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CARING AROUND MV!

Linda Pyche

When you move to Maranatha Village, you notice a lot of volunteering—after all, it's our motto. We have many examples of someone helping someone else that don't involve a planned event. When there is a project, such as the Tom Sawyer Paint Day, or the Legacy Stroll, or painting the outside of villas, people show up to help. But often brothers and sisters in Christ help one another without ever needing to be asked.

"Helping" observations:

- ~ Powerwashing the fences or a neighbor's driveway
- ~ Removing the alligator from the swimming pool
- ~ Folding another person's laundry from off the clothes line
- ~ Moving furniture for a new resident
- ~ Helping unload groceries from a car
- ~ Helping balance a checkbook
- ~ Pulling weeds for a neighbor unable to do yard work
- ~ Cleaning out the dryer vents in the public laundromats
- ~ Removing moss from wire fences to prevent hard winds from knocking them down
- ~ Putting air in the tires of a golf cart or bike
- ~ Taking breads and muffins to someone in need
- ~ Passing on clothes to those dieting and in need of new things
- ~ Picking up groceries or prescriptions
- ~ Administrating someone's pills properly
- ~ Redeeming coupons for someone who can't drive
- ~ Trimming bushes to get a place ready for painting
- ~ Turning on hot water before a winter resident arrives
- ~ Providing rides to doctor appointments
- ~ Charging a battery
- ~ Giving a ride to the airport
- ~ Decorating for a holiday
- ~ Sharing extra food they got at the store
- ~ Uncovering/covering the swimming pool
- ~ Cleaning garbage along our roads
- ~ Pulling weeds in our public places

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Maranatha Village Trumpet

"Orange You Glad You Live in Florida?"

Donna Messenger

If you have never visited Maxwell Groves to taste their soft serve orange ice cream, you have missed out on a true Florida treat! If you order the twist cone with orange and vanilla ice cream, you get the "creamsicle" flavor! I like milk shakes, myself.

The Maxwell family started their business in 1935, with a goal of creating "an old slice of Florida." Their iconic orange rocking chairs on the porch create the perfect atmosphere for orange ice cream and a good chat with friends. Maxwell Groves, now run by the Castillo family, is the last citrus packing house in Highlands County. You might want to consider shipping some Florida oranges to your family around the country.

Florida is the second-largest producer of citrus in the world and the largest producer of 100% orange juice in the United States. People around the world seek out Florida Citrus, typically available October through June, for its quality, juiciness, and great taste. Much of the citrus crop in our state is grown by third, fourth, and even fifth generation Florida citrus growers.

It takes a special kind of knowledge and understanding to care for citrus crops. Here in our community, it also takes a special kind of knowledge and understanding to care for each other. The generation that served as caregivers twenty and thirty years ago are now in need of care.

As you read this issue of the *Trumpet* may you be encouraged as you serve the Lord by serving others. Perhaps the Lord will lead you to a new way to care!



CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Judy Meyers

MAXINE BROWN ~

"If you see something that needs to be done, do it!" encourages Maxine Brown, a resident of MV for the past 35 years. After serving as a missionary in Brazil for 18 years and in the libraries at Cedarville and Bob Jones Universities and after the deaths of two husbands, Maxine Brown continued to look for ministry opportunities at MV.

In the past, when somebody needed a ride to the airport, Maxine volunteered, sometimes making 2 or 3 trips to Orlando in one day for over five years. When some walls in the church needed to be wall-papered and painted, Maxine was there with friends to do it. When the insulation dropped from the ceiling covering pews and carpet, Maxine was there for clean-up. When the church bathrooms had layers of linoleum on the floor, Maxine dug it all up before she and friends decorated the bathrooms. Next neighbors needed to sell their mobile home and Maxine saw a need to help. For several years, she helped sellers and buyers of mobile homes.

"God is still using me," comments Maxine who likes to work and doesn't like to sit. So she takes responsibility to blow the church parking lot free of leaves, and trim the bushes around Hamman Hall, the library, church and Conway Park. You'll see her working in those areas often. Usually on Saturdays, she is assisted by Joyce Gibbons.

The attractive flowers in front of the MV office are watered by Maxine. She has cleaned out many weeds along Gideon on the side of the office and she blows Gideon Street from Maranatha Blvd. to Matthew St. to keep the area attractive. Maxine is quick to remind others that it's important to "keep the body moving." She'll tell those going into the Fitness Center that raking and sweeping is better exercise because it beautifies our premises.

Growing up as a farmer's daughter, she has always liked things clean and organized. So Maxine watches over the lawns of both year round and snowbird residents. If she sees a home with bushes that need

trimming, she'll do it. She has at least five homes which she does regularly and often tackles others. When there are leaves, she rakes; when there are acorns, she'll gather them.

At 94 years of age, Maxine thanks God for His amazing grace which allows her to continue to be active. Her prayer request is for volunteers to come alongside and be prepared to take over. "There is so much to do; if only people would look around and be willing to 'get the body moving!'"

"I owe everything to my Lord," says Maxine. To encourage others, she calls all villa and mobile home owner's on their birthdays and anniversaries. That's close to 800 calls a year!

Mark May 14 on your calendar to celebrate with Maxine the 35 years she has served the Lord at MV since pulling her trailer into the Village on that Mother's Day so long ago.

KAY MONROE ~

When Diane Hall decided to move to a mobile home in Maranatha Village, she had seen and admired Mary Magnuson's mobile. Two years later, according to God's timing, Mary was ready to sell. But both buyer and seller were hesitant to begin price negotiations. Along came Kay Monroe who suggested a fair price to which both parties readily agreed.

Selling and purchasing a home is a process, claims Kay, who first gained experience in the real estate business in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The flexible real estate schedule worked well for her with two children at home.

Kay and her husband Dennis moved to MV in 2021. "Involvement in real estate at MV literally fell into my lap," she says. The first three sales resulted from her hearing somebody say they wanted to buy, and somebody else mentioned they wanted to sell. Purchasing a mobile home in MV is different from buying into the villas, because the villas are sold and owned by the Village. The mobile homes, however, are owned completely by individuals or couples, while the land is rented from the Village. Many buyers prefer mobile homes where pets are allowed in contrast to the villas where pets are not allowed.



It's true. It's what makes us who we are. It's the source of our success. It's truly what we are all about. "Helping others 'til Jesus comes" is what makes Maranatha, Maranatha.

The number of volunteers that give of themselves freely is quite remarkable. There doesn't seem to be a day that goes by, and you will see Maxine Brown raking or blowing the leaves around the grounds of the Village. I think of Wendy Schittone, Ruth Watterson, and Elaine Haines weeding and caring for the plants throughout the Village. I think of Larry "Shrek" Shreckengost power washing and edging anything that isn't tied down. I would be amiss if I didn't mention the garbage pick-up team and our painting crew. There are many unsung, quiet, behind the spotlight helpers that go about each day helping care for the needs of the Village.

We have many more people that are constantly caring for the needs of others individually. Whether it is cleaning a home or making a meal for someone in need, that is what they do. Caring is who and what we are. I can't tell you how incredible Elaine Edmundson's cinnamon rolls and chocolate chip cookies are. Especially when they are "hot and fresh" out of the oven! Bobbie and Doyle Wolford are constantly looking to help wherever they can. These are just a few of the many that give out of a heart of love. We are a

close community that cares for the needs of others. It's winter season for us now and we have an incredible group of people with us. Many of our resident "snowbirds" hit the ground running and plug into serving others. It is refreshing and encouraging to have our RV park family back together with us.

Several are serving our beloved Manor residents. It is honestly a blessing to assist and care for these dear saints and they are a huge blessing for them. From washing dishes, to cooking meals, to assisting with special needs, gratitude abounds over and over again.

Let's not forget our partners in prayer. Prayer changes things and we have a unique core of individuals here at Maranatha Village that pray daily for the leadership, the church, the sick, the hurting, each other and much, much more. Making a difference in the lives of ours through the power of Christ and answered pray is amazing. We see it here time and time again.

The intent is not to overlook anyone in our community, but we must have an attitude of thankfulness for everyone God has brought here to Maranatha. God is so good to us! Great is His faithfulness as we serve Him in this place. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our FAITH.

Have you written a book you would like to share with the Village? We would like to feature Village authors in upcoming issues of the *Trumpet*. Send an email to trumpet@maranathavillage.org with your name, the title of your book, a brief description, and how people can obtain a copy.



Me, a Caregiver?

Jerry Webber

In my younger days (those I can still remember), I was oblivious to the idea of caregiving. I didn't need it, of course, since I was invincible. And, in those days, no one in our immediate family had any special concerns. So, me, a caregiver? Not likely. So much for the bliss of ignorance. If the passage of time hasn't made me smarter, it certainly has disabused me of some ill-conceived notions. One such notion was that I could avoid being (or needing) a caregiver.

Rosalynn Carter, former US First Lady, said, "There are only four kinds of people in this world: those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers and those who will need caregivers. Caregiving is universal."

I don't know whether Mrs. Carter realized it, but the Bible validates her claim that caregiving is universal, particularly for the believer. There are numerous commands in the NT, in the form of "one anothers," that have the effect of injecting you and me into caregiving relationships. Here's an even dozen:

1. "Love one another" (John 13:34 et al);
2. "Care for one another" (1 Cor 12:25);
3. "Serve one another" (Gal 5:13);
4. "Look out... for the interests of others" (Phil 2:4);
5. "Comfort one another" (1 Th 4:18);
6. "Edify one another" (1 Th 5:11);
7. "Be hospitable to one another" (1Pet 4:9);
8. "Receive (welcome) one another" (Rom 15:7);
9. "Be kind to one another" (Eph 4:32);
10. "Bearing with one another" (Col 3:13);

11. "Do what is good for one another" (1 Th 5:15);
12. "Submit[ing] to one another" (Eph 5:21).

Whether or not we have understood and applied the term, it's clear that when we have endeavored, however feebly, to observe the "one anothers," we have engaged in caregiving. And those who have thereby been cared for, comforted, edified, borne-with and received, have been the objects of caregiving.

My induction into the Maranatha community twenty-some years ago served as something of a baptism into caregiving. It was amazing to see, with very little public solicitation, how people seemed to always "be there" for one another. And it's still that way, if not more so.

Some instances of caregiving are more dramatic than others. The mate or close friend who is suddenly cast in that role due to serious injury or illness of a loved one may find themselves engaged in all sorts of unfamiliar (even unwelcome) tasks. You do those things because they need to be done, but you're motivated to do them because "love... bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Other modes of caregiving are as varied as the individuals who do them. Meeting a financial need, providing a meal, sending a note of encouragement, delivering a fresh flower, bearing someone's burden in prayer, providing transportation, doing a repair, raking a yard, doing a load of laundry, and the list goes on and on.

Giving and receiving care is part and parcel of the human condition. In the on-ramp to my 80th birthday, I've been up close and personal to both sides of the issue. From the vantage point of Man or life today, I confess that I'm doing a lot more taking than giving. I have a front row seat, watching folks do their "one anothers" with diligence, sacrifice, kindness, and lots of love. Caregiving is a blessing—both ways.

"The key to selling real estate," Kay says, "is matching the right product to the right person so both buyer and seller are happy." She always begins the process by talking with a buyer and seller to know what each expects. Her goal is to get to know the buyers and sellers and develop a relationship of trust.

Kay explains the sale process. First, buyers apply and need to be approved to live in the Village, and sellers notify the office of their desire to sell. Then a buyer visits the mobile homes for sale. Some out-of-town buyers have bought their homes solely through pictures Kay has sent.

She assists the seller in compiling a listing of various items that will remain in the mobile home, and other items that the seller will remove. This listing, along with settlement dates, earnest money amount, final sale price, and other expectations are written in an "Agreement of Sale."

Buyers may not be aware of extra expenses involved in the purchase including the Village Acquisition Fee and Occupancy Bond, homeowner's insurance, and sales tax. Kay offers to accompany the buyer to the DMV to negotiate sales taxes to be charged.

Kay loves the challenge of sales (and complicated sales), enjoys listing the mobile homes for sale in MV, and guiding sellers through the process of preparing the homes to sell. This may include needed work to be done and Kay is happy to recommend workers who have satisfied customers in the past. She advises both buyers and sellers with an understanding of the process to completely satisfy both parties.

"This is not a job, it is my ministry," says Kay who does not charge for the hours each sale takes. I'm here to 'help one another until Jesus comes.'"

BOB LUTTRELL ~

Bob Luttrell asserts that God has turned the hunting he loves into a ministry, and God has put him in position to bring that ministry to Maranatha. On a golf course years ago, Bob met a man who was having trouble keeping the hogs out of his orange groves. Bob offered to trap the hogs. From that contact, Bob met and helped other farmers having problems with animals getting into their gardens. And then he was introduced to men at the packing house.

Since January 1st, Bob has trapped 10 hogs in MV. He traps about 30 wild hogs a year at Maranatha and another 30 hogs in traps outside the Village. Years ago,

in exchange for removing hogs from his gardens, a farmer gave Bob an exclusive hunting area of about 225 acres where he hunts hogs, and, occasionally, deer and other animals.

Bob's truck is equipped to dress a hog, and a whole-day process begins. Bob cuts the meat into pieces, washes, cleans, and inspects each piece, fillets it, grinds it, mixes in the seasoning, then grinds it a second time, bags it airtight, and freezes it. Carol joins the process to help fill and seal bags.

Many of us have appreciated the flocknote invitations to "come to Carl Barton's to get a bag of pork sausage." The Luttrells do not live in MV, although Bob is on the maintenance crew, and the couple is actively involved in the Village. So, Carl, a former hunting partner with Bob, distributes bags of sausage. Selma keeps a list of residents who get sausage, so the gift of sausage is shared around. Bob advises that mixing half sausage with half hamburger helps make a yummy spaghetti or chili.

An additional way that Bob gives to others is bread distribution. A bread company in Avon Park picks up day-old bread from stores, offers it for sale off their shelves for one day, and then bags loaves up. Bob buys a large bag and brings it to Hamman Hall for free distribution to residents and others outside the Village.

At different times, Bob has brought watermelons, squash (acorn, butternut, spaghetti, yellow, and zucchini), green peppers, egg plants, and tomatoes, and occasionally, corn. Twice a year, in the spring and fall, Bob is offered products that do not meet specifications to sell to stores, but the vegetables still are good for consumption.

Occasionally, at the end of the season, Bob is given opportunity to pick the remaining vegetables before the remains are destroyed. Last fall he filled the back of his truck with watermelons that he and a friend picked and loaded.

When asked why he doesn't take Maranatha residents to help him, he replied that he is insured by the farmers; the farmers cannot allow uninsured to pick.



A Tight-Knit RV Community



"I couldn't tell you the depths of what this community has been to me personally." Amy Parrish and her husband Victor reflected positively on their second year in the RV park. They are grateful for the close community that is present with the residents and fellow campers.

Susan McCorkle organizes many of the activities for the RV community. In January, they bundled up and gathered around the fire pit for a community brunch. Everyone brought food (lots of food, as we heard). It was a cold day, but the warm fellowship kept the party going until 3:30 in the afternoon. Retired pastor, Chuck Harrell, shared a devotional about God's presence with us in the storms of life.

Pastor Chuck prays and gives devotionals at many of the gatherings. The RV residents love Pastor Chuck and have dubbed him "Swamp Pastor." They gave him a T-shirt specially designed with his new title!

In February, they had a progressive dinner, moving around from RV to RV. Two or three couples provided each of four dinner courses—hors d'oeuvres, salads, main course, and desserts. Another activity took the group up to Market 27 for dinner and ice cream. They made that trip a couple times!

Also in February, Taco Tuesday was pulled together around the fire pit and everybody brought something Mexican to eat. Of course, as usual, it was a wonderful gathering and sharing of fellowship. Often evenings culminate in a spontaneous bonfire and time of fellowship. A couple guys bring guitars, and the conversations are varied and rich.

Last July, Victor and Amy took two of their grandchildren to Pennsylvania and connected with the Grahams. The two couples enjoyed a special day at the pool with their grandchildren.

When the Parrishes left for home the end of February, almost the entire park came down to send them off with hugs, well wishes, and a circle of prayer led by Pastor Calvin Duvall. "It is a very special place," Amy concludes. "Everyone is eager to help others, in the park or in the Village."

