

The Maranatha Village Trumpet



"The Lord Cometh!"

February 2017 – March 2017

Volume XXXI 2

Maranatha Property Beautification!

Mr. Dennis Doughman



"WOW, it looks like a park." "We need to put benches out there, it looks so great." Those are some of the comments received as residents returned to the Village and saw what had taken place on the golf course since last year.

It all started with a request from Russ Hull to Dennis Doughman in relation to the woods between the 6th and 7th greens. It needed to be cleared out. As was the case in those woods, many golf balls were lost there or extremely hard to find in the underbrush.

It took about a week to cut the palmettos, cut and pull vines from the trees, and to mow the growth that was cut down. The

resulting appearance was so striking that the project proceeded from one wooded area to another. Last spring, the work crew moved to the woods lining the 5th fairway.

The real dedication to the project took place over the summer as Russ, Gary Hanson, and a couple of other volunteers tackled the woods

between the 3rd green and the fourth tee. During the time period of extreme humidity, they cleared the undergrowth. It looks fantastic.

The next step was to continue down the front of the Village between the 4th tee and the front gate. With the help of Wayne Hyder and his chain saw, all the undergrowth was cleared then mowed. What an improvement there is in the appearance of the Village! First impressions are so important, especially to prospective residents and visitors. The front entrance along Arbuckle Creek Road is now very attractive.

As returning residents arrived this fall, the project continued to encompass the entire golf course. The work continues on top of the hill as the dense undergrowth is being cleared. Work has started in the area of Conway Memorial

continued on page 7



Russ



Gary & Dennis



Russ

Jim

Wayne

Gary

Dennis



"If I Were A Rich Man!"

Dr. Gerald Webber



Jerry

Remember Tevye, the milkman from *Fiddler on the Roof*? In the musical, his most memorable scene is probably the one in which he exuberantly sings his comedic solo, *"If I were a rich man."*

In it, he dreams out loud of all the things he would get if he just had the wherewithal. He would buy an enormous house and fill it with luxuries, including a third staircase "leading nowhere, just for show." He would shower his wife with luxuries, buy her fancy clothes and mountains of food, and hire servants to lighten her workload. All this and more he would do...if he were a rich man. In one verse, he says, "Oh, dear Lord, you made many, many poor people. I realize, of course, that it's no shame to be poor. But it's no great honor either! So, what would have been so terrible if I had a small fortune?"

Has that thought ever crossed your mind? Maybe you've never verbalized the thought, but in one of those private moments of reflection, haven't you ever wondered to yourself, "What would have been so terrible if I had a small fortune?"

Honestly, I've had such thoughts relative to the Village. "Lord, what would be so terrible if Maranatha Village had a small fortune—or at least some discretionary funds that weren't already earmarked for insurance premiums, tax bills, paying salaries or taking care of the properties?" My, oh my, what could we do?

Maybe we could install a digital sign at the "guard house" to keep residents and guests aware of what's going on at any moment; or build a washhouse for the RV park with toilets and showers; or remodel the

changing rooms at the pool and attach a new fitness center that overlooks the lake and the golf course; we might be able to remodel the Village Office and Conference Room (our "window to the world") and give the Maintenance Team their own Break Room "down there." How about a true gated entrance (@ \$30,000)? These are all great ideas; the common thread that runs through them is this: there's no room in the budget!

Gerry Carlson, our Director of Development and Marketing, has proposed that we open a fund where people can contribute to projects like these, and know that their gifts wouldn't be used for anything but capital improvements that can be seen and used for the benefit of residents and guests.

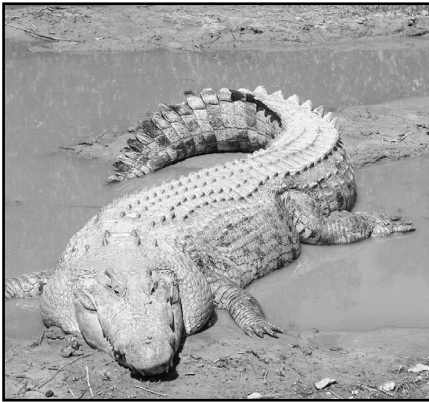
In its last meeting, the Village Board authorized the opening of such an account, and we've already received the first gift. We're calling it the ***New Horizons Fund***. At the moment, there are no specific projects to give to, but if God moves you to give toward the future of Maranatha Village, here's a way to do it, knowing that your gift won't be used to pay the utilities bill (as important as that is)!

George Barna defined vision as "a clear mental picture of a preferable future imparted by God to His chosen servants, based upon an accurate understanding of God, self, and circumstances." A bit more simply put, someone else said, "Vision is a positive picture of a preferable future."

I think most of us appreciate what Maranatha Village is. Perhaps it's time now to begin thinking more about what Maranatha Village could be. As God enables us to develop "a clear mental picture of a preferable future," will you be willing to pray and work and give to make it a reality? A gift toward the New Horizons Fund would be a great way to start!

Crocodile Hunting In Africa

by Dr. Carl Barton



West African Crocodile

Selma and I were new missionaries in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa. Monrovia sat on a large peninsula. The ocean was on one side and on the other was a large river that came out of the interior and emptied into the ocean, making a

boundary for the other side of Monrovia.

The tide would make the river back up, pushing water into a long channel through swampy mangroves for a couple miles until it ended at a high point in the land. At that location, there was a village. The people could fish by using the channel for access to the large river and also the ocean.

Chick Watkins, a veteran missionary, had come into Monrovia from the Tappi Ta station to take care of business in the capitol city. He stayed on the mission property and had his meals with us. Chick knew of this village on the channel and decided that we should go crocodile hunting. Selma was not very keen on the idea, but Chick finally convinced her that it would be perfectly safe and nothing could go wrong.

We drove out to the village, and Chick talked with the village chief. Permission was granted for us to use their site to start, and a large wooden canoe was chosen for us to use. Chick found a strong, young boy to paddle for us. Canoes carved out of a tree are very hard to keep upright, especially for novices like us. Chick solved this problem by finding a junk gas tank and making an outrigger with it by using ropes and two very long poles. "It can't turn over" was the theme for this adventure.

We went home to have supper and wait for dark. Our hunting would be with a spotlight. Chick had a 410 shotgun and a few slug shells so those were what we would use. Because of being so close to the ocean, I decided to wear a leather jacket, as it could get cool at night. We arrived at the village when it was very dark. The villagers were all in their houses and all was quiet. Our paddler was waiting, so we loaded the canoe along with the battery for the spotlight and took our places. I was up front with the spotlight. Chick was in the middle with the gun, and the young man who was to paddle was in the back.

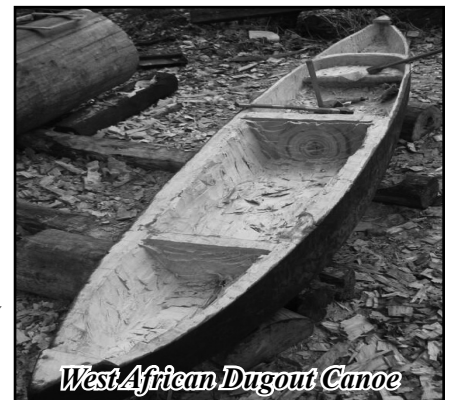
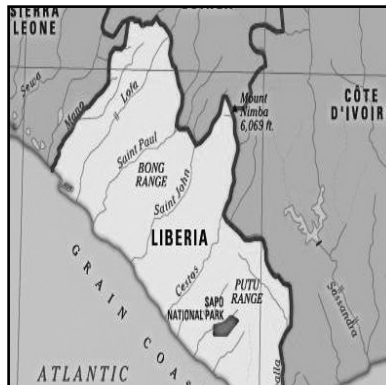
The tide was going out, so our plan was to just float along with the flow of water and look for the eyes of a crocodile. We did not intend to go very far as it would be hard to get the canoe back home against the current. The outrigger worked and all was fine. On the channel and in the midst of the mangroves, it was pitch dark. I was thankful as we moved along the course of this winding channel that I had the light, which really worked well.

Finally, as we rounded an "s" curve in the river we saw crocodile eyes up ahead. They were about 10 feet out from the bank just watching us. Chick had the paddler turn the canoe so that the outrigger was behind us, allowing us to float sideways toward the crocodile. Chick then would be able to take a shot. It was slow going. However, the crocodile did not move, and I kept the light right on his eyes.

We moved closer and closer until I was sure that Chick could reach out and touch the crocodile. I said, "Shoot the thing!" Chick stood up - leaned over toward the croc, and pulled the trigger! With that, the pontoon came out of the water, and all three of us were thrown into the water right beside the crocodile. All went dark. In less than a second, I went into total fear mode as I found myself under the bottom of the canoe. Panic made me move fast as I came up on the backside of the canoe and was back in the boat (as I later found out) before water could get through my leather coat and get my shirt wet. I know that the thought of crocodile teeth getting hold of me made me move fast and take time to think later.

All three of us made it back into the canoe, which was now full of water but still floating. Fortunately I had held on to the light so we could still see. Our first question was "Where is the crocodile?" It was nowhere to be seen, and we were thankful for that. The shells for the gun were gone, along with our desire to hunt. With our hands, we emptied as much water as we could out of the canoe. To get us back to the village against the current, the paddler had his work cut out for him.

While it all turned out okay, we never again considered going crocodile hunting in a dugout canoe. God obviously took care of us.



West African Dugout Canoe

New Village Residents

Bill & Joy Logan



Joy & Bill

Bill and Joy Logan were married 37 years ago at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Toledo, Ohio. Joy attended Cedarville for a year before transferring to Bowling Green

State University to complete her education. She taught 2nd grade at Emmanuel Christian School for 11 years, and Bill was a production supervisor at a chemical plant. They were both active in areas of ministry at Emmanuel.

After a few job changes for Bill and subsequent relocations, they settled in Fostoria, Ohio. Bill began working for the post office, and Joy (who had since completed her Masters Degree in Special Education) started teaching the Multiple Handicapped and students with special needs at Fostoria City Schools. They wound up purchasing their house from Joy's parents, Vernon and Hazel Billington.

In 2008, Bill was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma. God used this crisis to draw Bill closer to

Himself. I Corinthians 2:3 states, "And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling." There were moments of uncertainty regarding his recovery, but God showed Himself strong. Because of the toll the disease had taken, he could no longer work. This allowed him to become a "regular" substitute and girls' basketball coach at Heritage Christian School, in Findlay, Ohio (Calvary Baptist Church).

Bill and Joy were active in ministries at Calvary with Bill being an usher and a teacher to the Laotian congregation. Joy taught junior church and ESL to the Laotians. They remained there until July of 2015 when Joy retired from teaching with a total of 32 years of service.

It was through Joy's parents being in Maranatha Village that they first became aware of the Village. Through visits to see Joy's folks, they have met many of the people and the fellowship has already been sweet.

They now reside in Twin Lake, Michigan (45 miles NW of Grand Rapids) and are members of Faith Baptist Church, Muskegon. Lord willing, they are looking forward to spending winters in the "warmth" of the Village at 229 Timothy Road.



Mini Golf Project

Goal is.....\$20,000.00

Donations Given As Of January 2017 Were:

Mini Golf.....\$13,928.00

Bricks.....\$ 6,600.00

Total Given.....\$20,528.00

Thank you to all who have given for this project.

Village Office

Maranatha Property Beautification!

(continued from front page)

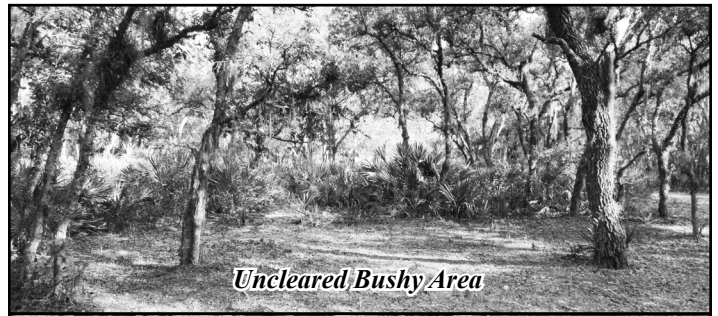
Park, around the other two lakes, and into the villas mall areas. Hopefully, the entire Village will be cleared before the summer humidity starts. The plan is to spray some of the areas to keep the undergrowth from returning and to expand cleared areas.

Wayne, pictured below, is using a "Bush Cutter" to remove a lot of underbrush. The pictures to the right illustrate what has been accomplished so far.

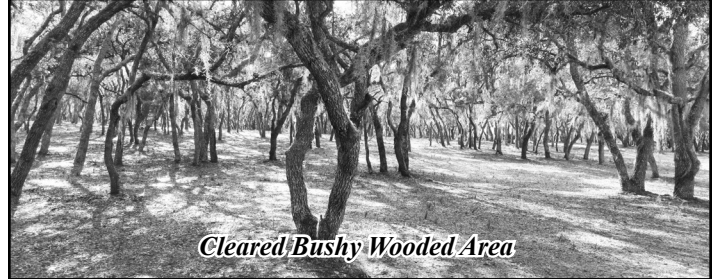
Volunteering is what makes Maranatha Village so unique and great. Thanks to all who have been involved.



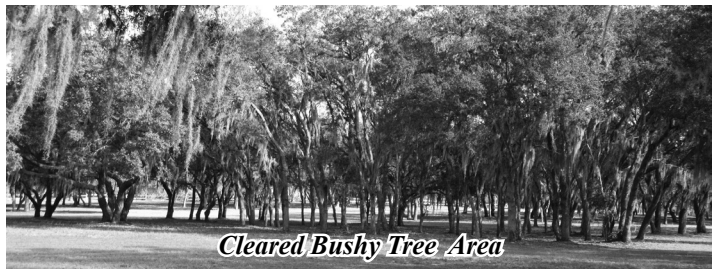
Wayne Hyder Operating Bush Cutter



Uncleared Bushy Area



Cleared Bushy Wooded Area



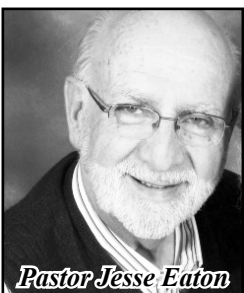
Cleared Bushy Tree Area

SPECIAL SERVICE SETS STAGE FOR 2017 AND BEYOND!



Pastor Terry Price

Mrs. Kathy Webber presented the wives of the new pastors with flowers and a reminder of the importance the role a pastor's wife plays in the life of a church.



Pastor Jesse Eaton

Maranatha Baptist Church dedicated the Sunday evening service on January 15, 2017, to the installation of its three new pastors and their wives. They are Senior Pastor Terry and Colene Price, Administrative Pastor Jesse and Joyce Eaton, and Visitation/Chapel Pastor Charlie and Barbara Welner.

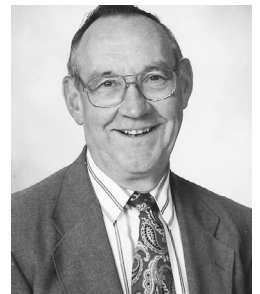
Dr. Gerald Webber, former pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church, brought a timely message on **Leaders and Followers**. His message reminded all church members and the new pastors of their proper roles in a well-functioning church.

Maranatha Baptist Church has a wide reaching ministry and serves all of the Sebring area. Its pastors, deacons, and members of the congregation are more than willing to enter 2017 with a servant's heart.

Special music was presented by the Maranatha Baptist Church choir directed by Mrs. Jan Burgess and a duet by Stan Mohr and Terry Doane.

The service concluded with the deacons gathering around the new pastors and their wives for a special prayer of dedication. Prayer was led by the chairman of the deacons, Jerry Johnson.

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Pastor Charlie Welner



Barbara Joyce Kathy Colene



Southern Strawberry Punch Bowl Cake

- 1 yellow cake mix
- 1 (6 oz.) package instant vanilla pudding
- 1 large can crushed pineapple, drained
- 2 (10 oz.) pkgs. frozen strawberries
- 2 bananas
- 1 (16 oz.) carton Cool Whip

Directions:

Bake cake in two round cake pans according to instructions on the box. Set aside to cool. Make pudding and set in refrigerator to get cold. Cut one layer of cake into small chunks; put in punch bowl. Spread

half the pudding on top of cake; then add half the pineapple and one package of strawberries. Slice one banana on top, then half the Cool Whip, spreading to cover completely. Repeat all the layers, ending with the Cool Whip. Let set in fridge overnight.

May decorate with fresh strawberries, if desired.

Submitted by Maribeth Smith

Answer from page six: Lot's Wife

Pumpkin Bread

INGREDIENTS:

- Unsalted butter, room temperature, for pans
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups canned pumpkin puree (1 can)
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar plus 1/2 cup Splenda
- 1 cup packed dark-brown sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 2/3 cups buttermilk

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat two 8 1/2-by-4 1/2-inch or six 6-by-3-inch loaf pans or 24 muffin tin cups with butter; set aside. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking pow-

der, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, and salt; set aside.

2. In bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, combine pumpkin puree and all sugars; mix on medium speed until well combined, 2 to 3 minutes. Add eggs and oil; mix until incorporated, about 2 minutes, scraping down sides of bowl. With mixer on low, add flour mixture in 2 batches, alternating with buttermilk and beginning and ending with the flour, until just combined.

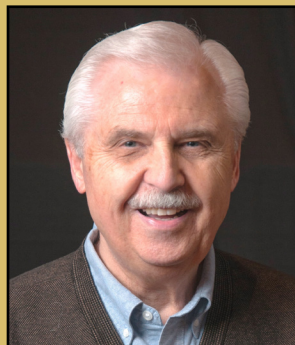
3. Divide batter between prepared pans; smooth tops with an offset spatula. Place pans on a baking sheet. (I didn't do this). Bake, rotating sheet halfway through baking, until a cake tester inserted in the centers comes out clean, about 70 to 80 minutes for large loaves and about 45 minutes for mini loaves. The muffins only took about 22 minutes. Transfer pans to a wire rack to cool for 10 minutes. Remove loaves from pans and cool completely. Bread can be kept at room temperature, wrapped well in plastic, for up to 4 days. Delishimo!!!!!!

Submitted by Mina Oglesby





Maranatha Growth & Development



Gerry

Looking To The Future!

The future for Maranatha Village is bright! Whether we are looking up for the Lord's coming, or whether we are looking forward if He tarries His coming -- we can trust the promises of our faithful God. The apostle Paul reminds us in Phil. 4:19: "... my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Our future is as secure and bright as the promises of our faithful God.

God promised the children of Israel in Deut. 7:9, "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments." We can also claim that promise as we have the privilege to live here in Maranatha Village and as we endeavor to "love Him and keep His commandments."

In accordance with these promises, the Village



Board has launched out to establish the New Horizons Fund mentioned in Jerry Webber's lead article in this issue of the *Trumpet*. 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.

The fund has been established with an initial seed gift of \$4,000. In the near future, the Board will be announcing a project -- or maybe a succession of projects.

Will you pray about how you can participate in advancing the ministry of Maranatha Village through the New Horizons Fund?

Dr. Gerry Carlson



Dr. Greg Mutsch
Maranatha Bible Conference
Pastor of Bible Baptist Church
Hendersonville, Tennessee
February 12—15, 2017



Rev. Robert V. Dyer, Jr.
Maranatha Bible Conference
Church Planter; ABWE; Board of
Baptist Bible College and Seminary;
Adjunct Professor of Church Planting
March 12—15, 2017



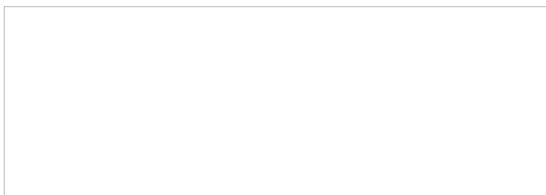
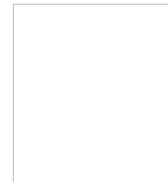
Mr. Burt Kettinger
Maranatha Music Concert
Known for "Moody Presents" and
"Songs in the Night" on Moody Radio.
February 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.



Mrs. Nancy Messner
Maranatha Music Concert
Church Pianist, Organist &
Piano Teacher
March 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Maranatha Village

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

Maranatha Village Pictorial Directory



Maranatha Baptist Church has historically sponsored the publication of a pictorial directory every 4-5 years. This year, Maranatha Village is going to undertake that project, and

attempt to get the picture and contact information of every resident, plus 2017 winter guests, as well as all the members and friends of Maranatha Baptist Church included in this (perhaps one-off) edition.

The Lifetouch folks will take the portraits and manage the production of the directory. Sittings will be scheduled for the last two weeks of March. Each individual or family participating will

receive a copy of the directory, along with a free 8 x 10 color portrait. There is no charge, unless you choose to purchase additional copies.

Those who wish to schedule their sitting on-line may do so. Others will be contacted by

Yvonne Johnson or Deana Branaman

closer to the time. For those wishing to register on-line, the site is: <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/9z07t6dv/>. Please keep this url handy for reference.

Ever sat in church and silently wondered, “I recognize the face. What in the world is his/her name?” Your 2017 Maranatha Village Pictorial Directory will have the answer! Let’s have 100% participation, and leave no one out!

