

# The Maranatha Village Trumpet



*"The Lord Cometh!"*

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## Disc Golf, Anyone?



"Golf I know, and miniature golf (putt-putt) I know, but disc golf—really?"

Those are thoughts going through lots of Maranatha minds since it was announced that the Village was about to get its own professionally-designed disc golf course. Let's remove a bit of the mystery from the subject and take a brief look at the history of the game and how it is played.

It's hard to say where and when the game originated. The precursor of the modern-day sport probably was invented in Saskatchewan, Canada in 1926, when a group of grade school buddies threw tin lids into 4-foot-wide circles drawn in sandy patches on the playground. Our Finnish friends take credit for the development of disc golf in its current form, but the American roots probably go back to

"Steady" Ed Headrick and the "Wham-O" Frisbee people in California. Today the game is played in some 40 countries, and there are 103,785 registered players in the Professional Disc Golf Association, its governing body.

Disc golf is played and scored much like traditional golf. Rather than a ball and clubs, however, players use a Frisbee-like disc. The disc is thrown from a tee box, the object being to cover the distance between the tee and the target, which is essentially a "basket" mounted on a pole under an assembly of hanging chains (see picture.) Most courses have nine or eighteen holes; ours will have six. Par will vary from hole to hole, depending on distance, terrain and obstacles (hazards). The object is to navigate the course with the lowest number of total throws. It may sound a bit foreign, but it will make more sense (and provide some fun times) when completed.

Watch for the opening, but please be patient. We're depending on volunteer labor for the installation and heavy lifting, and this time of year, it's in short supply. Hang in there - we predict it will be worth the wait.

Dr. Jerry Webber, Administrator



# The Administrator's Perspective!

## "...AND GASHMU SAITH IT..."

Dr. Gerald Webber



Jerry

The monumental task of rebuilding the walls around Jerusalem was progressing well under Nehemiah's leadership when opposition raised its ugly head. Sanballat, archenemy of the project, published an "open letter" for a few

thousand of his closest friends, citing an unfounded rumor designed to smear Nehemiah and ultimately shut down the work—an ancient case of "fake news!"

The letter began, "It is reported among the heathen (nations), and Gashmu saith it, that thou and the Jews think to rebel...." That, of course, was a bald-faced lie. Far from rebelling, Nehemiah was under direct orders from King Artaxerxes, leader of the known world. But the assertion that "it is reported," buttressed by the fact that "Gashmu saith it," was the clincher for Sanballat's argument.

Frankly, sometimes that's all it takes. An unsubstantiated rumor takes wings on successive pairs of loose lips, and rumor purports to be reality.

Webster defines rumor as "...a statement or report without known authority for its truth." Wictionary labels it as "a statement or claim of questionable accuracy from no known reliable source, usually spread by word of mouth."

Can rumors survive in a hallowed environment like Maranatha? Regrettably, yes. Not long ago, word was spreading that the Board had reduced the value of all residents' occupancy bonds when it raised the acquisition fee for new leases in early 2017. That is, of course, absurd—not to mention downright illegal. Your bond will always be worth its face value.

It's a pity, but Gashmu lives on. He/she hears things that are being "reported." Without checking for accuracy, those "facts" are passed along as gospel truth. Gashmu doesn't mean to hurt anyone. But he does, because they trust him, and look no further for the truth.

We hear a lot these days about "fake news." No matter what print media you read, or what news channel you watch, you have to take what you hear, see and read with the proverbial grain of salt. We understand that, because we live in a world currently governed by "the Father of Lies."

But followers of Christ are, after all, different. We are in the world, but simultaneously citizens of a higher kingdom, ruled by One who referred to Himself as "...the truth." Gashmu and his ilk don't reflect the values of that kingdom.

Here are several helpful suggestions for dealing with rumors:

1. Challenge the reporter. Don't be afraid to ask, "Do you know this for sure?" And don't hesitate to follow up with a "How do you know this?"
2. Check the report. If there is an "original source," find it and do your own fact-checking. If it has to do with the church, ask a pastor. If it involves the Village, I keep an "open door" for inquirers, and I don't bite. Nor do my colleagues.
3. Correct the record. If you discover bad information being passed along, be a good friend and set the record straight, doing it kindly, but with confidence.

Let's each commit ourselves to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth – no matter what is "reported" or what "Gashmu saith."



# Driving "Old Blue" With A Rat Aboard!

Larry M. Shreckengost



Larry & Linda

When we arrived at Maranatha Village in the fall of 1999, we were told that everyone who was capable was encouraged to volunteer at something in order to keep the cost down.

My first volunteer job was building concrete culverts on both sides of the road going out to Fellowship Acres, under the direction of Howard Deyarmond. Since that time, there have been thousands of yards of concrete placed in driveways, camper pads, sidewalks, footers, Quonset huts, sewer manholes, walls for Villas, etc.

Through the years of working on different projects, invariably someone will come along and ask if I need help! Over the years I have had hundreds of thank-yous, cups of cold water, chocolate chip cookies, muffins and a dose or two of hot tongue!

Linda started volunteering Wednesdays with recycle pickup, then graduated to driving the garbage truck. One of her most memorable experiences with the former garbage truck was an encounter with a rat! There were rats living in Old Blue, in a nest near the heater core, and it was necessary to remove the panel underneath the dash for repairs. The job was not complete, and it was time for the garbage run. She was told it would be okay to make the run, and they would finish the repairs later.

Not very far into the run, she saw from the corner of

her eye, something run under her seat. The truck came to an abrupt halt, and the door flew open! Myron Burget and I were hanging on the back of the truck with not a clue of what was happening! She quickly got out of the truck and said, "There's a rat in there!" We did a thorough search and found nothing. I told her it must have been a piece of paper she saw. So, we convinced her to get back in the truck and finish the run.

Later we met up with a neighbor who said when he was walking he saw a dead rat laying on the road. We asked, "Where?" It turned out, it was in the very vicinity where the truck was stopped. I guess the rat was more scared of her than she was of the rat!

We are very thankful to be able to serve the Lord alongside other fellow believers here at Maranatha Village.



Dale & Marie Moore



## ~ New York State Picnic ~



Ora Lee Rearick We had our New York State picnic on March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Fogle Pavilion, after many years of not having one. Everyone had a great time of fellowship and made some new friends from our state. As always, we had lots of really good food, and we are looking forward to 2019 for our next time of New York State fellowship.



# New Village Resident

## Julie White



Julie

Moving last year to Sebring, Florida, was not an entirely new thing for me. Upon returning from Guam in 1992, I moved to Sebring where my parents had retired in the early 1980s. How surprised I was when on an impromptu outing, I discovered the sign for Maranatha Baptist Church. The very next Sunday,

I made a beeline to Maranatha Village for the morning church service. However, since I was the youngest one in the congregation, I did not return. During my time in Sebring, I took classes to become a medical transcriptionist.

I had been raised in Peoria, Illinois, but not in a Christian home. When I returned from Washington, DC, after working for the government during the Vietnam War, I made a new friend who asked me to attend church with her. It was after hearing the sound preaching of the Word of God that I was convicted and saved just before my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. The pastor recommended I attend a new Bible College in Wisconsin. I graduated from Maranatha Baptist Bible College and went on to

teach in Christian schools in Florida, North Carolina, and Wyoming. I later returned to Maranatha to work in the Admissions Office with Mrs. Cedarholm. After a trip to China and Guam, Mrs. Cedarholm thought it would be the perfect place for me. Within a year, I was making ready for a move to Guam.

Now 25 years later, I investigated the possibility of moving to Maranatha Village as I would now fit into the crowd. After 22 years in medical transcription, my job was moved to India, so I retired. I began praying about where to locate...my hometown of Peoria, Illinois, or perhaps Florida. It was while perusing Facebook, I learned that Charlie and Barbara Welner were now residents of the Village. In a matter of days, I found other former Maranatha Baptist University professors or staff members were also here. My pursuit of a possible move to Maranatha Village went into high gear. My first visit was in April of last year, but before I could make a final decision on a villa, hurricane Irma interrupted everything. Thankfully, God was in control and while clean up went on in the Village, I packed and made ready for my move from Asheville, North Carolina. I moved into 4 Daniel Road on Monday, October 30, and thank God every day that I'm able to be a part of Maranatha Village.

## "President's Message"



Dr. Amstutz

When I came to Shepherds 20 years ago, Butch Riley was a resident and part of the first group of young men that went out into the community. Butch was one of our oldest basketball players in Special Olympics. We so enjoyed our friendship with Butch, but soon he told us that he'd be moving to Florida. In Florida, he is able to have

his own mobile home. He works at the Maranatha Village grounds as well as in the kitchen. He is a valued employee.

Recently, Butch came to his pastor and shared the pictures about the flood here at Shepherds. He engaged his pastor in doing something with the information and

alerting the congregation that Shepherds had a need. Butch himself gave of his own money to help in the flood. What a blessing to see the growth in this man as he has moved from client to an independent working at Maranatha Village. Oh, I almost forgot - Butch would love to have you know that he has a brand new dog, a Goldendoodle. Her name is Dolly.

Butch, I'm really proud of what God is doing in your life.

Seeking to communicate compassion,

Dr. William J. Amstutz  
President...and still a servant

(copied)



Butch Riley



# New Village Residents

## Norman & Ruth Freeburg



Norman & Ruth

We are the new residents of Maranatha Village at 55 Gideon Road. What a blessing to be with you folks—so much going on and such energy! Isn't this a retirement village? We are amazed with the desire and ability of so many to continue being used in the Lord's service during these golden years of life. Norm and I (Ruthie) have

enjoyed the ministry during our entire marriage—forty-six years in June. It has been a wonderful life with the privilege of knowing and, in many cases, co-laboring with other believers like those of you here at Maranatha Village.

Norm and I met and were later married at Fourth Baptist Church in Minneapolis. After Norm's graduation from Central Baptist Seminary and mine from Pillsbury Baptist Bible College, the Lord led us into church planting—first in Norway for a term and then to Canada for more than twenty years. In the immediate fifteen years or so before moving here to Maranatha Village, Norm ministered with International Partnership Ministries and then pastored for nearly five years

at Grace Baptist Church in Waseca, Minnesota. This body of northern believers had supported us for years in our church planting ministries, first through IBCBE and then Baptist World Mission.

The Lord has blessed us with four children. Some of you may have seen our three sons and one son-in-law here at the beginning of April. Our son-in-law drove the U-Haul truck down to Florida, and the other three "boys" joined us at Maranatha Village to unload. What a blessing! We also have the blessing of a multi-cultural family. Our second son first met his French Canadian/Lebanese wife-to-be when they were teen-agers in Canada. Our daughter was introduced to her Filipino husband-to-be by his sister who was one of our daughter's roommates in Bible college. Our third son is married to the daughter of Shekar and Irene Chelli Eda. The Edas minister in Mumbai, India, where Shekar has planted churches and also has a Bible college and orphanage. Our oldest son remains a bachelor, but enjoys being an uncle to our six grandchildren.

Through the years, we have already known many of the residents at Maranatha Village—some who have already graduated to Glory. For those still present below, it is a joy to become reacquainted with "old" friends. We also look forward to making many new ones.

## "Do You Ever Stop?"

Maxine Brown



Maxine

I love being outside with my Lord, talking to Him, and praising Him. I am thankful I am still able to serve Him in this manner. While out raking and loving every minute of what I am doing, I hear voices of different ones as they go by saying: "Do you ever stop?" "You are working too hard." "Where do you get all that energy?"

I appreciate all these comments, but you know, God leads us all in different ways, and when He does, He gives the strength and will to do it! Even at this age of my life, the

strength He gives me is unbelievable. Try it---you'll like it! I have several rakes, but no extra hands to go with them!

I enjoy nature, the plants, trees (even with all their falling leaves), green grass, the breezes we have here in Florida and the hot and cool temperatures. But most of all, I enjoy serving my Lord and doing my best to keep Maranatha Village, the Church, and homes looking like we care about and appreciate the facilities the Lord has given to us.

All the praises I have go to my Lord. I praise Him for our church and Village. I have been here 29 years and love it!



# ~ 2018 Minnesota Picnic ~



The annual picnic of Minnesota-related folks was held on Friday, March 9 at the Fogle Pavilion on the Maranatha Village campus. About 40 joined together on a beautiful Florida afternoon with the temperature hovering around 75 and bright sunshine breaking through the trees. Once again, the ladies outdid themselves by loading the serving table with scrumptious food. This reporter was absolutely overwhelmed and overjoyed with the authentic fresh rhubarb dessert that came right out of the northland!

After the dinner, we had a great time of sharing and singing around the fire pit. Included in that time of introductions we were able to recognize the providential role that Minnesota guest, Dan Larson, played in the Lord's leading of Leo and Nancy Mendoza to Maranatha Village. A year ago Dan told his fellow church-member in Minnesota, Joffrey Mendoza, about our village. The Mendoza family was looking for a warm place for their parents to retire. We were glad to have Leo and Nancy plus their daughter, Shirley, join us for the evening.

Even though we were prohibited from burning firewood due to burning restrictions, we enjoyed the circle of fellowship around the fire pit. It was a night to remember the giving service of the many previous residents and friends of Maranatha Village who worked so diligently to provide such a beautiful place for us to enjoy.

We give our thanks to this year's committee for all their hard work to make the gathering a very special time.



## Cook's Korner

### Sweet and Sour Pork

(Tried, True, and Tasty!)

1 1/2 lbs. pork, cut into 1/2 inch pieces  
 2 T. oil  
 3/4 cup water  
 2 T. cornstarch  
 1 t. salt  
 1/2 cup brown sugar  
 1/4 cup vinegar  
 1 cup pineapple juice  
 1 T. soy sauce  
 3/4 cup cut green pepper  
 1/2 cup sliced onion  
 #2 can pineapple chunks

Brown pork in hot oil. Add water and simmer 1 hour or until pork is tender. Combine cornstarch, salt, brown sugar, vinegar, pineapple juice and soy sauce in a sauce pan. Mix and cook until thick, stirring. Pour sauce over meat and let stand 10 minutes.

Add cut green pepper, onion slices and pineapple chunks. Cook 15 minutes. Serve over hot rice.

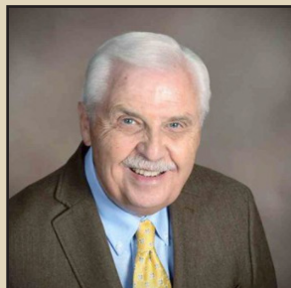
Maribeth Smith





# God's Faithfulness Is Evident!

*Gerry Carlson*



Gerry

Maranatha Village has been a testimony of God's faithfulness down through the years. The word testimony is defined as "an expression of evidence or facts that attest to truth." In the Biblical record, the word testimony was identified with the Ark of the

Covenant. That was the place where the tablets of Moses, that contained God's law, were kept in holy preservation and sacred honor.

In the New Testament, the word testimony is always attached to the truth of Jesus Christ's supremacy and saving power. In today's Christian circles, we refer to a "testimony" as the personal declaration of an individual's salvation experience and walk with God. Truly a testimony is an assertion of God at work in the lives of believers.

In the years leading up to the choice of our present property and location, God used Floyd Conway to find, purchase, and lead in the development of the Village that we now enjoy. After two years of searching, Floyd found this property, that was not for sale, but met the conditions that he had set for a suitable place to build the Village.

After researching the county land records, Floyd was able to find out who owned the property and approached them about a possible purchase. The rest – as they say – is history! But there was great toil and needed helpers to accomplish the task. What a legacy and blessing that has been passed on to those of us who enjoy Maranatha Village today.

The old gospel song says, "It is no secret what God can do..." Maranatha Village is a testimony to the evidence of what God enables His people to accomplish in a specific place of His choosing.

Down through the years, God has used different people, much effort, and various gifts to accomplish great things here on the property known as Maranatha Village. Some of the gifts have been small and others have been substantial. In the early days, gifts of equipment were definitely needed to carve out the infra-structure and buildings of the Village.

In later years, legacy gifts from the estates of former residents or other friends have been received at crucial times. These gifts have met critical needs in the history of Maranatha Village. Over and over, testimonies of God's power and provision have been seen in the 45-year history of the Village. Have you considered being used of God to meet a yet unknown need by including Maranatha Village in your estate plan? That is an excellent way to leave a testimony to the truth of God's sustaining power. Contact Gerry Carlson at the Village Office for further information.

*"God is faithful  
yesterday,  
today,  
tomorrow  
always."*



# Maranatha Village

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

## *The Hoosier's Annual Picnic*



March 24<sup>th</sup> began with a bright sunrise, a cool breeze and a cold temperature. Thus, it was a cool 57 degrees to us Floridians. Larry and Marti Landick and Judy O'Connor swept, dusted and cleaned the debris from the floor in the Fogle Pavilion. Eleven o'clock was the time set to eat. By the time eleven o'clock had arrived, the weather had turned into a wonderfully warm day. Because of the burning ban in our county and state, no cooking was to be done in the park. Most came with items that needed no cooking,

but a few had not gotten the word. They improvised, using one of the gas grills in the picnic area. Twenty one Hoosiers gathered at the Fogle Pavilion in Maranatha Village Memorial Park. These folks represented areas from South Bend/Mishawaka in the north to Aurora in the south. We all enjoyed the food and fellowship with those who are current or former Indiana residents.