

The Maranatha Village Trumpet



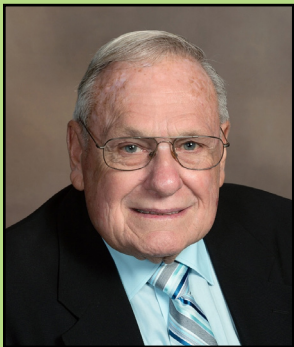
“The Lord Cometh!”

February – March 2018

Volume XXXII 2



Village Operations Manager



Steve

I was born in Detroit, Michigan. After some time, I moved to Ypsilanti, Michigan, met Carol in grade school, and then we married in 1956. We have 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 8 1/3 great grandchildren.

Before coming to Maranatha for our present ministry, I served several years in the fire department, sheriff's department, as a missionary

with Word of Life, youth pastor in Quincy, Illinois, and was Director of the Indiana Regular Baptist Camps. Following this, I served as Operations Manager of the First Baptist Church in Naples, Florida. Later I became the head of security, transportation, housekeeping, maintenance, and filled in as acting director of the assisted living at Aston Gardens, Naples.

Carol and I were praying and looking to the Lord for another ministry in which to serve. After viewing an ad in the Baptist Bulletin for a maintenance supervisor at Maranatha Village in Sebring, Florida, we prayed about this position. A little later I called a dear friend and our former pastor, Dr. Mattison. He stated that Wes Halstead and I would complement one another and that I should apply. I called Wes, sent my resume, met with the board in September 2003, and now, it is all history.

I began work November 1, 2003. I really liked my min-

istry from the beginning. The following spring I felt we needed an emergency plan for the Village. A policy and procedures manual was put together along with our emergency team. I have worked very closely with the **Highlands County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**. We survived three hurricanes in 2004 and again, Irma in 2017.

I continued as maintenance supervisor until the spring of 2017, when my position was changed to **Operations Manager**, and Tom Abrams came on as foreman to handle the day-to-day activities. In this position I plan, direct, and manage the operations of the Village. Responsibilities include: villa and grounds maintenance, streets, signage, water and solid waste operations, mowing, trimming of trees, and the works of the pool and spa. Keeping everything in a workable and safe condition, coordinating activities with contractors and staff according to Federal, State, and Local regulations can be a sizeable and important job. I am now in my 15th year, and I love the ministry God has called me to do. I plan to continue working as long as the Lord allows.



*Maintenance Staff
Tim-Steve-David-Phil-Geoff-Tom*

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The Administrator's Perspective!

“Casting Your Vote”

Dr. Jerry Webber, Administrator



Jerry

I recently read an insightful statement by that prolific author Unknown. I'm quite sure he (or she) knows little or nothing about Maranatha Village, but what he/she said certainly is apropos to

what goes on here day after day, month after month, and year after year. Here it is--

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

When I read that, I saw pictures in my mind of willing workers painting villas, serving meals in the Manor, repairing roofs, opening and closing the pool, setting up picnics and hot dog roasts, transporting folks to doctor appointments and shopping, gardening, pulling weeds and raking leaves, helping people with cable and computer problems, rewiring an office building, mowing lawns and tending the golf course, doing set up and take down for Village dinners, building a dog run, edging roadways and sidewalks, running sound systems and video cameras, ushering in church and greeting visitors, manning the “guard house”, rebuilding the pier, providing meals, doing carpentry, etc., etc. This list is by no means complete, but you get the idea. Add to all these activities the myriad of unseen, unheralded acts of kindness done for others and for the Lord, and you begin to see the importance of volunteerism.

It's safe to say that without volunteers there would be no Maranatha Village – at least as it is today. It's also fair to say that all of us are better off because of what some of us are doing. Volunteerism enhances

the appearance of buildings and properties, showing guests and visitors that we care about the place where we live. Volunteerism helps those unable to help themselves, easing the burdens of those going through tough times. Volunteerism holds down the costs of upkeep, and keeps labor costs in check. Volunteerism enhances security. Volunteerism improves our lifestyles, and makes Maranatha a safe, attractive, comfortable community to live in. Volunteerism buoys the spirits of those no longer able to do what they used to do, when they see others picking up the torches they once carried.

In an age of rampant individualism and “me-first” mentality, God's people must guard against the “let-George-do-it” spirit. George won't always be there, or be able to do what he's done so willingly in the past. Those who still have the mental, physical, emotional and financial resources must be willing to do for others who no longer enjoy those resources.

So, what kind of community do you want to live in? Every day, and in many ways, we cast our vote on that question. Do I want to live in an environment where I'm the center of my universe and virtually everything is done for me? Or do I want to be in a place where Jesus is Lord and where “nothing [is] done through selfish ambition or conceit....?” An atmosphere where neighbors live out Paul's injunction to the Philippians, to “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

Maranatha Village is largely that kind of place, populated largely by that kind of people. But that spirit must be embraced, reproduced and passed on from one generation to another. Ultimately, the kind of community we live in will depend upon the kind of neighbors we choose to be. How will you vote?

NYS Pastor Works For MV

Rev. David Waite



David

I began working for Maranatha Village in 2010 as an assistant to our former Village Manager, Wes Halstead. In the office, I entered purchase orders in our QuickBooks accounting, updated pricing costs of maintenance parts, invoiced residents for maintenance labor and parts (when they were a resident's

cost), manned the reception desk when Jeanne was absent, helped set up and check promotional villas, and performed a number of other duties as given by Wes. I was also a Village notary, and served the residents with their legal and other document needs. In that same capacity, I worked closely with our Village treasurer and board president at the time, Earl Harriman, in providing forms and assistance to our residents in the annual affidavit signing for application to Homestead Exemption on their ad valorem taxes. I still serve as one of the Village notaries, and ad valorem is a busy time in February.

While still working for Wes in the office, I was "farmed out" to help with maintenance on occasion, and especially with mowing villa lawns during the growing, rainy season. That is a duty that I still maintain at the present. It also demands on-going

maintenance attention to the ZTR mower I operate.

With managerial changes in the front office, it was understandable that my function as an assistant was no longer needed in the same capacities, so I began working full-time with the maintenance department. I am grateful for that opportunity of service to the Village and ministry for the Lord. The responsibilities are varied and no rut or dull routine exists. Assisting with the repair of water line breaks, villa repairs, removing carpet, taking out tubs when walk-in showers are to be installed, assisting with security lighting repairs and installation, removing shrubs, minor bathroom/kitchen repairs, and general maintenance around the waste water treatment plant are only some of the duties that come to mind. The demands differ from day to day. We all take weekend turns answering emergency calls, as those can be unpredictable occurrences. Hurricane Irma, of course, brought on an entirely different set of duties—making proper preparations before the storm, and seeing to cleaning up details afterwards.

Occasionally, when I have filled the pulpit here at Maranatha Baptist Church, or taught Sunday school, a few folks ask and wonder why I am not still in the ministry. I reply that I've never really left the ministry! What I do for Maranatha Village is for the Lord, too, and just as fulfilling!

The Result Was Maranatha!

Timothy James Thorp is the fifth son of John (Sr.) and Ellen Thorp, born in Burdett, New York. He was a member of the Glen Baptist Church, Watkins Glen New York.

His father was a World War II veteran and suffered injury at Normandy. Thus he was in Veterans Administration Hospitals most of his adult life, and passed away when Tim was only 12. John is his oldest brother, and he joined the U.S. Navy when Tim was seven years old. Tim was exposed to the Gospel at a young age by the faithful attendance at church with his mother and brothers. He also had godly grandparents who helped the family by daily prayers and encouragement. Tim graduated from Watkins Glen New York High School and attended Baptist Bible College, now Clark Summit University, in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Tim and his older brothers worked at pulling brush and tying grapevines for a local farmer. Tim was the water front director at Lamoka Baptist Camp, and has worked at other miscellaneous jobs. He enjoyed playing softball on the

church ball team, hanging out with the teenagers, and the young adults were a big part of his social life.

When John invited him to visit us at Maranatha Village, Tim was able to see the opportunities of working here, attending a good church, and having a place of his own. Don Esseltine offered him a job after he demonstrated his skills of digging a trench for irrigation

pipelines. Tim has worked faithfully here on the maintenance team since November of 2000. He has been mowing, keeping the leaf tubs delivered and picked up from the residents, recycling, and a lot of other general maintenance work. He is a faithful worker. Besides working on the Maranatha maintenance team, Tim is an usher at Maranatha Baptist Church.



Tim

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New Residents From Ecuador

Rev. Leo & Mrs. Nancy Mendoza



Nancy & Leo

Leo and Nancy were born in a jungle town in Shell, Ecuador. Here are their testimonies:

Leo was born into a devout Roman Catholic family. He became an altar boy and later studied in a catholic school to become a school

teacher. This led to his becoming the principal of the elementary school of Shell. After marrying Nancy, and having 3 children, he accepted a job with an oil company in the jungle of Ecuador, where he managed a warehouse by a river that supplied all the oil rigs in the jungle. In November 1973 while in the jungle, a missionary told him about salvation, and he accepted Christ. Six years after Nancy started praying for Leo's salvation, God answered. Leo and Nancy were both baptized December 1973.

As a consequence of a river flood, they lost their home and all their belongings. The company relocated them to Quito, the capital of Ecuador. He continued working in the jungle where temptations led him away from the Lord. In 1980, the Lord said, "This is enough!" and tested Leo with an accident that left him with bleeding in the brain, leading to paralysis and unconsciousness. After brain surgery, the Lord's grace was once again wonderful to him, and he recovered 100%, and he fully committed his life to the Lord. He began going to church, studying the Bible, and later graduated from the Quito Bible Institute. He continued serving in his church.

Nancy grew up in a home where her dad was a Christian, but her mother was not until later in life. Her father offered their home to start a Sunday school where she heard the Word when she was five and accepted the Lord when she was 10. At the age of 16, her father was murdered by political enemies, leaving her mother with seven children. As the oldest child, Nancy was expected to help her mother raise the family. Sometime later, she went to nursing school, graduated and got a job in a HCJB hospital and was active

in a local church. Her mother married a foreigner, so Nancy was no longer needed to support her family.

While riding a bus back to her home from the hospital, she saw the "love of her life." She married Leo, and they started their family. Her stepfather was with Shell Oil and hired Leo. While Leo continued to work in the jungle, she worked in a HCJB hospital in Quito where she became the Director of the Nursing Department. Along with other missionary nurses, they founded ***Nurses Christian Fellowship International***, where she served as the president. Through the NCFI, she traveled and lectured in many countries in the world.

After Leo's accident, they permanently moved to Quito and became active in a Baptist church. It was here that he became a deacon. The church started a Bible institute, and they both studied there. Upon graduation at 50, he became an assistant pastor and then a senior pastor. With this new position, they gave up secular work, and Leo became a full-time pastor.

After sending out and supporting several missionaries from Ecuador, the Lord enabled them to move to Patterson, New Jersey, as missionaries where 23 of Leo's relatives lived. They were able to see all of them saved and baptized, the last being his mother at 85 years of age. For the past 20 years, they planted four churches – New Jersey, Arkansas, Tennessee, and one in Ecuador. Last year they returned to Ecuador to care for Nancy's 99 year old mother, and Leo served as an interim pastor.

Mendoza's son, Joffrey, found out about Maranatha Village from his church in Minnesota. The Mendoza's moved to the Village in August. Their daughter, Shirley, who is a pastor's wife said about Maranatha, "The soldiers of the Army of Christ have gathered after returning from the battle." Leo and Nancy hope to reach Hispanic people who live in Highlands County.



Director of Volunteer Ministry

Mr. John Olson



John

I was born and raised in Jamestown in western New York. I spent my army stint in Georgia, Korea, and Texas with a two week stop in Tacoma, Washington.

After the service, I drove a semi-truck for a while and then became an ironworker so I could stay home more. My sixteen years in ironwork took me to Colorado, Wyoming, New York, Nebraska, Texas, Michigan, and Minnesota. I had learned to weld while an ironworker, so I hired on with a shop in my home town. This enabled me to help my sick mother.

On March 31, 1984 shortly after my coming home, I accepted Christ as my Savior. At this time, I was thanking the Lord for eternal blessings, and then He

gave me Rosanne! We have now been married 30 years. (I'm gonna keep her!)

Upon retiring, we stumbled into Maranatha Village and fell in love with it. After a time, I started to do some volunteer work, which turned into other jobs. Soon I was asked to help with the video and lighting ministries of the church which I enjoy doing. It wasn't too long until I was asked to begin recruiting volunteers for the Village. I have found there is a really good spirit with all the Maranatha volunteers. However, there is always more work to be done, so we really need more volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, just let me know.

I just love the people here, and I cannot imagine being anywhere else. The Lord keeps me busy and rewards me well! Praise His name!

Volunteerism Leads To Community Service!

Mrs. Marlys Johnson

Even though I didn't always realize it as I was growing up, the Lord has had His hand on me continually. I was saved through the ministry of Walnut Street Baptist Church at a JOY Club at 6 years of age, but I didn't know it was called "getting saved." I was raised in a liberal Baptist church, and had very little Bible knowledge and never heard the term "saved."

My grandmother and an aunt were instrumental in my life when I had spiritual questions, but nothing was really clear until years later. Their witness had planted questions in my mind, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit within me was often at odds with what I was being taught at that church.

In 1975, Jerry was transferred to Fort Dodge, Iowa, and we had to look for a new church home. We ended up through a series of events at a small Regular Baptist church, Faith Baptist Church. Pastor Don McMillen ministered in a unique way to Jerry and me. God had gifted him to understand where we were coming from, and he discipled us very carefully.

The Lord has continued to guide and direct us,

sometimes with us not understanding why until years later. It is such a comfort to be confident in His love, His leading and direction, and His Word of instruction!

Since coming to Maranatha Village, I have found many ways to help the Village and the saints who live here by volunteering. However, I am now the person who cleans the guest house, so when duty calls that takes precedence over volunteering. I also substitute as the front desk receptionist in the Village office when needed. Most of my volunteering has been in the volunteer paint crew, and it has been such a blessing! The crew is fun to work with, and still we get the jobs done! I have also done outside clean-up for some who no longer can do it. There was a huge amount of clean-up after the storm! Retirement from ministry is not Biblical, and we try to do well whatever the Lord puts before us.

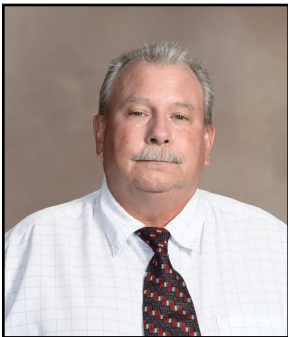


Marlys

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Navy Seabees To Maranatha

Mr. Geoff Bondi



Geoff

I was born in Rochester, New York, and was raised in Marilla, New York, which is a small farming community south-east of Buffalo. After my high school graduation, I joined the U.S. Navy. In the Navy, I qualified to train as an electrician in the Seabees. After serving in the Navy Seabees, I went to work for Mobil Pipeline Corpo-

ration, in Rochester, New York.

I worked for Mobil Pipeline for a total of 20 years; five years on the union crew and 12 years as the Assistant Operations Construction Supervisor. My territory included all of New York and half of Pennsylvania. Many projects lasted for several weeks and some lasted for several months. During the last three years at Mobil Oil, I worked as the Corporate Safety Advisor. I traveled all over the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, teaching safety seminars, training employees, as well as making sure each facility was adhering strictly to OSHA, DOT safety, and compliance standards. After leaving Mobil Oil, I went to college part-time, and worked full-time for an electrical contractor in Rochester.

In 1991 during my time at Mobil Oil, I met Donna while working in Binghamton, New York. We were married in 1992. It wasn't long before I realized that although I truly thought I was a Christian, I was not. Donna and I found a church in Rochester right away, and it was there it became clear I needed to be saved. I was saved on January 11, 1995, and baptized in May of 1998, at Faith Baptist Church in Rochester, New York.

In 2002, I went forward at a missions conference to serve the Lord in missions. I did not realize at the time that God would have us serve for several years with Continental Baptist Missions under Dr. Gerald Webber and Bill Jenkin III. We were volunteer builders in CBM's Nehemiah Program. We worked on several projects in New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, and lastly, Florida. I volunteered for four winters here in Maranatha Village. I began on the maintenance crew full-time November 1, 2011. I started doing mainly electrical work at first, then plumbing, and general maintenance. I also became responsible for the plumbing inventory and some electrical supplies.

I'm twice blessed working at Maranatha as I enjoy what I do, and I get to meet so many great folks at the same time.



Cook's Korner

Zucchini-Pepperoni Casserole

submitted by Russ Hull

2 Tbsp butter
1 small chopped onion
Green pepper to suit you
2 to 3 small zucchini
Package of pepperoni slices
1 jar of spaghetti sauce
Mozzarella cheese

Cook onion and green pepper in butter.
Slice zucchini, thinly

Layer:
A bit of sauce
Pepperoni
Zucchini
Onion & green pepper
Sauce

Layer in order; you can add cheese if you so desire.
End with a layer of pepperoni, sauce and mozzarella.
Bake for 40 minutes at 350° degrees.

DO NOT USE FROZEN ZUCCHINI!





A Digital World!

Dr. Gerry Carlson

Several years ago, our son visited Maranatha Village for the first time and attended a church service with us. His first comment after the service was how surprised he was to see so many “older” folks using electronic devices as their Bible. He thought it was great! Yes, many of us “golden agers” have traveled into the digital age and found that technology can be beneficial to our journey at this stage of life.

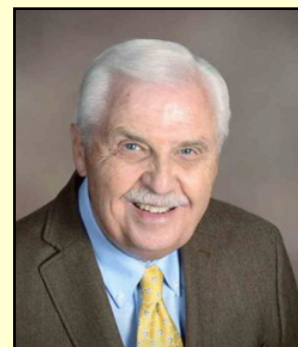
Traversing the world-wide web or using digital gadgets can be a daunting experience. Potentially malicious and harmful malware can threaten our devices, or it is possible to be exposed to corrupt and ungodly communication. Still the technological advances of the 21st Century have brought some wonderful blessings to our communication capabilities.

We now can read our Bibles, or listen to the Scriptures being read, and read other wholesome literature on hand-held devices that can be carried with us virtually everywhere. We can communicate to missionaries around the world in a few seconds – and without extra cost. We can easily transmit and receive messages with

photographic images or video attached. We can instantaneously share personal news and information with family and friends via Facebook, or videoconference in real time via Skype or FaceTime. The options for communicating and receiving content are multiplied. It is truly an amazing time to be alive.

At Maranatha Village, we have been able to advertise and promote the great things God is doing here in the Village through various forms of digital media. During and following the hurricane, we were able to post on our Village Facebook page via a smartphone even though we were without electricity. The Village Facebook Page is now followed regularly by over 600 people. And that number is growing – with many more folks viewing news and views of Maranatha Village life and activities on a regular basis.

In the months to come, I want to feature several facets of our Maranatha Village website through future articles in *The Trumpet*. My goal is to make everyone aware of the benefits that the website <http://maranathavillage.org/wp/> provides to residents and friends of Maranatha Village. By clicking on the **Newsletter** tab at the top of the page, you can access copies of the last two years of *Trumpet* issues. Also, you can click on the “**Red Button**” on the Website Home Page that says – **VISIT THE VILLAGE FACEBOOK SITE** – to take you directly to the Facebook page. You do not need to have a Facebook account to gain access to the page.



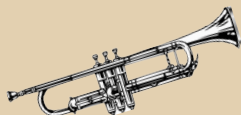
Gerry



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

Those Who Have Gone On Before Us! 2017

Rachel Patton	Missionary John Paton's Mom	1/18/2017	Alice Humrickhouse	Messenger	5/10/2017
Dr. Don Bond		1/24/2017	Eldora Richardson	(former resident)	5/21/2017
Joanne Snyder		2/12/2017	Dorothy Burns		5/28/2017
Dr. Bill Fusco		2/14/2017	Bob Cass	(former resident)	5/29/2017
Dr. Roy Shelpman		2/17/2017	William Jahnke		6/03/2017
Sherry Whitehead	(former resident)	3/07/2017	Cabe Burlison		6/23/2017
Bill Harris		3/09/2017	Herb Harrington	(winter resident)	6/30/2017
Lynn McGarvey	(former resident)	3/09/2017	Tom Walmsley		8/01/2017
Joe Chapman		3/10/2017	Carl Magnuson	(former resident)	8/31/2017
Clayton Lewis		3/11/2017	Earl Gleason	(former resident)	10/18/2017
Betty Livezey		3/15/2017	James Davey		11/19/2017
Rita Fortna		3/17/2017	Dr. Jesse Eaton		11/29/2017
Earle Harriman		3/20/2017	Lois O'Keefe		12/12/2017
Dr. E. Duane King		4/27/2017	Dr. Charlie Welner		12/25/2017
Lillie Hazel Billington		5/07/2017	Dick Geiger		12/29/2017