  
1/2 c. raisins or craisins  
1/2 c. chopped pecans (optional)

1. Blend dry ingredients; cut in butter.
2. Add milk until mixed; knead gently on lightly floured surface.
3. Add raisins and roll to 1/2" thick. Cut with cutter or into wedges. Place on lightly greased baking sheet and bake at 400° for 10-15 minutes.

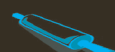
Submitted by Carol Luttrell

### Chia Orange Yogurt

1/3 c. fat-free milk or unsweetened almond milk  
1/4 c. old-fashioned oats  
1/4 c. reduced-fat plain Greek yogurt  
1 T. orange marmalade spreadable fruit  
1 1/2 tsp. chia seeds  
1/4 tsp. vanilla extract  
1/3 c. orange segments, chopped

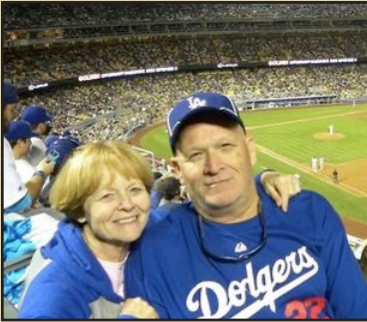
In a jar with a tight-fitting lid, combine the milk, oats, yogurt, marmalade, chia seeds and vanilla. Cover and shake to combine. Stir in orange segments. Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight. Makes 1 serving.

Submitted by Terri Little



# New Village Residents

## Mike & Cindy Boyd



Cindy & Mike

We both were so blessed to be raised in Christian homes, with parents who loved the Lord and made sure we were in church hearing the Word and at home, practicing God's principles. Mike

knew he needed God's forgiveness as a young boy and followed Christ in believer's baptism at the age of eleven at Grace Baptist in Martinez, California. He grew up about an hour east of San Francisco and graduated from what used to be Regular Baptist High School fifty years ago. As an adult, he was heavily involved in Word of Life, working with the youth at his church. He also has served as church treasurer and in a variety of other roles. The verse that resonates so much with him is Jeremiah 29:11, ***"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."***

Cindy accepted Jesus at the age of five during children's church and was baptized in Crystal Lake, Indiana at the age of ten. She doesn't have a "hometown," and, until moving to Sebring in April 2021, considered California her adopted home. Her dad pastored churches in Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan where he joined the army as a chaplain under GARBC endorsement. Cindy has been involved in children's ministry, music ministry, and church secretarial work. She continues to be overwhelmed with God's grace and unfaltering faithfulness. The verse that speaks loudly to her is Romans 8:31, ***"What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"***

Together, Mike and Cindy have three children and two grandsons: a daughter family and grandson in NW Arkansas, a daughter family and grandson in

Tracy, California; and a son and daughter-in-law in Stockton, California. An interesting tidbit about the Boyds: although both went to ***Los Angeles Baptist College - LABC***, they only attended together one year. (Mike finished his degree through Liberty University; Cindy graduated from LABC.) During that year, Cindy's little car ended up inside the dormitory lounge at the top of the hill. During their dating time, Mike confessed that he and some other bored college guys decided to carry the car up the hill and leave it in the lounge. Twenty years after that incident, Cindy visited campus and casually asked a current student if the story was still circulating – it was.

We feel beyond blessed, so very grateful, and happy to be part of the Maranatha Village family. If you ever want to know if MV website gets out the word of its existence, it ***DOES***. We found MV on a general search of "55 + Communities," where the website just popped up. Clearly it wasn't by chance or mistake, but through God's leading. When we found the website, we quickly sent a text to Lucy Chapman's daughter, long-time friend of Cindy, and asked, "Have you ever heard of Maranatha Village?" Judy said, "That's where my mom lives!" God is good, ALL the time.

"A pessimist is a person who absorbs sunshine and radiates gloom."

"Always laugh when you can—it is cheap medicine."

"Satan laughs at our toiling, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray."

Susannah Wesley says, "Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of , or takes off the relish of spiritual things; in short, whatever increases the strength and authority of your body over your mind, that thing is a sin to you, however innocent it may be in itself."

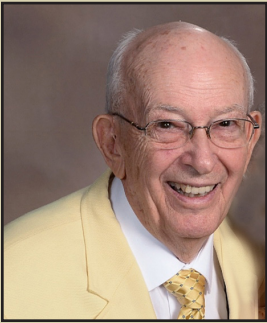
The Fountain



# A Godly Inspiring Life!

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## Jemimah Cotswold



*Lucky Shepard*

He told his sons, “I have no fear of dying, I am ready to go. I just don’t want to leave you guys yet.” Can you feel the love in his voice, see the care in his eyes, sense the longing in his heart? He deeply loved his family, and they deeply love him. Coloring that love, rocketing the muted shades into neon

bursts of dazzling, searing brightness that scorched the edges of his heart was the realization that he had not long left here on earth. The time was coming closer and closer when God would release him from the pain of the cancer that had metastasized.

His pain ended July 25, 2021 on a Sunday evening. Permanently. Never again will he experience it. Cancer will never touch him again. Never again will he know heartache or loss.

He’s up there singing with the saints. He might even be leading the choir!

College professor, camp director, evangelist, choir director, composer, chalk artist, musician, husband, father, grandfather — he wore a variety of hats. And they all fit him well.

He was born in poverty in a 20' by 20' shack with half dirt/half wood floor, and his parents named him Lucky. In search of work and a better life, his family

eventually moved to Detroit. It was there, at the age of fifteen, that Lucky was saved. Saved from having to spend eternity in hell. Saved by Jesus as he believed and trusted in Christ to forgive his sins. Saved to live eternally in the presence of the Lord.

He immediately became involved with Youth for Christ and, from that point on, never turned away from following the Lord with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength.

He always came into the room with a smile. And a joke. Some of which would even make you laugh, even if you had been having a grumpy day. An invisible cloud of joy and hope and bedrock faith swirled around him, and when you left, a wisp of it shadowed you home.

He spent a lifetime using and developing the gift of music God had given him. The night before he passed from this life into the next, he was still composing, still harmonizing his life with the one God had designed for him. Faithful to the end.

He used to sing his 96-year-old wife to sleep every night. Oh, how she will miss him! We all will miss him.

But we are thankful to have known him, thankful for the part he played in our lives, thankful to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that he is with the Lord, singing in that heavenly choir with exquisite excellence as he worships our Lord and Savior. Hallelujah! Thank You, Lord!

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## The Influence of a Parent!

When the Romanian pastor Richard Wurmbrandt and his wife were thrown into prison by the Communists, their nine-year-old son was hauled off to a government school to be indoctrinated in Marxism and atheism. Some years later, as a method of psychological torture for his parents, the boy was brought to see his mother for the purpose of denouncing Christianity to her face. As he studied

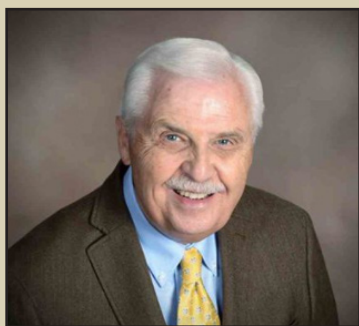
the marks of suffering written on his mother’s face together with the joy evidenced in his mother’s spirit, he suddenly declared: “Mother, if Christ means this much to you, then I want Him too.” Years of intensive brainwashing evaporated with only a single touch of Christlike influence.

Albert M. Wells, Jr.



## ~ Time To Serve ~

Dr. Gerry Carlson



Gerry

As young people, Connie and I were greatly influenced by our youth pastor who consistently challenged us in a most emphatic way ***“to serve, rather than be served.”*** He drew that scriptural admonition from the

words of the Lord Jesus to His disciples in Mark 10:45. You could say that our pastor drummed that responsibility into our brains, and today we cannot escape his voice in our ears when we are in a crowd of people or meeting new acquaintances. Old Nelson would say, ***“Go meet them! Be their friend.”*** So, we would embrace the task of finding out how we could serve the new visitors to our youth group. He was always pushing us outward and upward. It was always the time to serve.

As I encounter my octogenarian decade, I am still under marching orders “to serve, rather than be served,” and I find service a joyful occupation. Today there is much to be discouraged about, and cynicism can be tempting. ***But I would like to suggest that serving is the antidote to the suffocating pessimism which preaches that the world is “going to hell in a handbasket,” and all we can do is rage at the wind.*** Jesus came to seek and save those who are lost, and we can join in that glorious ministry, even in a dark and threatening day.

Serving can take various forms, but the ministry of serving is high on the list of privileges the Lord offers us. Doing little tasks that are noble and helpful can be honorable and beneficial, but there is something

special about helping somebody directly with words of good news and encouragement.

Often, we place the focus on speaking the gospel, but sometimes, when we have not developed a personal relationship, we cannot expect that a person needing the gospel message will heed our good news. Building meaningful relationships and being a “helper indeed” can be greatly used of the Lord to touch lives with the good news that Christ is the answer for their deepest needs.

***Today there are multiple ways to communicate, and several effective ways are through technology and social media.*** That option may seem daunting, but the skills can be learned. Technology and social media are being greatly used to magnify the voice of those presenting the gospel. The internet allows us today to communicate around the world swiftly and inexpensively.

You might say, “I can’t do that because I don’t know how to do those new things.” ***You can learn!*** It may be easier to learn to serve through technology than driving hundreds of miles to visit someone to speak to them or serve them. You can serve today—it is time to take advantage of the available tools.

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*Ability is what you're capable of doing.*

*Motivation determines what you do.*

*Attitude determines how well you do it.*

Lou Holtz



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

## *Thoughts from Martin Luther*

Timely quotes and helpful reminders  
from a brilliant and sometimes complicated saint-and-sinner Reformer.

### On "Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague"

In a letter to Rev. Dr. John Hess, found in Luther's Works, Volume 43 p. 132, as "Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague," Luther writes:



Martin Luther

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."

On Managing Anxiety  
"Pray and let God worry."

<https://www.graceglenellyn.org/thoughts-from-martin-luther.html>