

# The Maranatha Village Trumpet



*"The Lord Cometh!"*

August – September 2018

Volume XXXII 5

## On Christian Retirement!

### A Guest Editorial



Many people believe retirement means withdrawing from work or labor in order to enjoy life to the fullest without obligation, commitment, or worry. You can do what you feel like doing whenever you want to do it.

Retirement is all about you. It is a reward for all your hard work. This isn't the attitude toward retirement we see in the Bible.

The only place the Bible mentions anything like retirement is found in Numbers 8:23-26. God tells Moses that the Levites, the priests charged with serving God by doing much of the work in and around the Tabernacle, were allowed to begin working from age twenty-five until the mandatory retirement age of fifty.

These retired priests did not pack their bags and spend the rest of their lives at the beach in Tel Aviv. They were expected to mentor younger men in their trade by providing the wisdom and leadership that came from twenty-five years of experience in serving the Lord. In his commentary on Numbers, Adam Clarke states,

*They were no longer obligated to perform any laborious service, but were to act as general directors and counselors. This helped the younger men assume more responsibilities, and it allowed the older men to be in a position to advise and counsel them.*

All other examples in the Bible are of men who worked most of their lives, if not all of it.

- **John the Apostle** served and wrote into his nineties.
- **Moses** was eighty years old when he went to Pharaoh and asked for the freedom of the Israelite slaves; he continued working until he died at age 120.
- Daniel was probably in his eighties when he was thrown into the lion's den.
- In **Titus 2**, **Paul** instructed the older men and women to teach younger people how to behave through their example.

Today, if a Christian is fortunate enough to supply for his or her needs without receiving a salary, he or she may retire from their job or career at any time. However, a Christian never retires from serving God.... While we may have moved into a new season in our lives, God still calls us to grow and invest our gifts and talents in the work that He is doing in the world.

For Christians, retirement should be a time of increased opportunity to do God's work. Work is part of God's design. Each of us has to decide how to redeem the time God has given us. "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise" (Eph. 5:15). This means taking every opportunity we have to serve the Lord. For many, retirement may give them new ways of working toward the kingdom, be that in paid work, in relational activities, in voluntary commitment, or in the ministry of prayer.

There is inherent dignity of labor in Scripture, and God calls us to labor in His vineyard until He calls us home. Our labor may not be at one particular job, but we have to be actively productive as long as we

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**Retirement**  
Next Exit  
What's Next ?

# *The Administrator's Perspective!*

## *Finishing Well!*

*Dr. Gerald Webber*



*Jerry*

Attempting to stay abreast of concerns facing our Maranatha neighbors, I recently wandered into an article published by the National Care Planning Council. I knew it wasn't written for me, since it opened with the

words, "In this article we will use the term "aging seniors" and "final years of life." Surely that didn't describe me—did it?

Then I remembered that I've already lived four years beyond the prescribed "three score and ten." A recent article in Forbes Magazine stated that in 2018, the average life expectancy of an American is 78.7 years. Even at my tender age, I don't have that many years left to deal with "final issues." Things that matter to "aging seniors" must concern me, since now "I am one."

Back to the aforementioned article. With exceptional candor, the author identified several factors that are relatively common to those of us on the backstretch. With apologies to the writer, let me revise and restate several of them here.

### ***DEALING WITH DEADLINES***

When we're young, it's easy to ignore issues we'd rather not deal with. Why focus on "long-term care" in the prime of life? Why waste time thinking about where I will live and with whom, and how I will pay the freight? Suddenly it's the "fourth quarter" and long-term issues become urgent concerns.

### ***DWINDLING OF RESOURCES***

Not everyone who is older is poor. But some are poorer than they expected to be. Many planned on a bank account, pension or investment to supplement Social Security. Factoring in unexpected recessions,

reduced pensions, increased expenses and stingy increases in Social Security, things could be looking pretty bleak.

### ***DETERIORATING HEALTH***

Caleb was 85 years old when he asked Moses for Hebron, saying "I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me." But Caleb was an anomaly. The typical health trend is a downhill slide, as many are discovering. There are things we can no longer do, and the things we can do take longer and hurt more. And that may not be the hardest pill to swallow.

### ***DECLINE IN INDEPENDENCE***

During His last days with the disciples, Jesus said to Peter "... When you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." The truth is, that may become the lot for some of us, if it hasn't started already. Cooking and cleaning will become too taxing. Gardening will be out of the question. We may have to give up the car keys, or risk becoming a danger to ourselves and others. We may have to move to the Manor or a health care facility—or an offspring's home. That period between independence and heaven could be a challenge.

I don't mean to be maudlin. I'm just saying we need to face facts honestly. While God still gives us the mental and physical resources, we should think seriously about how to respond to the looming of the above circumstances.

At the least, we should do the following:

- Analyze our resources
- Talk with our loved ones
- Get good counsel
- Make tentative plans
- Trust God for His timing
- Give beyond the grave
- Finish well!

# New Administrative Pastor

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## Rev. Dwight and Cheryl Turbett



*Cheryl & Dwight*

I (*Dwight*) was born to Christian parents while they were missionaries in Ecuador, South America in 1946. My parents remained in Ecuador from 1946 to 1952, at which time they came back to the US and did not return

to the field. We remained in the Midwest for most of our lives as my father pastored small churches for several years. Following several years of difficult circumstances in ministry and family, my mother took secular employment in various capacities through the years. My father also took secular employment in several fields, in order to keep body and soul together, providing along with our mother the necessities of daily living.

I was saved as a boy of 8 and following normal years of growth came into my teens and graduated from High School in 1964. I attended Pillsbury Baptist Bible College in 1965 – 1969 and went on to Central Baptist Theological Seminary, earning my Master of Divinity degree in 1974. Upon graduation, I began my ministry as the pastor of First Baptist Church in Adrian, Minnesota. I have remained in pastoral ministry through the succeeding years in several locations, including on the east coast of Canada for a short time.

My ministry in churches included music with my wife, Cheryl. Through the years, we have sung in many church meetings and special meetings. We have found that to be a vital part of our lives.

We find ourselves now at Maranatha Village in a different ministry responsibility, but know the Lord personally directed this change in our lives for His own purpose and glory. He orchestrated our preparation and actual move, and most recently, a provision of a home for us to live in while we minister here at Maranatha Baptist Church and Village. We are living examples of the truth that God can and will provide through various means to meet our needs. He has in the past, and He did in this present time and place. We

are grateful. The Scripture passages of Proverbs 3:5, 6 and Psalm 37 have come to pass in our lives. God's people have received us in such a kind way here and have given so that our most basic needs have been met. We thank the folks at Maranath Baptist Church and Maranatha Village for their kind and generous help. We had the outpouring of many folks along the way, including our family, who also contributed as the Lord led them. I can only point to the work of God in our circumstances and in peoples' hearts who were touched to help us. We have been told that this is a "God Thing!" We agree and are grateful.

It is a great blessing to be here at the great Maranatha Village and involved in the ministry of the wonderful Maranatha Baptist Church! We are anticipating God's blessings to work in all of our lives and to live out the will of God with His presence and help.

I (*Cheryl*) was privileged to be born into a pastor's family. From my birth, I was taught from God's Word that I was a sinner and needed my sins forgiven. The wonderful truths of Christ's Incarnation, Death, Burial and Resurrection were taught to me even before I could understand. I am thankful that at the age of six I asked Jesus Christ to forgive me of my sin and be my Savior. I followed the Lord in Believer's Baptism at the age of nine. At summer Bible camp, when I was twelve years old, I gave my life to the Lord for "full time" service. My counsellor used Proverbs 3:5-6 as she prayed with me. Those verses have been precious to me ever since.

My father was taken to his Heavenly home when I was eleven years old. I am so thankful for the solid foundation he gave our family. I thank the Lord for a mother who was such an example and testimony. I learned in those growing up years how God provides and cares for His children.

One of the last messages that I remember my father preaching was from Hebrews 13:5 "...for He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." We had that verse on a plaque by our front door. As a family, we experienced that truth every day.

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# *It Happens To Us All*



Just a line to say I'm living, that I'm not among the dead.  
Though I'm getting more forgetful, and more mixed up in my head.

For, sometimes I can't remember, when I stand at the foot of the stairs.  
If I must go up for something, or I've just come down from there.

Standing before the fridge...so often my poor mind is full of doubt.  
Have I just put food away...or have I come to take some out?

There are times when it's dark out, with my nightcap on my head.  
I don't know if I'm retiring, or just getting out of bed.

So, if it's my turn to write to you, there's no need in getting sore.  
I may think that I have written, and I don't want to be a bore.

So, remember I do love you, and I wish that you were here.  
But now it's nearly mail time, so I must say "good bye," my dear.

There I stood beside the mailbox, with my face so very red.  
Instead of mailing you this letter, I opened it instead.

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## *On Christian Retirement*

### *Guest Editorial*

possibly can, being faithful to our vocational call to glorify God, serve the common good, and further His kingdom.

John Wooden, the famous NCAA basketball coach, was a very committed Christian and is one of my all-time heroes. After winning his ninth NCAA basketball title at age sixty-five, he retired from coaching but did not stop working. Until the day he died at age ninety-nine, he remained involved at UCLA, wrote a number of books, and was often quoted and consulted. At the end of his life, Wooden, like the Apostle Paul, could say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7). May each of us be able to say the same.

Hugh Whelchel, Executive Director.  
*Institute for Faith, Work & Economics*

## *New Administrative Pastor*

### *Cheryl Turbett*

I am thankful for a church that had an active, solid youth program. I was challenged to live for Christ, be a testimony, carry my Bible to school and go to Bible college. We had a good group of Christian teens who lived for God in our public school, and who went on for at least one year of Bible training. Many of those friends have served the Lord all over the world for many years.

I started Bible college in the fall of 1964. I met my "knight in shining armor with the silver tooth" (Dwight Turbett) in the spring of 1965. The rest of the story is three years of courting and FIFTY YEARS of marriage.

Over these past FIFTY YEARS, God has led us from Minnesota, to Illinois, to Michigan, to New Brunswick, Canada, to Illinois, to Wisconsin and now to Florida. We claimed this verse through all these years, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way" (Psalm 37:23).

We are so thankful that God led our steps to Maranatha Village and Maranatha Baptist Church.

# How Much Does a Prayer Weigh?



There is a story of a man who tried to weigh a prayer. He owned a little grocery store. It was the week before Christmas, shortly after World War I.

A tired-looking woman came into the store and asked for enough food to make a Christmas dinner for the children. The grocer asked her how much she could spend.

"My husband did not come back; he was killed in the War. And I have nothing to offer but a little prayer," she answered.

The storekeeper was not very sentimental, nor religious, so he said, half mockingly, "Write it on paper, and I will weigh it."

To his surprise, the woman took a piece of paper from her pocket and handed it to the man, saying, "I wrote it during the night while watching over my sick baby."

The grocer took the piece of paper before he could recover from his surprise and, because other customers were watching and had heard his remarks, he placed the unread prayer on the weight side of the old-fashioned scales. Then he began to pile food on the other side; but to his amazement, the scale would not go down.

He became angry and flustered and finally said, "Well, that's all the scale will hold. Here's a bag; you will have to put it in yourself, I am busy."

With trembling hands the woman filled the bag, and through moist eyes expressed her gratitude and departed.

After that, the store was empty of customers, the grocer examined the scales. Yes, they were broken and they had become broken just in time for God to answer the prayer of the woman. But as the years passed, the grocer often wondered about the incident. Why did the woman come at just the right time? Why had she already written the prayer in such a way as to confuse the grocer so that he did not examine the scales?

The grocer is an old man now, but the weight of the paper still lingers with him. He never saw the woman again, nor had he seen her before that day. Yet he remembers her more than any of his customers.

And he treasures the slip of paper upon which the woman's prayer had been written-simple words, but from a heart of faith, "Please, Lord, give us this day our daily bread." (copied)



## ~ Little Boxes ~



I have in my hands two boxes  
Which God gave me to hold.  
He said, "Put all your sorrows in the black,  
And all your joys in the gold."

I heeded His words, and in the two boxes  
Both my joys and sorrows I store;  
But though the gold became heavier each day  
The black was as light as before.

With curiosity, I opened the black  
I wanted to find out why,  
And I saw, in the base of the box, a hole

Which my sorrows had fallen out by.

I showed the hole to God, and mused aloud,  
"I wonder where my sorrows could be."  
He smiled a gentle smile at me.  
"My child, they're all here with Me."

I asked, "God, why give me the boxes,  
Why the gold, and the black with the hole?"  
"My child, the gold is for you to count your blessings,  
the black is for you to let go."





# Cook's Korner

## Peanut Butter Sheet Cake

2 cups flour  
2 cups sugar  
1 teaspoon salt  
½ cup peanut butter  
1 cup water  
2 sticks margarine  
2 eggs  
½ cup sour cream  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon vanilla

**COMBINE:** flour, sugar and salt.

In a sauce pan bring peanut butter, water, and margarine to a boil and pour over dry mixture.

**ADD:** eggs, sour cream, baking soda and vanilla.

**STIR** well.

Grease and flour 10"x15" sheet pan.  
Bake 350 degrees for 20-30 minutes.  
Pour frosting over hot cake after taking out of oven.

### **FROSTING:**

½ cup peanut butter  
¾ cup margarine  
1 16 ounce box of powdered sugar  
Heat ingredients until dissolved, pour over cake while it is hot.

1 teaspoon vanilla  
4 tablespoons milk

Hope Austin

## Cranberry Delight

(A great side dish for any meal!)

1 can sweetened condensed milk  
1/2 cup lemon juice (I use RealLemon)  
1 can WHOLE cranberry sauce  
1 small can crushed pineapple, drained  
3/4 cup finely cut nuts (I like pecans)

Combine the above ingredients, then fold in one 8-oz. Cool Whip.

Pour into 9" X 13" pan.

**FREEZE.**

Remove from freezer about 3/4 hour before serving.  
Cut into squares and serve on a lettuce leaf.

Serves around 12.

Maribeth Smith

## Spectacular Pie

Make a graham cracker crust:

11 graham crackers rolled out fine;

Mix in 4 Tablespoons melted butter and a couple shakes cinnamon.

Press firmly in a 9" (or 10") pie pan and bake at 300° for 8-10 minutes. Watch carefully.

Drain and SAVE syrup from a medium sized can (20 oz.) of crushed pineapple and add enough water to make 1 cup juice.

Heat to boiling.

Dissolve a 3-oz. package of lemon gelatin in the syrup. Blend 1/2 cup of the gelatin mixture with one 8-oz. package of cream cheese.

When smooth, fold in the crushed pineapple mixture, and pour into pie shell.

Spoon the remaining gelatin over the top to glaze.

Chill until set.

If desired, arrange pineapple chunks and maraschino cherries on top.

Serves 6-8.

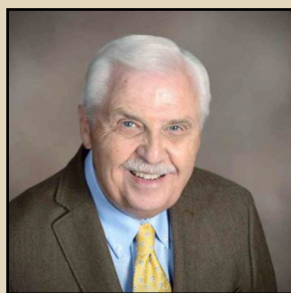
Maribeth Smith





# Opportunities For Growth & Development!

Dr. Gerry Carlson



Gerry

Recently, Pastor Terry Price mentioned the scriptural admonition to believers about the responsibility to care for the widows and needy within the church family. Just a few days before that, Village Administrator Jerry Webber had revealed, at a Village Dinner,

that about 65 residents of the Village are living below the financial standard our U.S. government designates as the poverty level. We have many dear folks who probably could not live anywhere else unless they acquired government subsidized housing. We are so thankful they have Maranatha Village to call home!

Certainly, our Village is a reasonable place to live, but many of our residents live on a slim margin and walk daily by faith. The Lord provides for many of their daily needs through the help of family and friends, and through the generous giving of God's people. Still, ***it has been the foresight of many saints who have gone before us to establish and develop the community of Maranatha Village***, that makes this possible. Dedicated saints gave of their time, toil, and treasure to literally carve out this wonderful Village in the Central Florida citrus country.

At this present time, it is our opportunity and privilege to preserve and continue the legacy left us by the early pioneers of Maranatha Village. Over a year ago, the ***New Horizon Fund*** was launched to begin to accumulate gifts for projects and needs of the Village that go beyond the capabilities of the present budget structure. Already that fund has grown to more than \$50,000, and it has helped to

fund some needed and worthy projects.

It would be wonderful to see this fund continue to grow through the giving of God's people who are vitally interested in the future of Maranatha Village. Here are some ways you can give to continue the legacy left us by the founding pioneers of Maranatha Village.

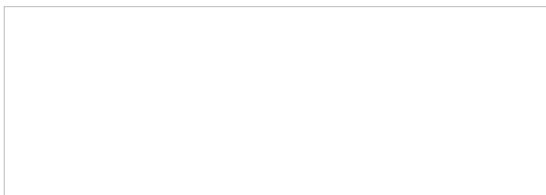
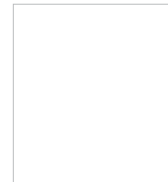
1. ***Gifts of cash, stocks, bonds to the New Horizon Fund***
2. ***Establishment of a planned giving component to your Estate Plan***
3. ***Gifts of useable vehicles and equipment, or saleable real estate***

Our goal for the New Horizon Fund is to see it grow so that it can provide funding for needed projects – ***like upgrading and maintaining Village infrastructure needs*** – without impacting the current operating budget. In doing this we will be able to keep our operating costs controlled and try to minimize maintenance fee increases for the residents. Will you pray with us about that opportunity?

***“Dedicated saints gave of their time, toil, and treasure to literally carve out this wonderful Village in the Central Florida citrus country.”***

# Maranatha Village

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

## *The Story Behind the Sign*

I (Myron) volunteered on maintenance, in the Village, from 2004 – 2011. Early on, there was a group of men in the RV Park, who worked in the maintenance area, namely Ron Bullis, Jim Lytle, Dave Montgomery, Fred McNeil, Phil Townley,

and Mike White. We worked under Steve Milligan, and we were assigned electrical work, carpentry, and painting. In 2006, Frank Swartz retired from the maintenance crew, and I was given his job of installing microwaves and other incidental jobs.

In 2008, Richard Thomas (brother to Birdie Thomas) came to the RV Park. Steve assigned us to work together. The two of us acquired a trailer from Camp Sparta. The only problem – it was pink, and we were dubiously known as the “*Mary Kay Boys*.” Immediately, it was painted gray and named “*2 Men and a*



*Wagon*,” and that is the story of the sign that you see.

Later when the Fogle Pavilion was constructed with Fred McNeil as our leader, the “*2 Men and a Wagon*” was called upon again. We were a bunch of aged and

infirm men: John Olson, Larry Shreckengost, John Thorp, and myself with bad backs or bad knees, but the Lord helped. When the project was finished the building inspector was very impressed with the job.

“*2 Men and a Wagon*” is now history, and it was traded for a revamped golf cart. The work assignments are much the same. The joy of serving the Lord and serving Maranatha Village is constant with new construction, repair work, and everyday new challenges. The question always comes, “Lord, what are we going to do today?”

Myron Burget