

As a Thief in the Night

Sharon Kuykendall, NAD Retirement Admin. Asst.

2002
March Issue

As I write this, the country is in mourning for the seven brave astronauts lost in the *Columbia* space shuttle disaster. Watching the news coverage reminded me of the first time I ever saw one of the space shuttles in person, and the object lesson it taught me.

In 1983 my family was on an exciting first time visit to London, England. As if castles, museums and cathedrals weren't enough to keep us busy, we noticed an interesting announcement in the *London Times*. *NASA* had sent the space shuttle prototype, *Enterprise*, to France for display in the annual Paris Air Show. On it's way home the shuttle, riding piggy-back on it's 747 host, would fly over London to give more people a look at this exotic new spacecraft. On the appointed morning, we joined several hundred other eager spectators lining the banks of the Thames river near Parliament. We had read the news stories and were sure that with all those facts we knew exactly where to look for the best view. We waited, and waited...and waited. No space shuttle. The morning wore on with no spaceship in sight, and slowly, one by one, in pairs, and in straggling groups, people gave up and left. Disappointed, we were about to join them when we saw a glorious sight. Soaring majestically from an unexpected direction, the *Enterprise* slowly sailed across the city, her red, white and blue flag bright in the midmorning sun. It was a surprisingly emotional sight to a group of tourists far from home and we were thankful we hadn't

given up after all.

Ever since, that experience has reminded me of Peter and Matthew's descriptions of Christ's second coming. How often have we read that He will "*come as a thief in the night*"**, and that we will "*know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*"***It's easy to think we know exactly how things will or should occur, and tempting to walk away in disappointment when things don't follow our plans. But, if we keep faith that His way will prevail, we will see a glorious sight in the heavens to surpass anything our human minds can imagine.

A devout Christian, Rick Husband, commander of the doomed *Columbia* mission, talked with his pastor about what should be said if anything were to happen to him on one of his space missions. He asked the pastor to talk to his fellow church members about Jesus, "because He is the most important thing." Let's share his focus on what's most important, so we too can look forward to that new heaven and earth where "*there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.*"****

* (2 Peter 3:10)

** (Matthew 25:13)

*** (Revelation 21:4-5)

Reflections
A Newsletter for Members of the NAD Retirement Plans of the SDA Church

Between the Lines

As it turns out, the Staff Bio column is actually an ‘autoBio’ this month—written about me by me, Lyn Wick. (I trust no one happened to walk by my office while the interview was taking place!)

Born of hispanic/american heritage and raised in the Adventist ‘ghetto’ of Takoma Park, Maryland, I feel right at home here. So many of the retired workers we serve from this office were people I knew while growing up in and around the world church headquarters. After graduating from Takoma Academy, I ventured down to Southern Adventist University for one year, then back up to Columbia Union College for another year before going west to complete my undergraduate degree at Loma Linda University.

A most wonderful man entered my life in 1991, and this year we will have been married for eleven years. Ted Wick is assistant director for recruitment with ADRA, and we share our cozy (that’s another word for tiny) home with two cats and daughter, Erin. Ted’s two daughters, Patrice and Jana, are married and living on the west coast. Because we share a life-long love for music, Ted and I both sing in our Spencerville Church Choir and occasionally lead out as Sabbath School choristers. Members of the Family Life Ministries team is another role we fill together at our local church.

I spent twelve years working in the healthcare field as a dental hygiene professional in Maryland, California, Massachusetts, and Florida before coming to the General Conference in 1983. It was at that time I began my career as a retirement plans specialist. Over the past 20 years, I have served in virtually every area of the



Retirement Office, from data entry, to office assistant, to benefits distribution specialist, to benefits specialist, to assistant and now associate administrator. My current responsibilities are primarily to oversee the administration and operations of the ‘frozen’ defined benefit plan. I also work with our Administrator, Del Johnson, in long-range planning, communications, and developing programs to assist employers and employees in retirement planning and the processing of benefit applications.

I thoroughly enjoy the team of dedicated staff working in this office and the congenial environment engendered by their caring attitudes. The work that is done here and the people we serve (all of you!) most assuredly is a ministry in concert with the overall ‘mission’ of the Church. Despite the frequent challenges, it continues to be my joy and honor to serve in this place.





NEWS NOTES

FROM MORT

Contributing Reporter: Mort Juberg

Sanford, NC ~ Two men are in jail after an armed robbery at the Sanford Hispanic Church. The men reportedly stormed into the church's prayer meeting. They shot one member in the leg and hit another with the butt of a rifle, then fled with purses and cash. Police found the two suspects in an apartment about a mile from the church. The shooting victim was in stable condition and the other was treated and released.

Luanda, Angola ~ Despite 30 years of war in Angola, the Adventist Church is very much alive, according to Paul Ratsara, executive secretary for the church in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean area. Plans are for an intensified focus on leadership training, he added. ADRA and the church have embarked on several reconstruction projects in agriculture and education.

Gland, Switzerland ~ Dr. Jean Zurcher, a well-known Adventist writer, theologian and educator, died recently at the age of 84. Zurcher's nearly 40 years of church work included serving as president of the Seminary at Campus Adventiste, France; secretary of the Euro-Africa Division; and the author of several books.

Manukua City, New Zealand ~ The New Zealand government granted the Queens Service Medal to Robert Patton, an employee of ADRA. The prestigious award was given to 36 people last year from various parts of New Zealand for their valuable and faithful services to the community.

Barquisimeto, Venezuela ~ Adventist churches in this land of political unrest remain open despite a strike against the government of President Hugo Chavez which has shut down oil production resulting in the loss of jobs for many. Some members are unable to attend church because of a lack of funds to buy bus tickets. However, many of them are now meeting in neighborhood homes.

Pune, India ~ Justus Devadas, Ph.D., has been chosen as the new president of Spicer College, his alma mater, by the college board and the Southern Asia Executive Committee. Outgoing president Dr. Samuel Galikwad and his wife Dr. Prema Galikwad, have accepted teaching positions at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in the Philippines. Devadas has served in the Southern Asia Division for the past 11 years.

Source: Adventist News Network

Send comments and suggestions to: Sharon Kuykendall, Editor, *Reflections*, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 Email: kuyksh@nad.adventist.org

ARM 1-800-447-5002 Healthcare Assistance Queries

ARM Email address: RetireeHealth@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

Dolores Allen 6249 Gen'l Retirement Office Info

Chris Meier 6192 Reporting a Death, Disability Reviews



Bulletin Board



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

Medicare Part B Premium Reimbursement

When your retirement application was processed, you were determined to be either eligible or ineligible for coverage under the retirees' Healthcare Assistance Plan. If you qualified, you were notified of that fact and sent a healthcare information packet. If you did not receive confirmation of healthcare assistance and did not receive the information packet, **THIS MESSAGE DOES NOT APPLY TO YOU.**

Retirees/eligible spouses* (*pre-retirement spouse covered by Joint & Survivor provision) who qualify for our healthcare assistance are required to enroll in both the Hospital (Part A) and Medical (Part B) insurance programs of Medicare. Because of the monthly premium cost to you, usually deducted from your Social Security benefits, we provide a prorated reimbursement (50-90% of current premium rate, based on your years of service credit) which is added to your monthly retirement benefits.

This is not something new we are starting to do. This reimbursement has been available to eligible retirees/spouses for many years. Most of you sent in a copy of your Medicare card upon reaching Medicare eligibility (at age 65) and have been receiving this benefit from us for a long time. If so, **THIS MESSAGE DOES NOT APPLY TO YOU, EITHER.**

This message is intended to be a reminder to those few who have overlooked, procrastinated, or otherwise have not requested this benefit. If you have sent us a copy of your—and your eligible spouse's—Medicare card, please **DO NOT SEND IT TO US AGAIN.** However, if you have not sent in your cards, and you are eligible for assistance under the retiree Healthcare Assistance Plan, please send a copy of your—and your eligible spouse's—Medicare card to the Retirement Plans Office (address located above yours on this newsletter).

As with all other healthcare assistance provided to our eligible retirees, reimbursements are payable retroactively for up to one year only from the date requests for benefits are received in our office.

Payroll Information: Checks mailed/direct deposits released: March 27, 2003



Journaling from Jack

Contributing Editor: H Jack Harris

Mark it down!

Andrews University Convocation

June 11-15, 2003

Like a holiday or a big reunion, the next National Retirees Convocation is on it's way and picking up momentum with every passing day. Several trips are being planned, some can be self guided or by bus. They include an "On Campus" tour of the E.G. White Estates, the new Seminary Building, the brand new Performing Arts Center, not yet quite complete, the Adventist Heritage Village Center at Battle Creek, including the famous "Cereal City" tour, which is exciting. There is one more tour we are working on that I hope we can have it arranged soon. You will love it if we can work out the details. So start making plans because we are and we would love to see you there. The Registration form will be in the next *Reflections*.



Some Real True Signs that said:

In a beauty shop window, "Dye Now"

On an electricians truck, "Let us remove your shorts"

On a fence, "Salesmen welcome, dog food is expensive"

In a veterinarian's waiting room, "Be Back in five minutes. Sit! Stay!"

Outside a muffler shop, "No appointment necessary, we heard you coming."

In a restaurant window, "Don't stand there and be hungry, come in and get fed up"

At a car dealership, "The best way to get back on your feet is to miss a car payment."

At the electric company, "We would be delighted if you pay your bill. But if you don't, you will be."

Medicine Do's and Don'ts

Do...

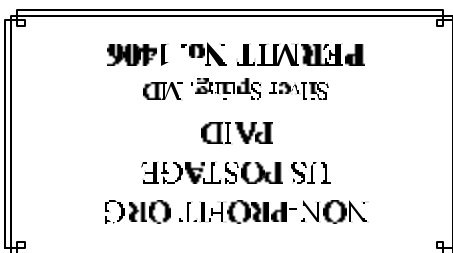
- " ...ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain how a medicine should be used, before you take the first dose.
- " ...pay close attention to and follow the instructions your doctor or pharmacist has provided for taking your medication.
- " ...make sure your doctor's prescriptions are written clearly so the pharmacist can read them. And be sure you can read the label and instructions on any medicine container you are given. If the text on the label is too small or difficult to read, ask the pharmacist to use a large printer font or to provide an instruction sheet with large print.
- " ...tell your doctor about any problems you believe might have been caused by a drug, such as a rash, indigestion, dizziness, or loss of appetite.
- " ...keep a careful record of all the drugs you take, including both prescription and over-the-counter medications. Write down the name of each drug, the doctor who prescribed it (if any), the dose and intervals at which you take each medication.

Keep the record in an obvious place so you won't forget to fill it in. And keep an up-to-date copy in your wallet or purse.

- " ...go over the drug record with your physician every time you visit and especially when he or she prescribes a new medicine.
- " ...throw away or let your pharmacist dispose of any medicines that have expired.

Do Not...

- " ...stop taking a drug that has been prescribe for you unless your doctor says you should. This is true even if you no longer feel ill or have the symptoms you had before. If you are concerned about side effects, discuss your worries with your doctor You may be able to take a different drug.
- " ...take more or fewer pills than were prescribed, or at longer or shorter intervals than indicated on the instructions.
- " ...share a drug that has been prescribed for you, or take a drug prescribed for someone else.



Retirement Plans Office of SDA
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600

