Giving Residents 'Good-to-Know' Information

Photos: Kaye Halstead

Sharon Carlson, left, and Lisa Cooper, manager of volunteer services at AdventHealth, answer questions on Talk about It Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024.

Grace Kintner looks on as her husband, David, asks questions on a Talk about It Tuesday.

Talk about It Tuesdays, initiated by village CEO Brian Halstead, provide information to residents on a host of topics such as seniors' health issues.

Village residents learn about volunteering at a Sebring hospital.

Winter 2025 Calendar

This calendar is subject to change.

January
1 & 2 Office Closed
19–22 Bible Conference with Rev. Nathan Mestler, 9 a.m.*
24 Christin Kiefhafer Concert, 7 p.m.*

February
16–19 Bible Conference with Dr. Gary Reimers, 9 a.m.*
17 Veterans Appreciation Day
21 Carlos & Gabriella Cardona Concert, 7 p.m.*

March
16–19 Bible Conference with Dr. George Matzko, 9 a.m.*
21 Mac & Beth Lynch Concert, 7 p.m.*

Jim Weaver and Rich Rounds lead singing at this year's hoedown. The village hoedown is a popular October village dinner. PHOTO: Kaye Halstead.

Regularly Scheduled Activities

Mondays
Ladies' Water Aerobics 10–11 a.m., village pool
Prayer for America† 6 p.m., MBC conference room
Mexican Train† 6 p.m. Hamman Hall (1st Monday)

Wednesdays
Donation Day, 1st Wed. monthly, laundry-room boutiques
Ladies' Water Aerobics 10–11 a.m., village pool

Thursdays
Ladies-only game night 6 p.m. (when no MBC events), Evelyne Metzler's home

Fridays
Ladies' Water Aerobics 10–11 a.m., village pool

**Sponsored by Maranatha Baptist Church and held in the church auditorium.*
†Check the church website (https://www.maranathabaptistsebring.org/upcoming-events) and the monthly "Odds & Ends" for up-to-date information.

We on the *Trumpet* staff work months in advance to prepare an issue for publication. This means that occasionally we will include scheduled items that are later canceled or rescheduled, references to people who have since graduated to Glory, and other inaccuracies. Thank you for your understanding.

Trumpet

PHOTO: John Miller.

Maranatha Village Trumpet
Winter 2024

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Celebrating & Giving

Jonita Barram

Winter brings Christmas—the time of year we celebrate the greatest Gift ever:

> *In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. . . .The Father has sent the Son as Savior of the World. (1 John 4:9–10, 14 NKJV)*

In winter, we celebrate not only the Incarnation, but also new beginnings and romantic love. While our fellow Americans tend to "party hearty" on New Year's Eve, we Christians use the time to contemplate the old year and seek God's guidance for the new. In January we Americans celebrate past national leaders. Then in February we celebrate love—in all its forms—by giving cards and gifts on Valentine's Day. Not surprising, then, the theme of this edition is "Celebrating and Giving."

On pages 6 and 7, you will find a play on the village's motto, "Helping Others till Jesus Comes." This edition also features a board member and his wife, a longtime resident, and others who make Maranatha Village a great place to live. We celebrate them all. But to begin, here is a calendar of events leading up to Christmas. Enjoy celebrating the birth of Emmanuel, "God with us"!

December

5 Annual Village Business Meeting 6 p.m.
13 Christmas Choir/Drama Presentation* 7 p.m., MBC auditorium
14 Men's Prayer Breakfast* Hamman Hall
14 Christmas Choir/Drama Presentation* 2 p.m., Circle Theater, Downtown Sebring
15 Christmas Choir/Drama Presentation* 6 p.m., MBC auditorium
17 Ladies' Missionary Fellowship* 9:30 a.m., MBC auditorium
19 Caroling on the Circle 5:30, downtown Sebring
24 Christmas Caroling and golf cart parade 5 p.m.
25 & 26 Christmas holiday–office closed
25 Christmas dinner, noon, Hamman Hall
**This event is sponsored by Maranatha Baptist Church. For more dates, see "Winter 2025 Calendar" (p. 12).*

Gift of the Magi

Jerry Webber

O. Henry, 19th-century author of short stories, outdid himself in his “Gift of the Magi.” Consisting of a mere 2,081 words and readable in just seven minutes, it’s a classic tale with a poignant moral.

As the story opens, Della Young is in a “blue funk.” Her husband Jim’s salary has been cut, and times are hard. It’s Christmas Eve Day, and she has been able to save only $1.87 for Jim’s present. What to do?

Drying her tears, she glimpses herself in the mirror. Seeing her long hair, notable for its beauty, she has an idea. She puts on her old coat and hat and finds a shop that buys and sells hair. Richer, but cropped of her splendid mane, she spends the day walking the streets looking for the perfect gift for Jim.

She finally finds it, and it’s just the thing—a gold chain for Jim’s gold pocket watch, a cherished possession passed down through generations. The chain costs $21, all the money she got from selling her hair, plus most of her savings. She goes home, eager to present the ultimate gift.

When Jim gets home and sees Della has cut her hair, a strange look crosses his face. Unable to see into his mind, she quickly explains that she sold her hair to buy him a Christmas present. He hugs her and assures her that he loves her no matter what her hair looks like. He then gives her his Christmas present—a set of bejeweled combs she had once admired in a shop window.

Della loves the combs but bursts into tears when she realizes she can’t use Jim’s thoughtful gift on her shorn locks. Then, realizing she hasn’t yet given Jim his gift, she presents it, saying, “Isn’t it a dandy, Jim? I hunted all over town to find it. You’ll have to look at your watch a hundred times a day now. Give me your watch. I want to see how they look together.”

With a bemused expression, Jim sits down beside her, and says, “Della, let’s put our Christmas presents away and keep them a while. They’re too nice to use now. I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs. And now I think we should have our dinner.”

In his concluding paragraph, O. Henry recalls the magi who brought magnificent gifts to the Christ child. Comparing them to the James Dillingham Youngs and their self-sacrificing love-gifts, he concludes, “Of all who give and receive gifts, [people] such as they [Jim & Della] are the wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the magi.”

Compelling as is the author’s moral regarding giving and receiving, it pales in comparison to the Father’s unspeakable, indescribable gift of His Son (2 Cor. 9:15). His sacrificial act is the ultimate model for us in giving ourselves and our substance.

The hymnwriter said it so well:

For mercies so great, what return can I make—
For mercies so constant and sure?
I’ll love Him, I’ll serve Him with all that I have
As long as my life shall endure.

In this season of giving and receiving, let’s be mindful of the One to whom we owe our best and costliest gifts.

Welcome, New Resident Janis Ellsworth

Janis Ellsworth moved to the village from Whisper Lake Mobile Home Community in Sebring. She learned about the village from her mother, Rita Maki, who lived here with Janis’s stepfather, near Janis’s new home. Eventually Mrs. Maki moved to the manor, where, Janis says, “She received fabulous care.” Janis visited her mother every Thursday to play games with her.

Janis is originally from Michigan, where she lived in the Detroit metro area, Livonia, and Westland. She also lived in Houston, Texas. She worked all her life and retired early when her husband reached his retirement. They moved to Sebring to be near Janis’s parents. She says, “I lived in Sebring as a retiree from Day One.”

One perk that Janis has already discovered here in the village is that she doesn’t need a landline phone. She had trouble using her cellphone from inside her former house. “Now that I have moved,” she says, “I found out my landline is no longer necessary. I can use my cell phone from inside the house, which is great!”

When you see Janis walking around the village, she may be using a walker. She has a balance issue and uses it to walk distances. She says, “I can walk around to shorter areas easy enough. So far, I have walked to church three times (using my walker) and find that it actually helps me get around easier when I need to go shorter distances. Sometimes, I use my cane rather than the walker.”

Though Janis and her husband lost an hours-old daughter, their only child, Janis has a large extended family. It includes “plenty of nieces and nephews,” great nieces and nephews, and even one great, great niece and one great, great nephew. She says, “That is just so far, so I know many more will start arriving.”

Welcome, Janis, to your family of brothers and sisters in Christ here in Maranatha Village.

(Army continued)

Ronald Rearick Post-Korean
Jim Russo Vietnam
Ed Sarapata Vietnam
Larry Shreckengost Vietnam
Ted Wells Post-Korean
Mike White Vietnam
Alan Wilson Vietnam

Coast Guard

Charles Ladd Vietnam

Marine Corps

Terry Arter Vietnam
Miles Jones Korean War

Navy

Thomas A. Abrams Cuban blockade; Vietnam
Geoff Bondi Vietnam
Jeff Cline Vietnam
John De Forest Vietnam
Philip Fredenburg Korean War
Jerry Johnson Vietnam
Tim Moen Vietnam
Tom Moen Vietnam
Dennis Monroe Vietnam, Post-Vietnam
Larry Schafer Post-Korean
John Thorp Vietnam

Veterans Appreciation Day 2025 at Maranatha Village is February 17.

Troops survey damage after an Iraq Armed Forces strike on US barracks during the Gulf War (1991). PHOTO: https://www.goodfreephotos.com/historical-battles/gulf-war/aftermath-of-an-iraq-armed-forces-strike-on-us-barracks-during-gulf-war.jpg.php.

President George W. Bush visits troops during the Iraq War (2003–2011). PHOTO: cnn.com.

American military personnel served in the Afghanistan War between 2001 and 2021. More than 6,700 of them died during this war (https://www.defense.gov/casualty.pdf). PHOTO: USAToday.

US Military Veterans Living in Maranatha Village

Korean War June 1950—Jan. 1955
Vietnam War Aug. 1964—Aug. 1973
Gulf War* Aug. 1990—Aug. 2001
Iraq War 2003—2011
Afghanistan War 2001—2021

Thank You for your service

*We're referring to these conflicts with civilian terminology, since most readers were civilians during these decades.

Air Force

Alan P. Anger Korean War
Tim Edem Post-Vietnam, Gulf War, Iraq War, Afghanistan War
Virgil Ertle Post-Korean War, Post-Vietnam War
Stewart Foster Vietnam, Post-Vietnam, Gulf War
Ed Henderson Vietnam
Bruce Hendsbee Post-Korean
Chuck Herrell Vietnam
Henry "Bruce" Ippel Post-Korean, Vietnam, Post-Vietnam
James F. Lytle Vietnam
Gil Seddon Korean War
Harry Schuster Korean War
Steven Smith Vietnam
David Waite Vietnam
Robert (Bob) Watterson Post-Korean War
Art Witham Vietnam, Post Vietnam, Gulf War

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when North Korean soldiers poured into the South. American troops entered the war on South Korea's behalf to fight "against the forces of international communism itself" (www.history.com). Over 36,500 Americans lost their lives in the Korean conflict (1950–1953) (https://dcas.dmdc.osd.mil). PHOTO: https://static01.nyt.

Army

Barry Byrne Vietnam
Dennis Doughman Post-Korean War, Vietnam
Calvin Duvall Vietnam
Virgil Ertle Post-Korean War, Post-Vietnam War
Fred Faust Vietnam
Tom Flaherty Vietnam
Charles Gartin Vietnam
Samuel S. Hammel Post-Korean, Vietnam, Post-Vietnam
David Hughes Vietnam
Greg Kruger Vietnam
John M. Little Vietnam
Geoffrey S. Livezey Vietnam
Robert Luttrell Post-Korean
Walter LeRoy Porter Post-Korean

American troops were deployed to Vietnam between 1965 and 1973. More than 58,000 of them lost their lives (https://www.britannica.com/event/Vietnam-War.) PHOTO: The New York Public Library on Unsplash.

Celebrating Excellent Care at Maranatha Manor

Judy Meyers

Maranatha Manor, the village's assisted living facility, goes through extensive inspections by state organizations:

* inspections of the kitchen facilities, equipment, and appliances every three months;
* regular inspections of the facilities, sprinklers, and alarms for fire safety;
* inspection of dates on the medical cart meds; and
* inspection of the files to ascertain that physician plans for each resident are being followed.

And every two years, based on these inspections, the manor's license is renewed.

PHOTO: Colene Price.

A Perfect Score

Inspection is so specific that the staff regularly checks the 20 resident rooms for a variety of requirements. Every violation earns a deficiency (a "ding!") on the manor's record. *Deficiency* is defined as a "noncompliance with the requirements of the Florida statutes or rules." Deficiencies can impact residents' health, safety, and well-being and can cause serious harm or death to a resident. Therefore, deficiencies can result in thousand-dollar fines, even if a deficiency is corrected.

This year the manor staff of 17 was pleased and proud to receive news that the manor has earned a perfect score in every area—not one deficiency. The entire staff contributed to earning this "In Recognition of Achieving a Deficiency-Free Biennial Survey Award" by learning and following the strict rules and laws in the ALF (Assisted Living Facilities) Regulatory Guide.

A Resolute Leader

It all starts with a leader who has learned that often God directs in a way never imagined and opens doors never knocked on. When Patty Dale and her husband, Terry, moved to Sebring, she could not have guessed how God would use her. Unable to find a job, Patty took CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) training, passed the state test, and in 2005 began an upward journey at the manor. She worked nights as a CNA, then was asked to train the caregivers (a.k.a. aids). When the kitchen needed a cook, she moved into that position, then eventually accepted the job of resident care liaison, and, finally, 10 years ago, accepted charge of the manor as administrator.

When asked about her duties, Patty was quick to pull out a 3-inch thick (hundreds of pages) ALF Regulatory Guide explaining the state rules and laws that every staff member must understand and follow. Patty trains the staff, supervises them, and ensures they are adhering to state laws and rules. She trains new staff according to these laws and rules, and regularly reminds staff of their importance.

Our village* is blessed to have an assisted living facility of this caliber and a caring staff trained to meet the specific, varied needs of the manor residents.

**Maranatha Manor is a ministry of Maranatha Baptist Church, not Maranatha Village, though it is available to village residents.*

Meet Longtime Resident Jeanne McCulley

Judy Meyers

"It's been a wonderful life," repeated Jeanne McCulley several times as we talked. At age 97, Jeanne has fond memories of her early life as one of five children. She especially relished five months of traveling around the United States in a small trailer when because of her father's health, the doctor advised him to get away. Years later, because her husband, Hal, was in the United States Air Force, the couple traveled to many countries in Europe and Asia. Jeanne liked each country and says, "The people were wonderful."

Jeanne is thankful that throughout her marriage, the couple was active in church—attending every time the church doors opened and serving the Lord in a variety of capacities, including children's ministry (Sunday School teacher and Awana leader), Bible studies, choir, and other service opportunities. "We had a great family," reminisces

Jeanne. “I’m thankful for a husband who didn’t go running off to spend time with the guys but was there for our family; we did things together as a family.”

Jeanne has always been strong, loved people, and maintained an active lifestyle. She is still proud of the Girl Scout troop she led in Japan, which was known as the top troop. From an early age, Jeanne showed artistic ability. She enjoyed cooking and baking and loved decorating cakes. She taught cake decorating during Air Force assignments in foreign countries.

In Japan, Jeanne became acquainted with a famous Japanese artist who had his own gallery and pictures in other galleries in Tokyo. (She no longer remembers his name but remembers him as being the number-one Japanese artist at that time.) Becoming acquainted, he invited Jeanne to his home for art lessons. Friends in Maranatha Village who have seen Jeanne’s artwork say her pictures are beautiful. Her three daughters have all her paintings now.

Retiring to the village in the 1970s, Jeanne and Hal lived at 30 Maranatha Blvd. Jeanne quickly made friends. With her love for people and love of cooking, she became known for hospitality and entertainment in her home. In those early days, she knew every person in the village by name and sent birthday and anniversary cards to each one.

Jeanne also served as president of the ladies’ missionary fellowship at Maranatha Baptist Church. She says, “Whenever there was something to do, I was there.” Today from her home in the manor, Jeanne advises, “Go to church, and get involved in everything you can.”

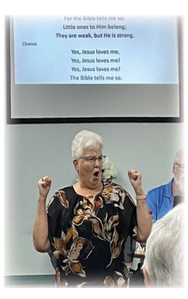
Why a Hymn Sing?

Brian Halstead

As village administrator/CEO, I continually think about what activities we can bring to Maranatha Village. Why not a hymn sing—something to promote the value and love of singing the hymns of the church together? These songs have been preserved by faithful Christians who have experienced the life-altering power of their message. With changing times, cultures, and “new” styles, this generation has been deprived of these great lyrics and melodies in most churches today. Those who know and love these hymns of the faith don’t often have the opportunity to sing them in a congregational setting.

I’ve been involved in many hymn sings. We called them “singspirations” when I was younger. We met to sing, inspire, worship, and, as a result, bring us closer to God. He wants to hear us sing, so let’s sing! Let’s let these wonderful songs bring us to closer fellowship with Him and join our hearts to each other. “Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid? Your heart does the Spirit control?” To be blessed and have peace and sweet rest, give it *all* to Jesus.

Nothing more than a simple singalong is what I want our community to enjoy. I try to schedule our hymn sings about every other month. We had our first one in April with forty attendees. Several have asked if we could have them every month, but it takes time to organize and prepare. September’s event, “Maranatha Sings Children’s Choruses,” included the songs about who God is that we sang and taught to our children as well. Check “Odds & Ends” for the date and time of the next hymn sing.



About 30 people attended the September hymn sing, led by Brian Halstead. They were accompanied on the piano by Tina Rizzo and led in action songs by Priscilla Robinson. PHOTOS: Kaye Halstead.

Celebrating Our Nonagenarians!

Doris Bishop	1927	97
Betty Grable	1927	97
Maxine Brown	1928	96
Betty Esckelson	1928	96
Jeanne McCully	1928	96
Bertie Thomas	1928	96
Miles Jones	1930	94
Al Anger	1931	93
Lena Meyer	1931	93
Harry Schuster	1931	93
Beverly Johnson	1932	92
Jim Mitchell	1932	92
Dick Rohm	1932	92
Gil Seddon	1932	92
Philip Fredenburg	1933	91
Chasper Ruhter	1933	91
Betty Hendsbee	1934	90
Charlene Begue	1934	90
Bob Gardiner	1934	90
Ted Ertle	1934	90
Antonio Estrada	1934	90
Bruce Hendsbee	1934	90

Their combined ages equal over 1,600 years! We celebrate them and their longevity!

Mrs. Mitchell’s Carrot Cake Recipe

Enjoy this recipe submitted by Jim Mitchell, one of our nonagenarians, given in memory of his wife Jurrena.

2 c. sugar
2 c. flour
2 tsp. cinnamon
2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
Mix dry ingredients, then add
1½ c. veg. oil
4 eggs, beat
3 c. grated carrots
Put in 9 x 13 Pyrex baking dish.
Bake at 350°, 45 min.

Icing:
1 8 oz. pkg cream cheese, softened
1 stick butter, softened
1 lb. confectioners’ sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1 c. chopped pecans or walnuts
Cream together and put on cake.

Maranatha Village Staff

Have a question, need more information, interested in leasing a villa or promo villa, staying in a guesthouse, and/or just need to know whom to contact? Find answers here.

Village Administrator
Brian Halstead
Office Manager
Kathy Withers
Business Manager
Jerry Johnson
Accounts Payable
Katie Gray
Marketing & Development
Kaye Halstead
Director of Operations
Bill Katka
Volunteer Coordinator
John Pyche

Email office@maranathavillage.org, call 863-385-7897, or visit www.maranathavillage.org.

Fellowship, food, friends, family, and fun feature in the village’s 2024 Thanksgiving dinner hosted by Maranatha Baptist Church.
PHOTOS: Pauline Dark, Colene Price, & Lynn Waldron.

Meet the Board

Judy Meyers

Editor's note: Businessman Floyd Conway had the vision for Regular Baptist Fellowship, Inc. (a.k.a. Maranatha Village). He filed its articles of incorporation in 1973. The board has always been self-perpetuating, which means the board alone elects new board members. The Trumpet *will be introducing board members (in alphabetical order) over the next year or so.*

Meet Maranatha Village board member Mike Bishop and his wife, Connie.

A Family Affair

Mike and Connie, like many Maranatha residents, first spent time at Maranatha Village as snowbirds. They visited Mike's mother, Doris Bishop, who has lived at Maranatha since 2008. Mike's sister, Diane Bailey, is also an MV resident. In 2020, Mike and Connie became full-time residents.

Mike graduated from Grand Rapids Baptist Bible College and trade school and then pursued a career in electronics, specifically in computer engineering, designing custom electronic systems.

Mike is often asked to solve computer problems. He has also become the go-to-guy when residents have questions regarding their irrigation systems. Mike's volunteering to assist individuals with lawn care led to them engaging him to oversee their lawns while they are out of the village. After hurricanes, Mike has checked on snowbirds' mobile homes.

Mike is also quick to notice seniors who need his services. "If it's something Mike doesn't know how to do," says his mother, "he'll do it anyway. He's a 'Jack of all trades' and whatever he does is done well."

Serving at Maranatha Baptist Church

Sunday services and other gatherings find Mike and Connie in the sound booth streaming the meetings, which are viewed by people around the world. Further, Connie watches security cameras to check that no unwanted guests have arrived at Maranatha Village during Maranatha Baptist Church's services. Connie also uses her expertise to keep the village's two TV channels working properly, often checking or fixing them several times a day.

This fall Mike volunteered for one more ministry. He attends the children's Bible clubs at two local elementary schools to set up audiovisual equipment. Having a mic for leaders to use greatly helps keep the attention of fifty to seventy-five children. The computer projects onto a wall the song lyrics and pictures that accompany the Bible and missions stories.

A humble servants heart and involvement in various village projects opened the door for Mike to complete an unfulfilled term on the village board of directors a few years ago. He was then asked to continue on the board. Board Chairman Doug Peacock notes that "Mike is a prime example of volunteerism which characterizes our village."

Welcomed Home

Contributed by Marie Moore

These blessed believers were welcomed Home to Heaven since the last winter *Trumpet.*

Mervin "Dutch" Dubs (winter church attendee) 11/21/2023
Connie Hammel 1/17/2024
Les Dillon 1/24/2024
Patricia Greenfield (former resident) 1/29/2024
Gerry Carlson 1/30/2024
Lucy Perron (former resident) 2/6/2024
June Delnay 2/8/2024
Robert Meyer 2/9/2024
Larry McCauley 2/15/2024
Mary Schuster 2/22/2024
Frank Stadleman (former resident) 3/25/2024
Marie Rogers 3/31/2024
Charlene Gartin (RV'er) 4/30/2024
Ron Smith (former resident) 4/30/2024
Joan McNeil 5/1/2024
Wayne Mott 5/16/2024
Shirley Dannenberg (former resident) 5/26/2024
Mary Ann Roshko 5/30/2024
Herbert Rogers 6/10/2024
Robert Hunt (former resident) 6/18/2024
Cheryl Turbett (pastor's wife) 6/27/2024
Nancy Ball (former resident) 6/27/2024
David Wills 6/27/2024
Lucy Chapman 6/29/2024
Maria Booth 6/30/2024
George Darling Sr. (former resident) 8/13/2024
Tom Hoopes 9/2/2024
Bea Brown (former resident) 10/18/2024
Robert Little 10/25/2024
Bob Boes 10/25/2024

Home at Last

Pitching In

Story & Photos: Linda Pyche

Volunteers in the village pitch in when things don't go as planned. They also pitch in each year to clean mailboxes.

Jim Pitcher collects trash from garbage areas.

Twice a week, residents take their bagged trash and cardboard to designated areas, where it's picked up by the village truck. But when the truck isn't running, people like Jim Pitcher carry it away on their golf carts.

Maxine Arter and Pauline Dark clean mailboxes.

The village mailboxes belong to the USPS, which issues a list of rules regarding them. Cleaning them is not on the list, but each fall Maranatha residents clean their boxes, and volunteers even clean the posts as well as other residents' mailboxes.

Richard and Priscilla Robinson help inspect mailboxes.

Priscilla Robinson's nephew Chad Carlson, who was visiting Connie Carlson, commented that he was "totally impressed with a place that cares enough that they clean their mailboxes."

Craft Cottage Refresh

Story & Photos: Linda Pyche

Sue Lawton (right) gave the Craft Cottage walls a paint refresh as part of the cottage's 2024 update.

Meanwhile, Sally Pitcher (left) removed items to prepare for new flooring. And Sue Ellen Barton (right) helped remove everything on the floors as part of the preparations.

A Gospel Opportunity through Christmas Giving

Judy Meyers

How do we share the gospel and show the love of Christ where we cannot go? One opportunity comes through Christmas boxes that children receive along with a presentation of the gospel.

Our awesome God guides each box to a child who needs exactly what is in the box he or she receives. We at Maranatha who participated in this gift-giving have an eternal impact on each child and family who hears the gospel because of our prayers, our gifts, and the 200 boxes we packed.

Pat Wells, Jan Bentley, and Linda Peacock fill boxes from tables loaded with donated items. PHOTOS: Linda Pyche.

Front table left side, Eloise Skillman, Sally Pitcher, Pauline Dark; front table right, Muriel Casas, Ginny Thompson, Dolores Sorrells; back table, Wanda Gough; and, standing, Judy Meyers make crafts to go in the Christmas boxes. The entire project (from crafts to packing to mailing) was headed by Judy Meyers, ably assisted by Fran Bowers.

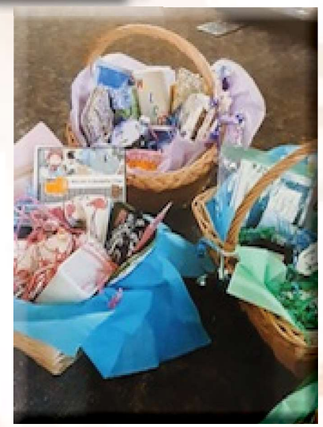
Giving to Others till Jesus Comes

Brothers Tim and John Thorp clean up after the Oct. 9, 2024, hurricane.

Volunteers give their time and lend their strength to donate items that are left in the laundry room boutiques. Here Mary Ann Tuttle (left) and Yvonne Ertle unload a bag of items for donation at a local charity.

Mary Ann Tuttle folds clothes to be given to a local charity on Donation Day, the first Wednesday of each month.

Sharon Miller and Linda Peacock clean the pool area after hurricane Milton. They were among the many who picked up debris around the village.

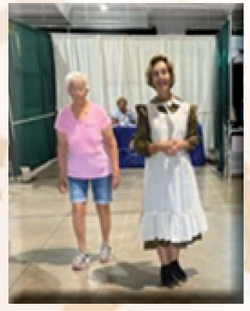


Every new resident (single or couple) receives a gift basket filled with crafted items donated by village residents.

Every Donation Day, Richard Tuttle lines the back of his car with cardboard before loading it with donated items, which he and others then take to a local charity.

Patty Dale shuttles people at Pioneer Daze using a golf cart lent to the event by Maranatha Manor.

John Miller, Jerry Wells, and David Conrad—members of the village maintenance crew—pick up debris after hurricane Milton.



Elaine Haines (right) serves on the Sebring Historical Society board. She oversaw many areas of Pioneer Daze.

Ladies and men from Maranatha Baptist Church sing at Sebring's Pioneer Daze.