

Interview with Jim Gilley

April
2002
Issue

Del Johnson – Administrator, SDA Retirement Plans
(Jim Gilley is a VP for the North American Division)

Reflections
A newsletter for beneficiaries of the NAD Retirement Plans of the SDA church.

Del: *Jim, the Retirement Plan invited retirees to participate in the New York initiative, and they really came through. Direct donations to my office totaled over \$35,000. How much money has been donated across the division?*

Jim: First, Del, allow me to express the appreciation of our Division President, Elder Don Schneider and all NAD officers to the retirees. More than \$500,000 has been received in the NAD office.

Del: *Tell me a little about what is actually happening in New York.*

Jim: Each Union is involved in building up existing churches in an area of Manhattan or New Jersey. The Korean Council of North America has provided two graduate students from Andrews University to plant a new church. Elder and Mrs. Don James (Andrews University) are planting a new church on Roosevelt Island. Black Hills Institute (ASI) has brought 25 Bible workers. Mikhail and Peter Kulakov (Indiana and Wisconsin Conferences) are holding a Russian crusade, Pastor and Mrs. Terry Nennich (Minnesota Conference) are working with youth in Greenwich Village, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Stewart (Dakota Conference) are holding Bible study groups, and Jim Woods (Kansas-Nebraska) has been helping with coordination.

Del: *Tell me a little about the challenges you faced.*

Jim: Just living in NYC is a challenge! We have great leadership in the local conferences and we are not

there because the need is any greater than in any other part of the Division, but because of the great opportunity. The Union and the two conferences are pulling together with the NAD in a great spirit of cooperation. Working effectively in the big cities is a challenge all over North America and if we can in a cooperative manner make a breakthrough in soul winning it will be a help to the entire division.

A retiree, Elder Gordon Henderson was the first volunteer on the ground to help us and stayed for four months. His experience in evangelism, coordination and administration made him a very valuable person. We thank Rocky Mountain for paying his expenses while he was with us!

Del: *What about the \$35,000 that retirees gave directly to the division. How will that be spent?*

Jim: We wanted this sacrificial gift from our retirees to go for something that we could point to with pride and follow it's future carefully. And, because we think it expresses their "love for NY" we have decided that these funds will underwrite an outreach called "God Loves New York". This is a campaign to reassure New Yorkers that God loves them and that He gave His Son to save them. This is a take-off on the "I ♥ NY" slogan. Again, we want to thank the retirees as well as you Del, and your staff, for working to make this possible. I believe that this ministry will continue until the Lord comes and will make a great contribution to the saving of Souls. May the Lord Bless each of you!

Between the Lines

Sunshine surrounds those who smile, and Lizzie always has this infectious smile, brightening the world around her. She has been smiling since joining our staff two and a half years ago.

Shortly after starting with us, she was married to Sammy Garcia, and her smile became constant and uninhibited. When asked about her experience working in the Retirement Office she says, “What I like the most is the people that I work with, they are friendly and they always make me feel a part of the retirement family.”

What keeps Lizzie busy in our office is processing applications, change in status, disability reviews, discontinuing/reducing Spouse Allowances, death benefits, and survivor benefits for those retirees whose last names begin with “A” through “F” of the alphabet. She’s also our unofficial translator since Spanish is her first language.



About her life, Lizzie says “I was born in Aruba when my Dad was a missionary there. We moved to Medellin, Columbia when I was one year old. I grew up there. In 1991 my father received a call to work for the New Jersey Conference as a pastor. We moved to the U.S. and I attended Columbia Union College where I graduated in 1995 with a business-management degree. Two and a half years ago, I prayed to God to change my life. God gave me many blessings, not the least of which was getting married to my best friend of nine years. I found a wonderful job in the retirement department, and I got my U.S. citizenship. I am amazed at all that God has bestowed upon me and I thank Him for that.” Lizzie’s newest blessing came in the

form of a beautiful bouncing baby boy – Jason Samuel Garcia – who was born October 13, 2001. We are grateful for Lizzie’s good work and the extra delight she brings with her optimism, and – oh, yes – her lovely smile!



NEW YORK



UPDATES



♥ Two teams of Bible workers from Black Hills Mission College of Evangelism report that they have 225 individuals taking Bible studies...

♥ NY metro-area churches of the Northeastern Conference have “adopted” their local police precincts and some local firehouses. Twenty-four congregations are currently participating in this program...

♥ “God Loves New York” Promotional buttons (36,000) and labels (150,000) are now in hand, with a follow-up order to be placed when funds become available. The website is online ~ (www.godlovesnewyork.com)...

♥ A Bible worker employed by the New Jerusalem church in Brooklyn is currently working with 30 interested people...



News Notes

From Mort

Contributing Reporter, Mort Juberg

■ Washington, D.C. In a decision that has a widespread impact on Adventist schools, the U.S. Court of Appeals said the National Labor Relations Board cannot force a religious college to bargain with a labor union. The case came as the result of an earlier ruling by the NLRB in a case involving a Catholic affiliated school in Great Falls, Montana.

■ Blantyre, Malawi. Leaders of the Adventist church in this East African country have issued a statement affirming that, "Women with the gift of preaching should be encouraged to preach and share the Word of God." The statement comes after two incidents in the past two years where local Adventist churches in the region refused to allow women to preach. A meeting of all the pastors in Malawi was called to clarify the issue.

■ Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. More than 20,000 people have been baptized in what organizers called the most successful evangelistic series ever held by the church in the country. Evangelist Alejandro Bullon's messages were broadcast live by 35 local television stations and cable networks. The 15,000-seat Sport Palace was filled to capacity nearly every night. Months of advance preparation preceded the series with Bible studies and small meetings. More than 100 pastors from North America took part in these preliminary sessions.

■ San Salvador, El Salvador. Brian Han, 26, a teacher at Garden State Academy in New Jersey, drowned while rescuing several people caught in a riptide in the Pacific Ocean. The group included students from the school who were constructing a church with the aid of Maranatha Volunteers International. Everyone was rescued except Han.

■ Bucharest, Romania. An estimated 60,000 people are watching an evangelistic series that is being seen on more than 700 downlink sites in the

country. Thousands more are watching satellite downlink sites in 12 European countries from Bulgaria to Moldova, Hungary to France and Italy to Ireland.

■ Royse, Norway. The Adventist Church in Norway is giving priority to public evangelism for a 10-week period by limiting the number of in-house committee meetings and by cutting back on non-evangelistic church events. A total of 22 different evangelistic events are in progress. The church in Norway has been struggling with decreasing baptismal numbers during the past nine years. In 2000 baptismal figures reached an all-time low with only 44 new members added.

Source, Adventist News Network

REMEMBER!...



APRIL 7, 2002

Bulletin Board

If you don't read or keep anything else—read and keep these items!

Payroll Release Date Change

Recently a retiree wrote and made a suggestion. I think it was a good one, and effective immediately we are changing the rules for release of the monthly deposit. In the past we have said we release the direct deposit “two business days after the 25th of the month.” This has caused frequent uncertainty by retirees unsure as to the definition of a “business day.”

Effective immediately we are changing the payroll release for direct deposits. We will authorize the bank to release the deposit by the 27th of the month. Thus if the 27th is a Saturday as in April, we will release the direct deposits on Friday the 26th. If the 27th is a Sunday as in October, we will release direct deposits on Friday the 25th. If the 27th is a Monday which is also a holiday as in May, we will release the direct deposits on the 24th. If the 27th is a Thursday as in June, we will release the direct deposits on the 27th. We do not have control over when the money actually arrives in your account. Usually that happens on the day of the release, but some banks and credit unions take a day or two to credit your account.

This change will also affect the few who continue to receive paper checks. These will generally be mailed on the 27th of the month, but will follow the protocol outlined above.

Del Johnson, Administrator

Payroll Information: Checks mailed/direct deposits released: April 26, 2002

Send comments and suggestions to: Lyn Wick, Editor, *Reflections*, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 Email: 74532.2647@compuserve.com

ARM	1-800-447-5002	Healthcare Assistance Queries
ARM Email address:		SLiu@adventistrisk.org
Submit medical claims:		ARM, PO Box 4088, Silver Spring, MD 20914
PAID Rx	1-800-473-3455	Verify pharmacy participation with PAID Prescription
Jack Harris	503-255-8565	President, NAD Retirees Association— 15530 NE Knott #48, Portland, OR 97230 Email: Hjackharris@cs.com
General Conference of SDA		301-680-6000

Payroll	1-888-838-8955	Bulletin Board of Payroll Information
Fax	301-680-6190	Retirement Fax Number
Phone:	(301) 680—	

Barbara Yowell	6244	Lost checks, direct deposits, 1099R, Tax Withholding, Change of Address PAYROLL Email: Payroll@nad.adventist.org Payroll Email: Payroll@nad.adventist.org
Sharon Kuykendall	6249	Gen'l Retirement Office Info, <i>Reflections</i> , Editorial Assist./Layout/Design
Chris Meier	6192	Reporting a Death, Disability Reviews
Chandler Riley	6270	Tuition Assistance for Children
Camille Walton	6247	Verification of Benefits (For rental or loan officer requirements)



Journaling from Jack

Contributing Editor: H Jack Harris

WAITING

Theresa V. Meyer

I watch from my window day after day
For someone who may come to my door and say,
“I was just passing by on my way to the store.
I really meant to have called before.”

“Oh do come in and sit awhile!”
“Yes,” she answers with a friendly smile.
“Perhaps a warm drink and a little chat?”
“Won’t you sit down. I’ll take y our hat.”

She sips her drink and smiles at me,
As warm and friendly as can be.
We talk for a while, then she has to leave.
I feel the urge to tug her sleeve.

“Perhaps you could stay a wee bit more?”
But smiling, she makes her way to the door
“Thank you for coming, now do take care!”
Then I set the tray down by the empty chair.

I watch from the window and hear myself say,
“perhaps that will really happen today.”

There are many among us who understand all too
well the sentiments expressed in this poem.
Maybe you could brighten someone’s day with a
visit or a call?

Jack Harris

Sent in by Mrs. G. Streifling, of Walla Walla



IMPORTANT INFO...

Healthcare Assistance VI

By now the total enrollment package for **SHARP** should be in the mail. You will receive a booklet and an enrollment form, and a schedule of enrollment meetings across the country. You can enroll by mail, or you can attend an enrollment meeting.

One retiree asked what this “**SHARP**” is. I reviewed my articles and realized to my horror that I never introduced the moniker which we have attached to the new healthcare plan.

SHARP stands for ...

Supplemental
Healthcare
Adventist
Retirement
Plans

One retiree took exception to my ‘one piece at a time’ approach, and offered to share with me his applesauce cake recipe. “Buy or grow six large apples, and I’ll send the rest of the recipe over the next six months!” Touché! Several wrote, asking for copies of the newsletter that they had thrown away.

Some letters indicated confusion, some anger, and some delight. I think it is fair to believe that many retirees will carefully review the **SHARP** booklet when it arrives, partly as a result of hearing about this plan for several months. One retiree wrote, “Insurance is one thing that many older people do not fully understand. Please be patient.” I have news for you. It’s not just retirees who have difficulty understanding healthcare assistance.

Del Johnson, Administrator

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**General Conference of SDA
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