

The Maranatha Village Trumpet



"The Lord Cometh!"

October & November 2017

Volume XXXI 6



HE BRINGS THE WIND



"When He utters His voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens: He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightnings for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasures."

Thus spoke Jeremiah in his prophecy against Babylon in Jeremiah 51:16. Those who remembered the prophet's words may have had a sense of déjà vu during the early morning hours of Sunday, September 10, when Hurricane Irma crept ponderously up the Florida Peninsula and blustered her way across Highlands County. Heavy rains of 7-9 inches accompanied winds of 100+ miles per hour. Down came billboards and signs, off came roofs, porches, and carports, and down went power lines. Thousands of utilities customers were in the dark for at least five days, some for ten days or more. All schools and most businesses were closed for the duration, and we are told that the much-anticipated citrus crop has been virtually decimated.

Loss estimates in Florida have passed the \$3 billion mark and are rising daily. This was the first hurricane to touch Central Florida since 2005, and is estimated to have caused greater destruction than Charley in 2004.

That's the bad news. The good news is that, despite

some physical damage, a few personal losses, and an assortment of temporary inconveniences, residents of Maranatha Village were left comparatively unscathed. No one was injured. Losses were minimal, and what's broken or damaged can ultimately be fixed or replaced. Conversations around the Village have generally focused, not on how bad "it" was, but on how good God was. Frankly, our residents are a pretty happy lot!

Do we have work to do? Oh, yes. A veritable army of folks has been out raking up lawn debris, and our maintenance crew has been filling and running dump trucks to the landfill. When they are finished with the "small stuff," they will begin picking up shingles, soffits, and roof panels that were blown about during the tempest. Finally, they'll deal with the downed trees and limbs, running what they can through the chipper, creating mulch.

Contractors will be called upon to deal with the structural damage. Mobile home owners, of course, will deal with their own repairs as owners. In most cases, it will be a matter of replacing siding or roof panels. Several carports were lost, though, and one couple had a large tree crash through their bedroom wall. Providentially, they were not in it, but

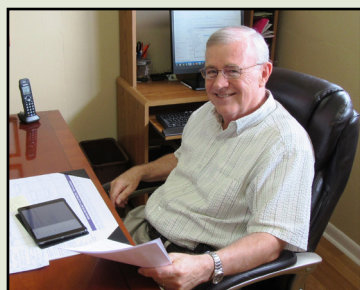
(continued on page 3)





“Retirement: A Dirty Word?”

Dr. Jerry Webber, Administrator



Jerry

The back of my business card reads, “Maranatha Village is a Christian retirement community offering opportunities for worship, service, and fellowship with new and old friends of like faith and

practice.”

If that’s so, and of course it is, then it’s safe to assume that most of my readers are in that class: *retired*. So, what does it mean to you?

You could answer that question variously. Someone said, “*Retirement is waking up in the morning with nothing to do, and by bedtime having done only half of it.*” Another, obviously from the distaff side of marriage, said, “*Retirement means having twice the husband and half the money.*” Yet another, from the flip side of the marital equation, quipped, “*RETIREMENT: UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT (see spouse for details.)*” Maybe you’ve seen the T-shirt that reads, “*I don’t want to—I don’t have to—you can’t make me—I’m RETIRED!*” So, again, how do you see retirement?

To some, it’s a dirty word. They say there’s no such thing in the economy of God, *especially* if you’re “in ministry.” If you are a pastor or missionary, or other variety of “full-time servant,” apparently the only honorable approach is to die with your boots on. The problem is, few who live by that philosophy manage to do it successfully. We’ve all seen examples of pastors whose ministries died long before they did.

OK, let’s acknowledge that there is no retirement from the service of God. But does that service need to take the same shape as the occupation through which we’ve earned our daily bread? Must a pastor keep

pastoring, an accountant accounting, a teacher teaching, a salesman selling, until carried out feet first? I don’t think so.

In fact, retirement from one’s former occupation may be just the “start of something good.” No matter how much you love what you’re doing, the workaday world imposes heavy (albeit legitimate) claims upon your time. Rising at the required hour, donning the appropriate apparel, getting to the designated workplace, meeting others’ expectations—well, you get the picture. Working for a living burns a lot of time.

Not that retirement necessarily breeds idleness. How many times have you heard a retiree say, “I don’t know how I ever found time to work”? But the big difference is, now your use of time is discretionary. For some, it’s the first time in their life they could actually *choose* how to spend their hours and days.

And therein lies the secret: choosing the right things to do, devoting the right amount of time to doing them, and doing them for the right reasons. The choices are almost countless: praying, reading, pursuing hobbies, (finally) completing honey-do jobs; walking, gardening, home-improvement projects; volunteering, helping neighbors, tutoring students, teaching child evangelism classes, Bible studies, preaching in the jails and prisons, visiting in the hospitals and nursing homes. And if there is time left over, taking naps!

I’m for retirement. That may sound strange coming from a guy who’s tried to retire twice and failed both times. One of these days I may try again. In the meantime, I find a lot of satisfaction in serving and living with a group of people who, for the most part, have made peace with the idea of retirement, and even found a measure of joy and satisfaction therein.

God grant that Maranatha Village will always be a happy home for contented retirees!

HE BRINGS THE WIND



The Sweezy's Mobile Home

ripped off, and one of those suffered water damage when it also lost roofing. About twenty units suffered less extensive damage (shingles, soffits, fascia, etc.)

There was some roof damage to the maintenance shed, and about a third of the panels on the new white "stockade" were blown down. The Manor lost a bit of siding, some soffits, and had minor roof damage. Probably the most extensive wound was to the Village office. With much of its roof covering peeled, the rains came in, soaking ceilings, some of which collapsed, damaging equipment, furniture and floor covering, and knocking out phone service for the next 11 days. Ceilings, carpets and several walls will need to be replaced, as will some office equipment and supplies. We are currently squeezing five staff members into three office spaces while the renovation commences.

So, how do we see all this? Honestly, it hasn't been

their tidy little mobile home is probably a total loss (our sympathy to the Sweezy's.)

Among the villas, two carports

were altogether

good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." There is nothing inherently good about a storm like this.

But God is able (and willing) to work all things together, so that in the end His children are better off than if they had altogether avoided it. We believe that!



IRMA's Destruction of the Village Office!



The Aftermath of IRMA!

One of the "good" things has been the response of individuals and churches in safer places who prayed for us before, during and after Irma. Their encouragement and support, as well as their gifts to the Hurricane Irma Relief Fund, have given an incredible boost to our spirits, and a tangible motivation for us to repair, rebuild and remain faithful until Jesus comes.

It's frightful when the heavens open with a deluge, and God "brings the wind out of his treasures." But it's delightful to sense His presence and to know His protection in the midst of the storm. God is good—all the time!

Jerry Webber, Administrator



A Target of IRMA!

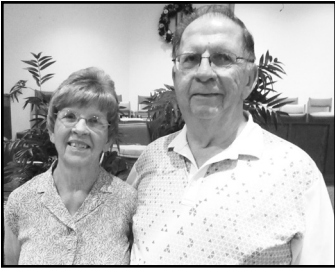
much fun. On the other hand, it could've been a whole lot worse. Probably the best way to see it is in the light of Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for



IRMA's visit to the David Howards!

New Maranatha Residents

Paul & Marilyn Hefflebower



Paul & Marilyn

Our Journey To The Village!

We became aware of Maranatha Village through friends, Earl and Sue Barton. Yes, you are right, he is Carl's brother. We had made arrangements to stay

here for the month of February. On our way from Texas to Maranatha, we received notice that my brother was in a hospice facility in Vero Beach and was not expected to live. We unpacked here and went to Vero Beach and within a few days my brother passed away. Coming back to Maranatha after the funeral, we had an opportunity to get acquainted with many here and were totally taken with the beauty of the facility, the wonderful warmth of the people, and the spiritual depth of the services at Maranatha Baptist Church.

We felt such a strong leading to consider the possibility of moving here. We were living in a 55 and over facility in Sylvania, Ohio, near Toledo. Having no intention of moving to Florida, it seemed so unusual, the draw we felt to explore the possibility of living here. The day we left Sebring for home, we received notice that Bridgepoint Church, our church at home in Temperance, Michigan, was burning. The church building burned completely to the ground and nothing was left.

We felt a real tear within ourselves whether to stay in the Toledo/Michigan area and assist in the reconstruction, or explore the brand new experience here in Maranatha. The leading then and to this day, has been to make the move to Maranatha Village. We still get calls from the building committee from Bridgepoint regarding details, but we are comfortable in our hearts that the Lord has called us here.

The Lord has opened a lovely home here, which we thoroughly enjoy. Unbeknown to us, we are able to utilize the abilities the Lord has provided us here in the Village.

It has been our blessing and privilege to make the move here, and we look forward to many years of service and serving our Lord here in Maranatha.

A bit about our family: We have two children. Our son, Scott, lives in Montgomery, Texas, North of Houston, with his wife Laura. They have six children, all of whom we are immensely proud. Our grandson, Jon, and his wife, Kailee, have just blessed us with our first great grandbaby, Marilyn Joelle. She is the most beautiful little blond baby ever to be born in this country or around the world. The remainder of their children are scattered from Germany to Kalispell, Montana. Our daughter, Michelle, lives in Wheaton, Illinois, with her husband, Tom. They have three children. Two of the children are in college, and the other one is a junior in high school. Michelle works at Wheaton College.

A Little Trivia

1. In Diner lingo, what is a "cowboy with spurs"?
2. About one-third of the earth's surface is covered in desert—T/F
3. A fatal epidemic disease is called what?
4. A long scarf made of soft material or feathers is known as what?
5. Some skunks are completely black or completely white. —T/F
6. What male actor had the leading role in the film *Gone With The Wind*?
7. The human heart has how many chambers—four, five, or six?
8. Who composed the opera *The Magic Flute*?
9. Sweet, sour, salty, and bitter are the primary sources of what?
10. Who invented the game of basketball in 1891?

(copied)

ANSWERS: 1. Western omelet with fries 2. True 3. Plague 4. A boa 5. True 6. Clark Gable 7. Four 8. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 9. Taste 10. James Naismith

New Maranatha Resident

Carol Ann Ciocca, City Girl



Carol

I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to an Italian father and a Pennsylvania Dutch mother. My sister and I were sent with neighbors to Sunday school where I was saved at age 10, baptized by immersion the next year, and became a member of Crescentville Baptist Church. It was there that I learned

how to serve the Lord through singing in the junior and senior choirs, also providing special music at a Jewish mission and a Rescue Mission in Philadelphia. I taught in VBS, JOY Club, and Sunday school. At High Point Baptist Camp, Geigertown, Pennsylvania, I dedicated my life to the Lord, promising I would go to Bible College. The Lord led me to major in music at Olney High School, Philadelphia.

My first job after high school was at Presbyterian Ministers Fund for life insurance. After three years there, I left for Johnson City, New York, where I entered my freshman year at Baptist Bible Seminary in the Christian Day School program. My sophomore year, I followed the school to Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. On a choir tour bus, while listening to the song *“Without Jesus You Have Nothing At All,”* I prayed, telling the Lord I would be willing to go to the foreign mission field if that was His will for me. He would have to help me because I was afraid. During the summer between my junior and senior year, He provided so that I could go to Iquitos, Peru, as a missionary apprentice for 6 weeks. There the Lord confirmed His calling for me to someday return to Iquitos as a missionary with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism.

After returning to Clarks Summit, I continued studying at BBC. I prepared to do my student teaching at Capitol Christian Academy in Washington, D.C. while living with my cousins in nearby Suitland, Maryland. After graduation, May 1971, I headed to Woodbridge, Virginia, where I taught at Evangel Christian School in Dale City, Virginia. The first year I taught kindergarten and the next year I taught a combined second and third grade. Both years, I led the junior choir, sang in the adult choir, provided special music and taught in children’s church at Evangel Baptist Church where the school was located.

July 1973, after attending ABWE Candidate School, I

was officially accepted as a missionary and appointed to the Upper Amazon Field Council, Iquitos, Peru. After one year of deputation and one year in language school in San Jose', Costa Rica, I arrived in Iquitos, in September 1975 as a missionary. The Lord continued teaching me how to serve Him there for 24 years. This also included three months serving in Bogota, Colombia.

March 1999, the Lord sent me back to the USA with health issues. In August of that year, I became a missionary with Baptist Church Planters. God led me to serve with BCP in a Spanish ministry in the Rio Grande Valley, McAllen, Texas, from October 2001 until February 2017.

The Lord has now led me to Sebring, Florida. I heard about Maranatha Village when I was a young girl at Crescentville Baptist Church in Philadelphia. I first came here on my way back to Peru after furlough in 1990. I visited with residents Helen Paige and Edna Hull, my former housemates in Peru. In 2010, I was nearing retirement, so I visited Maranatha Village as well as other missionary retirement villages near here. But, the Lord had more ministry opportunities for me in Texas and Mexico.

While in summer ministry in 2016, I realized I was getting worn out physically and began praying about where I could retire and slow down a bit. I began communicating with Maranatha Village again. Brother Gerry Carlson was very patient with me, answering my every question. The Lord worked out the details and sent me extra special helpers so that February 16, 2017, I arrived at Maranatha Village. Linda Bond, an MK from Peru, invited me to stay in her home until the moving truck arrived. Former Iquitos missionaries Dan and Judy Smith, and Dan’s sister Sue and her husband Randy Tucker, drove the moving van and my car here. (I had met Sue when we both taught at Evangel Christian School in Virginia. We shared an apartment my second year there.)

I praise the Lord for salvation, for the way He has provided and led in my life, for the places where He has led me to live and serve, and for the friends He has given me along the way. I praise Him for my new friends here at Maranatha Village and hope to be able to spend many happy, healthy years here in Christ’s service with all of you. To God be the Glory for the great things He has done and continues to do. I look forward to what He will do in the future.



"Always serve too much hot fudge sauce on hot fudge sundaes. It makes people overjoyed and puts them in your debt. ~Judith Olney!"

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

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.

Maribeth Smith

Cake in a Mug

In a coffee mug!

- 3 Tbsp. flour
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 Tbsp. cocoa powder
- Pinch baking powder
- 4 Tbsp. milk

Mix all, then add canola oil until consistency of cake batter (or add more milk.) Can add a few chocolate chips. Microwave one minute. If gooey, do 30 seconds more. Instead of cocoa, can use 1 tsp. vanilla, or lemon juice....

Linda Bond

Carrot Cake

Mix together:

- 4 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 1/2 c. oil

Add:

- 2 cups self-rising flour
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon

Stir in:

- 1 cup angel flake coconut
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Bake: in greased 9 x 13" pan at 350° for 45 minutes

Glaze:

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon soda
- 1 tablespoon corn syrup
- 1/2 cup buttermilk

Boil to soft ball stage. Make slits in cake and spoon glaze on the cake.

Ruth Watterson



Maranatha Growth & Development

Why Maranatha Village?

I've been thinking. Why do we need Maranatha Village? Is this just a fun and comfortable place to live where we can all enjoy ourselves? One Florida retirement community promises: "*Where all your retirement dreams come true.*" Promotional materials virtually scream: Play! Play! Play!

Maranatha Village is different – on purpose. Our motto from the start has been "***Helping One Another 'til Jesus Comes.***" Our theme song could well be, "*There Is Joy In Serving Jesus.*" It's a happy place where Christians come together to live reasonably, enjoy one another's fellowship, and serve the Lord as He directs and enables. It's a place whose residents have a deep personal commitment to some vitally important things.

Maranatha Village provides a safe and secure environment where senior saints may spend their retirement years living, worshiping, and serving with those of like precious faith.

...Maranatha Village is distinctive to the point of being truly unique. It's a place where God's people can invest their lives and their resources.

This distinctiveness is exemplified by the ministry of faithful ***prayer warriors*** in our Village. Some are even shut-ins, limited in human strength, but mighty in spiritual power. The typical church has one or more of these special saints, but Maranatha Village enjoys a remarkable concentration of focused intercessors.

Another factor that sets Maranatha Village apart is its ***missions emphasis***, under the direction of Maranatha Baptist Church. Each day, a faithful corps gathers for the daily chapel services, where, over the course of a week, the specific current needs of each of the 70+ missionaries and mission organizations supported by the church are bathed in pray. Nearly half of the annual budget of the church is committed to missionary outreach. Missionaries love to come to Maranatha, because they know residents will faithfully pray for them week after week.

These two distinctives are reason enough to affirm the value of and need for Maranatha Village. But

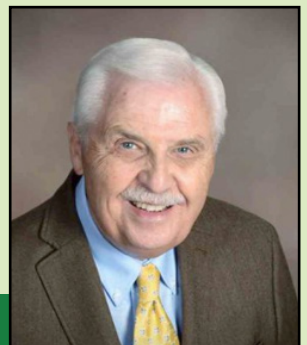
there is more. Occasionally, word gets back to us of someone who won't consider coming to a place like Maranatha Village, because they can't see spending the rest of their life sitting around the campfire singing "*Kum By Ya*" until the Lord comes. That's sad, because it displays an unfortunate ignorance of a third distinctive, which is ***service-mindedness***.

Maranatha residents exert a powerful witness within the community as they go about their business. They also carry on a fruitful ministry in the local jail and at a nearby prison. Others serve at nursing homes, assisted living facilities (including our own Maranatha Manor), mobile home and RV parks. Still others minister in children's Bible clubs or tutoring in local schools. Some serve in interim pastoral ministry or pulpit supply, while others travel to foreign mission fields for short-term ministries. Maranatha Baptist Church also has several outreach programs throughout the year that draw area residents to our campus.

Maranatha Village provides a ***safe and secure*** environment where senior saints may spend their retirement years living, worshiping, and serving with those of like precious faith. It's also a place where extended family can feel confident their loved ones are being supported by neighbors and friends. And it is a place where families can come to visit, enjoy the hospitable climate and the welcoming spirit for which we are known.

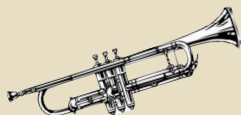
Maranatha Village is distinctive to the point of being truly unique. It's a place where God's people can invest their lives and their resources. Over the next few months, we'll be suggesting creative ways to perpetuate these distinctives, and ensure that the blessings we enjoy will be available to succeeding generations, should the Lord tarry His return. Watch and listen.

Dr. Gerry Carlson



Maranatha Village

11 MARANATHA BOULEVARD
SEBRING, FL 33870-6817
863-385-7897
fax 863-385-7954
office@maranathavillage.org
www.maranathavillage.org



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

Maranatha's October 2017 Missions Conference Speakers for Sunday the 8th through Wednesday the 11th



*The Lethbridges
Hannah - Matt - Alicia - Sofia*

“We are *The Lethbridges*: Matt, Alicia, Sofia and Hannah. Matt earned his bachelor's degree in **Construction Management** from

John Brown University and a Master's degree in Christian Ministries from Liberty University. Alicia earned her degree in elementary education from the University of South Florida and taught school for 8 1/2 years before starting a family. Sofia and Hannah enjoy school and are active in our church's various children's programs. God has called us into full-time missions serving in the **Project Office of ABWE.**” *One example of our role: Coordinating labor, material, equipment, supervision, and contracts. Website: www.thelethbridges.com*

“It was February 1984 that Diane and I stepped out in an evangelistic service at our home church and surrendered our lives to God to serve Him anyway and anywhere. I began Spurgeon Baptist Bible College in the fall of that same year.



Diane & Chris Marine

The summer of 1988, as a junior in Bible College studying for the Youth Pastorate, we made a two-month trip to **Tombouctou, Mali** in West Africa, to rebuild a diesel generator. God used that trip to change our direction, and in July of 1989 after graduation, we joined **Evangelical Baptist Mission**. That was 28 years ago, and what an adventure it has been.”

Chris became the West Africa Regional Coordinator in 2001 serving in the Ivory Coast. In January 2003, they served in the capital city of Niamey, Niger, West Africa, for 14 years. They are now making future decisions.