

The Maranatha Village Trumpet



☐ *The Lord Cometh!* ☐

April – June 2022

Volume XXXVI 2

☐ Celebrating or Observing? ☐

Rev. Jerry Johnson, Administrator



Jerry

On February 14, 2022, I celebrated the 58th anniversary of the day I married the love of my life. On November 8, 2022, I will celebrate the 47th anniversary of my 30th birthday; so now I can always claim to be only 30 years old! *Anniversaries are special days for remembering and re-*

joicing. As a nation, we celebrate

an anniversary on July 4th, the day we declared our independence. Several other days, Memorial Day for example, are national anniversary celebrations of other unique events in our nation's history.

There are also anniversaries we observe but do not celebrate. An example would be December 7, 1941, the Japanese surprise attack on our naval forces at Pearl Harbor. How about the 9/11 collapse of the twin towers in New York City? We certainly observe but do not celebrate the anniversary on January 22, 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court decided the case of Roe v. Wade, resulting in the deaths of millions of babies since that decision. We observe, but do not celebrate.

On April 13, 1973, our corporation papers were filed with the State of Florida establishing Maranatha Village as an organized, legal entity in Florida. On April 13, 2023, Maranatha will celebrate 50 years of God's blessing and provision. That date may not be a cause for national celebration, but it surely is for the residents of Maranatha Village. We absolutely want to celebrate, and not merely observe that event. It is a time to celebrate the grace of God and the sacrifices of God's people in birthing, providing for, and protecting this place we call home.

The Village Board of Directors wanted to do something

special in gratitude for all He has done to bring us to this point in the life of the Village. They wanted to do something that was different, that would bless God's people and would remain as an enduring legacy. After much deliberation and prayer, they settled on a Fellowship Center, with special emphasis on encouraging communion with one another and, more importantly, with our Creator.

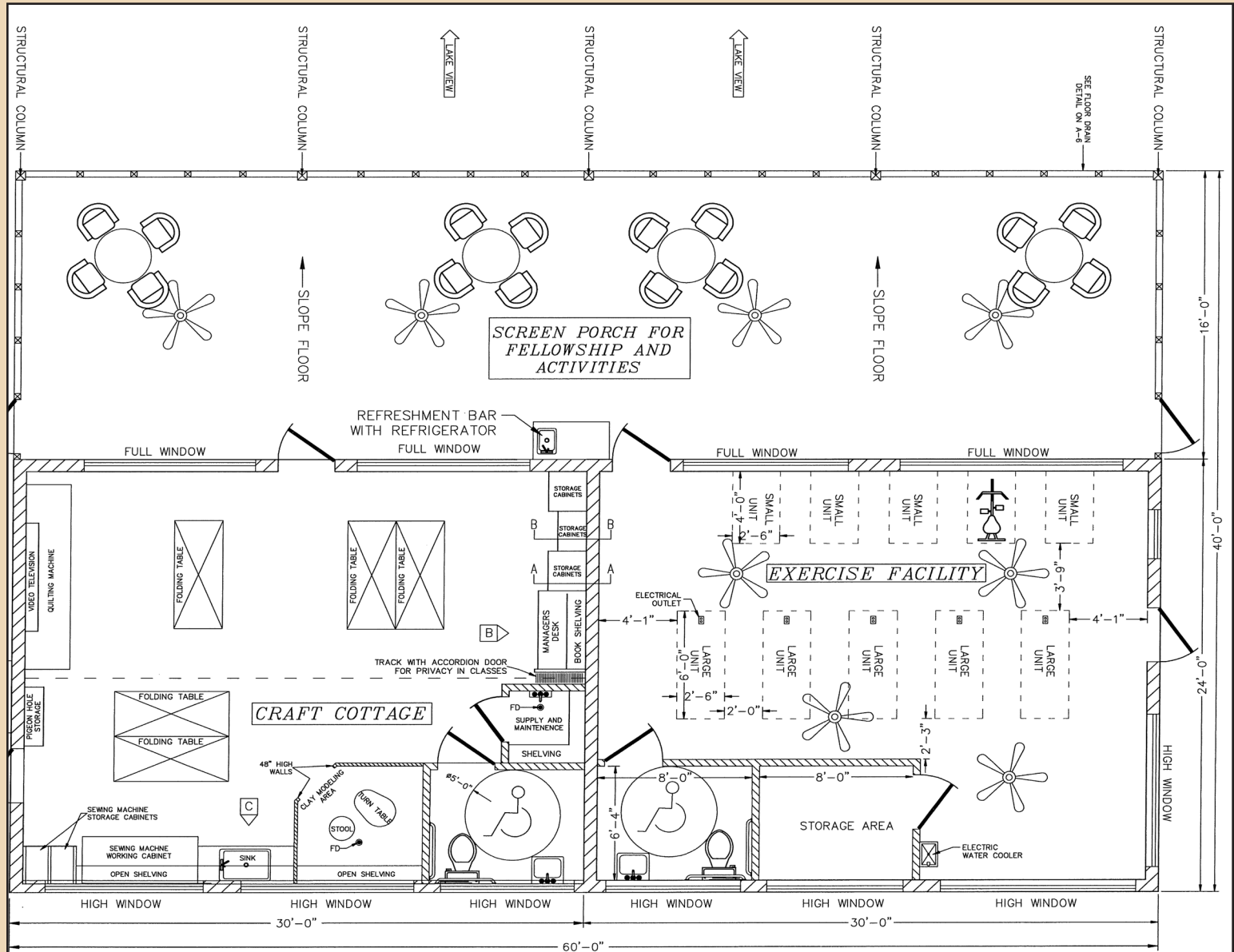
They plan to combine two facilities already in use and add a special place for fellowship, discipleship, personal Bible study and meditation; a serene place of quietness and relaxation. This idea also provided the added benefit of releasing two villas for the sale of a life-lease or for use during the winter promo season. This additional living space is truly needed.

We have included in this issue of the Trumpet a site plan showing what we have in mind. ***The structure is going to be placed on Maranatha Blvd., halfway between the villas and the mobile home park, providing easy access for both. The building will include a fitness center, a craft room, and a 16 x 60 foot screened-in porch.*** Moving the craft cottage and fitness center to this building will give men and women the opportunity to utilize these areas for personal benefit as well as fellowship. The screened-in porch will be something new, allowing individuals to enjoy one another and especially for fellowship and quiet communion with the Lord. We plan to place a coffee maker, a small sink, and a small refrigerator for physical refreshment. Tables and chairs plus a couple of recliners will create opportunity to just enjoy each other and the scenery. ***You can curl up with a good book, or THE good Book, have a cup of coffee, or just enjoy a restful time overlooking the lake and walking path.***

We do not have a final cost on the building yet due to

(continued on page two)

Site Plan 50 & Forward!



Celebrating or Observing?

the contractor's reluctance to provide an estimate in the face of inflation and the uncertainty of other variables over the next couple of years. We already have over \$100,000 committed to this project and will be giving others an opportunity to join with us in advancing it to completion. We will share details of that in the days ahead.

At this time, we ask you to pray for God's guidance and provision for us as we continue to put together a celebration that is God-honoring. We seek also to have a building that can be of profit to Village residents for many years to come. Many of us regularly quote and claim Proverbs 3:5-6 when seeking God's direction in life. We

now claim these verses for our endeavor. May He direct our path forward. That's the name of our campaign: **"50 & Forward!"** We celebrate the 50 years during which we have enjoyed His blessings. And with great hope and confident anticipation of His abundant, all-sufficient grace, *we work for the future!*

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5,6).

Join us in praying, especially for wisdom to know His will concerning this celebratory project!

New Resident of Maranatha Village

Dave Little



Dave

I was born March 17, 1948 in Elmira, New York, to Charles and Louise Little. Dad had returned from the Pacific Theater as a Marine. Both were saved in different years at Lamoka Bible Conference. As new believers, they joined a local Baptist

Church and in the next fourteen years, eight children came along. I was the oldest of eight. I recognized my need of salvation at the age of five. After I heard the Krueger brothers sing, preach, and use a chalk drawing to show the three crosses, I talked to my mother about my sin and my need of forgiveness. Then I went to my room, knelt beside my bed, and received both forgiveness and eternal life.

I look at life as a mountain climb with significant landmarks along the way. Here are some. At nine, I felt the need to publicly acknowledge my salvation. At eleven, I was baptized by immersion. At fourteen, a missionary spoke, and I was compelled by the Holy Spirit to give my life for service to Jesus Christ. My teen years were marked by serving at a Christian camp in the horse program along with being awarded the Herald of Christ from Boys Brigade, a national program for youth. Following high school, I enrolled at Practical Bible College (now Davis College/Word of Life) graduating in 1969, followed by marriage to Kathy Phillips on June 20th. God provided the perfect wife for me, a person called into ministry.

We served in fulfilling an enjoyable pastoral ministry from 1969 through 1997. God allowed our churches to experience growth, each needing a building program, and many people were called into ministry. While in New York, I served on various camp boards, councils, and fellowships.

In 1997, the Council of Baptist Church Planters (home mission agency) in Grafton, Ohio, invited me to become the second president of the Mission. This was, without doubt, the biggest challenge of my ministry

life, but God is faithful. My goals were to establish this nascent mission as a credible entity in Baptist circles, bringing financial stability, and most of all to elevate the believers' perceptions of "home missionaries" as equals to foreign missionaries. For seventeen years, I traveled preaching in churches and visiting missionaries. The work was hard because results are long term. But in the end, God answered my prayers and blessed the ministry with many churches today that are exalting the name of Jesus. Kathy was so supportive, even with the care of her mother. She was right "in there" with me.

Following our retirement from the mission, we served with Pat Odle at First Baptist in Elyria as one of his associates for two years. Finally, I was "out of gas" and couldn't handle the stress of ministry. We moved back to New York to live with our oldest son and his wife. We have a hay business that keeps us busy in the summer months, and I love being in the country, with open fields in an air-conditioned John Deere tractor. When we returned to New York, I told my son Paul there was one stipulation: I didn't want to be in New York in the winter!

I miss the pastorate. I always will. I preach when God opens a door of opportunity, and He seems to give me enough to satisfy my "itch to preach." Finally and most importantly, I am a sinner, saved by God's grace. So many times, I could have ruined my life, but God kept me. I am and will be eternally grateful. Now to "finish well."

So glad to be at Maranatha Village with so many great believers!

Grace is God's best idea!

"His decision to ravage a people by love, to rescue passionately, and to restore justly - what rivals it? Of all his wondrous works, grace, in my estimation, is the magnum opus."

Max Lucado

New Resident of Maranatha Village

Kathy Little

“I Came to Love You Early.”



Kathy

*“I felt sometimes I didn’t have a story I could share.
I wasn’t rescued from a past destroyed by dark despair.
O but, Jesus, I have memories of the times that we’ve been through.
And I wouldn’t trade one moment of growing up with You.*

Refrain

*I came to love You early, came to know You young.
You touched my heart, dear Jesus, when my life had just begun.
I gave You my tomorrows and a childish heart of sin,
And You’ve saved me from a lifetime of what I might have been.”*

I love this song! It pretty much sums up my life. I was born into the home of a farmer in upstate New York, Pavilion to be exact. Both of my parents loved the Lord and lived a godly life before my three brothers and me. It was while I was in kindergarten that I realized my sin and what Christ had done on the cross to take care of that sin. I repented and gave God my “childish heart of sin,” and He saved me!

As I grew, I had a desire to honor God and my parents. I loved serving in VBS and alongside my mother at Release Time in our public school. In my teen years, I was in a trio that sang in our local church and at youth rallies. It was nearing graduation time when Chick Watkins came to our church to speak. He shared with us his burden for Africa and challenged us to give our lives to Christ for full-time service. That night I went forward and dedicated my life to whatever God wanted me to do. I was secretly hoping He would send me to the jungles of Africa. Merle Watkins, when home on furlough from Africa, was a frequent visitor to our home. I loved to sit and listen to his passion and stories of ministering to the African people; however, God never sent me to Africa.

I graduated from high school and went on to Practical Bible Training School. On my very first day of college, I met Dave. He looked like someone I would like to get to know better. I was attracted to his smile and his desire to serve the Lord. We started dating, and within three months, I knew he was the man God had chosen to be my husband. We were married in 1969 between my junior and senior year. Dave had already graduated and was a youth pastor in an area church. The pastor of that church was considering retirement

and before long we were voted in as pastor and wife. During our 28 years of pastoral ministry, God blessed us with three children who, to this day, love and serve the Lord along with their mates. I do not take that for granted but thank the Lord. I loved being a pastor’s wife and loving the people God gave to us. I was content to do that until I died, but God had other plans.

In 1997, just after our first grandchild was born (we now have eight AND one great grandchild), God moved us to Grafton, Ohio, to minister with Baptist Church Planters. That move was a bit difficult for me because, first of all, I felt like I was going to Africa. Now you say, “You always wanted to go to Africa, so what’s your problem?” Well, to me this was like going to a high class city and not the jungle where I would fit in better. Secondly, what was I going to do? My husband was going to be the president. I knew my role as a pastor’s wife, but this? Well, I soon found that all I had to do was to love and serve those missionaries just like I had the people in our churches. We ministered with Baptist Church Planters for 17 years. While in Ohio, my 88-year-old mother came to live with us. I can’t tell you what a blessing she was throughout the next ten years before God took her Home. The Lord also brought twin Army girls into our lives. They needed parents, and we were blessed to share our lives and home with them. Today they call us mom and dad, and we are also grandparents to their seven children.

I’m so thankful the Lord saved me as a young child and “took me from a life of what could have been.” As I look back over my life, tears come to my eyes when I think of all the wonderful people and experiences God has given me.



Cook's Korner

Apple Pie Bread Pudding

PREP TIME: 20 MIN - COOK TIME: 30-40 MIN

PREHEAT OVEN TO 350°

USE 9 X 13" BAKING DISH, SPRAY IT WITH COOKING SPRAY

INGREDIENTS:

8 CUPS OF CUBED SOFT BREAD

3 MEDIUM BAKING APPLES, PEELED, CORED AND CHOPPED

1/2 CUP RAISINS OR (MORE TO TASTE)

4 EGGS

1 CUP VANILLA YOGURT

1 CUP MILK

1 TSP CINNAMON

1 TSP NUTMEG

1/2 CUP SUGAR



IN A LARGE BOWL, WHISK TOGETHER YOGURT, EGGS, CINNAMON, NUTMEG, AND SUGAR
STIR IN APPLES AND RAISINS
GENTLY FOLD IN BREAD CUBES AND POUR INTO BAKING DISH

IN A SMALL BOWL, COMBINE 2 Tbsp SUGAR AND 1 tsp CINNAMON AND SPRINKLE ON TOP OF BREAD PUDDING

BAKE 30-40 MINUTES UNTIL PUFFED AND GOLDEN BROWN

WHILE BREADPUDDING IS BAKING, IT'S TIME TO MAKE THE CARAMEL SAUCE.

SAUCE:

1/2 CUP BUTTER

1/2 CUP HEAVY CREAM

1/2 CUP BROWN SUGAR

IN A HEAVY SAUCEPAN OVER MEDIUM-LOW HEAT, STIR THE BUTTER, HEAVY CREAM, AND BROWN SUGAR, AND BRING IT TO BOIL. REDUCE HEAT TO LOW, SIMMER UNTIL THE SAUCE THICKENS. DRIZZLE OVER BREAD PUDDING TO SERVE.

TOP WITH ICE CREAM OR WHIPPED CREAM FOR ADDED PERFECTION

Submitted by Marlys Johnson

New Resident of Maranatha Village

Anita ☐Dolores☐Sorrells



Dolores

I was born in Miami, Florida, to Torsten and Anita Anderson. My dad was an immigrant from Sweden and my mother was from Oklahoma, but she grew up in Miami where my parents met. Later we lived in Eau Gallie on the East Coast of Florida. I was the third daughter among four girls, with my, sister Selma Barton, being the oldest.

Though saved at the age of 10, it was not until my young teens that God used my praying aunt and her family to reveal Himself to me through a Word of Life Bible Study. After high school, I attended Tennessee Temple College for a year. The years that followed I learned of God's mercy, faithfulness, and love. God blessed me with two husbands, both now in heaven. For forty-two years, I lived in Pensacola, Florida, where they both served in and retired from the Navy. They loved our country. Corrie Ten Boom was once

noted as saying: *"I have learned to hold loosely those things or ones who mean so much to me as it hurts too much when the Lord has to pry my hands open."*

In between my widowhoods, I was able to assist a Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) Missionary in Botswana, Africa. Through the blessings of life, I now have three children, twelve grandchildren, and one great-grandson. I am blessed with loving, caring family members such as: Selma and Carl Barton, Alice Hamblen, and I have many kind friends here at Maranatha Village.

Though there have been many challenges, God has provided my every need and more. Every day now is a day of thanksgiving, as I am now going on four months of living at Maranatha Village. God has given me a little touch of Heaven.

My favorite hobbies are crafts and flower gardening. My desire and prayer is to serve the Lord here at Maranatha Village in whatever capacity He so chooses and provides.

Meet & Greet With Dr. Daryl & Mrs. Jeffers



Jan & Pastor Daryl

On January 13, 2022, 38 singles, widows and widowers met with Pastor and Mrs. Jeffers in Hamman Hall. Each individual was asked to give their name, tell what state they were from and something about their work experience or the spouse they lost. Pastor shared a few words about widows in the Bible, and some notable singles were pointed out in the Scriptures.

- Widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:12-16)
- Simeon (Luke 2:15-35)
- Anna (Luke 2:36-38)

- Widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-15)

It was a great time of sharing and getting acquainted with Pastor Daryl and Jan.



New Resident of Maranatha Village

Elaine Haines



Elaine Thank God every day for His constant and obvious directing in my life. I was born January 7, 1948, in Beckley, West Virginia, where my mother led me to the Lord when I was ten. At age fourteen, we moved to northern Virginia, and Mother made sure we were involved in a Bible-teaching Baptist Church. After six years, the best looking and most godly young man in the church asked me to marry him, and I said “YES” before he could finish the sentence!

We raised our four sons in that same church and Christian school. My husband drove a Sunday school bus for the twenty-six years we were there, and I taught Sunday school and played the organ and piano. My husband also drove the school’s coach bus for ballgames and field trips, and coached the middle school boys’ basketball team. I gave private piano lessons to students during the day and worked with the cheerleaders after school. It was a great blessing to never have conflict among the church, school, and family functions.

After thirty years of working for AT&T, my husband retired, and we began the wonderful ten years of working on the support staff at Maranatha Baptist University, Watertown, Wisconsin. He was in charge of all the telephones and wiring for new computer labs on campus, and continued his favorite activity of driving the sport teams and choirs in the school’s coach bus. I worked in the Dean’s Office and helped in the ladies’ ministries of Calvary Baptist Church. I was also involved in the music program at Calvary.

My husband then decided it was time to retire, so we moved to the Outer Banks of North Carolina where we had inherited a building lot. It took us four years, but we built a lovely home there and served God, just as we always had, at Still Waters Baptist Church. December 2, 2013, my husband lost his battle with cancer and went to Heaven.

The Lord has been very gracious to me all my life, especially since becoming a widow. This past year He has very clearly directed me to come live at Maranatha Village. I’m totally excited about doing whatever God has for me here.

What Are Happy Thoughts?



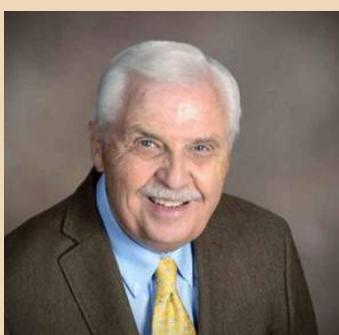
Happy thoughts are joyful experiences in our minds that shape how we view ourselves and the world around us. Positive thinking improves our well-being so that we can live a fulfilling life. Happy thoughts can make you feel instantly happy, improve your mood, and lower your stress.

(copied)



□ *Fit and Fruitful* □

Dr. Gerry Carlson



Gerry

The motto of Maranatha Village is, *“Helping one another ‘til Jesus comes.” That is a noble purpose with a blessed future.* The Scriptures challenge us to “occupy until He comes.” Expositor Rod Mattoon explains that phrase with these thoughts:

“The word occupy is formed

from the Greek root word pragma which means “to stay busy, to carry on, to set in motion, to accomplish.” The idea of this word involves producing good results through effort and energy.

Truly we are to stay active, busy, and fruitful until Jesus comes. Maranatha Village allows us to do that, even in our sunset years. Although we may not have the energy we had when we were younger, we can keep going and continue to serve. Maranatha Village is a place where we are able to engage in healthy exercise and productive ministry service.

Residents stay active in a variety of ways by being involved in recreation and ministry. The one feeds the other. The swimming pool is a place where healthy exercise is available without the danger of falling and sustaining injury. The ladies’ aerobics class includes both a personal workout and group spiritual interaction. The golf course provides great opportunities for physical activity and personal fellowship. The roadways and walking paths are safe places for cycling and walking. All these blessings help us to stay fit so that we can continue to be fruitful.

A new prospect for expanding our options for fitness of body and fruitfulness of service has been proposed by our Board of Directors. With the coming 50th Anniver-

sary of the Village in 2023, the Board has announced a building project that would incorporate the functions of our current Fitness Center and Craft Cottage into a new building named the Fellowship Center. This proposed Fellowship Center will overlook the south pond, and include plans for a porch for reading, fellowship, coffee, and comfortable seating.

Both the Fitness Center and the Craft Cottage have occupied Villas that are now needed to accommodate requests from new prospects interested in moving to Maranatha Village. Our leaders are proposing a building concept that will be a wise use of space and encourage healthy and helpful outcomes. The new building will seek to incorporate complimentary purposes of an attractive and useful place to channel our efforts to be “active, busy, and practical” until Jesus comes.

Currently over \$100,000 has already been set aside for this project. Information will be coming describing how everyone can participate in the upcoming **50 & Forward** campaign to build the Fellowship Center. Our Lord has provided a beautiful place for us to live and serve. Maranatha Village is a legacy left to us by many who have gone before us. Past residents, and other faithful supporters of our Village, have given much to make this place available for us. It is now our opportunity to give so that Maranatha Village will continue to be a blessing in the future.

*For me ‘twas not the truth you taught,
To you so clear, to me so dim,
But when you came to me, you brought
A sense of Him.*

*And from your eyes He beckons me
And from your heart His love is shed,
Till I lose sight of you and see
The Christ instead.*

□ Anonymous

Maranatha Village Trumpet

RG Watterson, Editor

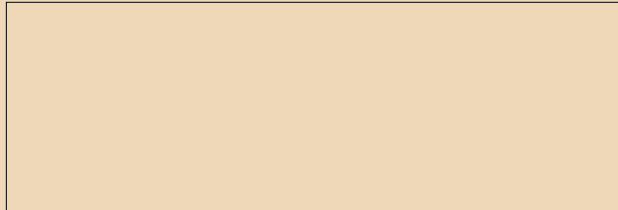
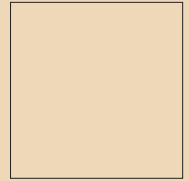
11 Maranatha Boulevard

Sebring, FL 33870-6817

863/385/7897

fax 863/385/7954

office@maranathavillage.org



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



Blood Donor Honor Roll



GREAT DRIVE!

Thank you for hosting a blood drive and sharing your power to save lives!

We value our partnership with Maranatha Village, and thank you, Mrs. Thorp, for all you did as the chairperson to help make the blood drive a success.

We are pleased to share with you that the recent blood drive resulted in: 16 procedures – 19 donors participated.

Remember, each procedure can save up to three lives so that means 48 patients could benefit from the lifesaving efforts of blood donors at Maranatha Village.

We encourage you to share the drive results with the rest of your team and please pass along our gratitude for their lifesaving efforts.

The blood donated at your blood drive will likely

THANK YOU!

be transfused into a patient within 48 to 72 hours. The turnaround is that fast and is that constant. The next scheduled blood drive is: April 21, 2022.

Jorge Juver, Account Representative

***Anita Sorrells
Colene Price
Deanna Porter
Frederick Faust
Kathleen Little
Mary Taylor
Phyllis Schafer
Steven DeGroft
Timothy Edem
Gifford William***

***Calvin Duvall
David Little
Douglas Peacock
Joanne Duvall
Kim Blasdel
Miles Jones
Robert Kitchen
Teresa Little
Victoria Edem***

oneblood.org