

# WHEN BAD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

Jack Harris

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At the time of this writing, May 20, 2004 the headlines have been something like “Shocking New Photos;” “Unheard Of Mistreatment by Allied Troops in Iraq;” “Allied Troops Violate Geneva Convention Standards;” “Red Cross Finds Gross Prisoner Abuse;” “Wedding Party Bombed, Forty Killed, Including Women and Children;” “Soldier Receives Maximum Penalty;” Catholic Bishops Split Over Same-Sex Marriages and Abortion Issues;” “Currency Trader Indicted over Millions of Dollars Fraud;” “Over the Top Oil Charges Bring Nation To It’s Knees;” “Jeered, Giuliani Defends City;” “ Eight Year Old Boy Stabs Seven Year Old With Ice Pick Over a Candy Bar;” “ Mother Kills Three Year Old Son For Crying;” “AWOL Soldier Kills Wife, Body Found In Car Trunk.”

And that is just one newspaper in one city in less than one week. It does not even begin to touch the national news magazines and the countless newspapers across the nation or the radio and TV stations that critically impact and negatively influence a news hungry nation.

A new low in the field of political advertising is happening when “Media Sponsored” ads repeatedly bombard the nation with slanted evaluations of political candidates. This naive observer cannot remember ever seeing such ads sponsored by the “media” whoever they are or represent. I am sure we will never know.

My naivete always taught me that the media was supposed to be unbiased. Yeah, right!

I was surprised and glad to see at least four Roman Catholic Bishops take a firm and public stand against Same Sex Marriages and Abortion. It was especially significant to me because they stand in the minority among their United States peers across the nation. Those issues today are hot and volatile, as anyone quickly and painfully learns who questions or challenges them.

In the opinion of this old man, the cesspool of iniquity has never, in all history, been deeper, more sordid, widespread, and universally accepted than it is today.

But then, why are we surprised? How come this is news to us? Why should we raise appalled voices and questioning eye brows? Don’t we read the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy? Are we so old that we have forgotten everything we ever learned long years ago?

Did not Jesus make the statement, “ For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which you see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which you hear, and have not heard them.” Matthew 13:17 KJV

And did not He say, “ But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified; for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.” Luke 21:9 KJV He went on to speak of wars and rumors of wars, pestilence

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and fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

“When thoughtful men try to look into the future, their hearts will sink at what they see lying ahead of the human race” Luke 21:26 Clear Word

In his book, Day Of The Dragon, Clifford Goldstein, page 7 says, “ The Great Controversy is more pertinent, relevant and crucial now than when scribbled out by the wrinkled right hand of Sister White more than a century ago. Despite attempts by some to dismiss The Great Controversy as nothing but Ellen White’s eschatological perspective for her

time, the political and religious trends of the past few years have reignited fire into it’s pages until they burn brighter now than at any time since A. T. Jones battled Sunday-led legislation in congress.”

Jesus said in Mark 13:29 “When ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.” So all the bad headlines; the horrible, sordid, sickening news headlines are the bad news that bring us the good news that the end is near and the Lord will come soon, and that, dear friends, is good news.



## News Notes

### From Mort

Contributing Reporter, Mort Juberg

**Honiara, Solomon Islands** ~ Pirates raided a yacht operated by Pacific Yacht Ministries (PYM), an independent Adventist ministry. Captain Nick Clark, stricken with malaria, was the only one aboard and was bedridden below deck. The thieves came aboard during the night and stole an inflatable dinghy and motor.

**Pena Blanca, Honduras** ~ Loma Linda University medical and dental students are ministering to orphan children in a remote area of the Central American land. The children are in Pan American Health Services, Inc., an orphanage and rehabilitation hospital. The students spent their spring break at the facility and provided medical, dental and public health care to the children.

**Friedensau, Germany** ~ A group of Adventist scientists and theologians continued the church’s worldwide dialogue on faith and science. Forty-six delegates met at the Friedensau Adventist University for the conference, the first in the Euro-Africa region. The conference provided the foundation for a dialogue on questions, both in theology and science, that impact the church’s understanding of Biblical narratives regarding the origin of the earth and its varied life forms.

**Yad Hashmonah, Israel** ~ Church leaders report

continued membership growth during recent meetings. In the past three years the church added 385 new members through baptism and profession of faith. The present membership is 1,134. Each Sabbath more than 1,200 people attend worship services in 29 churches..

**Silver Spring, MD** ~ The humanitarian arm of the church, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), has updated its “Do Something Kit,” a resource for those wanting to assist the organization. Ideas included are suggestions for those planning a yard sale or how to become an ADRA ambassador

**Tamil Nadu, India** ~ Members and leaders of the church in the south India state of Tamil Nadu are applauding the withdrawal of an “anti-conversion” ordinance that slowed, but didn’t stop Adventist church membership growth. The bill passed in 2002 made it a crime to force someone to change their religion or to offer “inducements” to do so. While Christians and Moslem and other minority religions agreed that forcible conversion is ethically wrong, they said the ordinance could result in accusations of “inducements” that were never offered.

**Source: Adventist News Network**

# Retired? Now what?

**re ♦ tire ♦ ment** *n.* **1.** The act of retiring. **2.** The state of being retired. **3.** Withdrawal from one's occupation, business, or office. **4.** Withdrawal into privacy or seclusion. **5.** A place of privacy or seclusion, a retreat.

That is what "Retirement" means to the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language. What does "Retirement" mean to you? For some people it means packing up the Winnebago and hitting all the tourist spots they never had a chance to see while working. Others are determined to spend as much time in that backyard hammock as they can manage. Some people see this time as a chance to keep just as busy as before, launching a second career. Retirement has as many different meanings as there are retirees. The relatively modern concept of retirement, combined with increasing life expectancies, means that those leaving the job force today have something our ancestors never would have imagined centuries ago.....a large block of life to be spent as one wishes, hopefully.

If you are looking for something meaningful to spend part of your retirement time on, be it just a few hours, or a longer commitment, here are a few resources to help you start looking:

**Maranatha Volunteers International** † A non-profit Christian organization, which organizes and

implements the construction of urgently needed buildings all over the world. *1600 Sacramento Inn Way, Suite 116; Sacramento, CA 95815 USA*  
[www.maranatha.org](http://www.maranatha.org), [information@maranatha.org](mailto:information@maranatha.org)

**Adventist Volunteer Service** † Designed to assist the SDA Church in proclaiming the gospel to people everywhere through the ministry of Adventist Volunteers, matching the talents, skills resources and professional expertise with defined needs. For more information contact your Division Volunteer Coordinator.

[www.adventistvolunteers.org](http://www.adventistvolunteers.org)

## **NAD Educational Openings**

† This site listing openings in education occasionally includes positions suitable for retirees. <http://www.nadeducation.adventist.org/>

## **SDA Source – Adventist Internet Resource Center**

† Website listing various organizations and groups, some which may have volunteer needs. Website itself occasionally needs computer savvy volunteers to help program, answer email and check links. [www.tagnet.org/](http://www.tagnet.org/)

[SDAsource/Home.html](http://SDAsource/Home.html)

**Retirement with a Purpose** † Website devoted to resources for Christians seeking to lead a purpose driven retirement.

[www.retirementwithapurpose.com](http://www.retirementwithapurpose.com)



## **RETIRED – WHAT NOW?**

**Footprints in the sands of time  
Were not made sitting down!!**

*(Illustration by retiree Randy Murphy)*

July 2004

# Bulletin Board

If you don't read or keep anything else—read and keep these items!  
Payroll information: Checks mailed/deposits released: July 27, 2004

## Reporting the Death of a Retiree or Spouse

We know it isn't a pleasant thought, but in the event of your death, there are certain things that need to be done. On the next page, we've consolidated information for you to clip and keep with your important papers. Doing this will ease the pain of your passing for your family – because they know what to do and how to get it done. Also, once a death has been reported and the information processed, the name of that Retiree or Spouse is included in a list printed quarterly in *Reflections*. If for whatever reason a name is not included in the list, it will be included in the **next** quarterly list. We appreciate your patience.

### REPORTING the DEATH of a RETIREE or SPOUSE

The following information has been compiled to assist the surviving relative (spouse, child, etc.) Or friend in the steps to follow when reporting the death of a retiree or a retiree's spouse.

1. In the sad event of a death, it is very important to **contact the Retirement Office immediately**, as future benefits can be affected if there is a surviving spouse. Please contact the Retirement Benefits Assistant who handles the part of the alphabet that begins with the first letter of the deceased's last name to report the death. If they are not available at the time you call, please leave a message and they will get back to you as soon as possible. The telephone numbers and alphabet distribution are as follows:

Joyce Keeler	(301) 680-6288	(A-G)
Diane Jacobson	(301) 680-6289	(H-L)
Karin Dortch	(301) 680-6248	(M-R)
Chandler Riley	(301) 680-6270	(S-Z)

2. Single life and survivor spouse benefits need to be discontinued as soon as possible after the date of death. A relative or close family friend should be chosen to make the phone call to Retirement, unless there is an executor of the estate.
3. The Retirement Plan requires that a **death certificate** be on file in order to process a death benefit. The death certificate may be faxed to (301) 680-6190, or mailed to:

NAD Retirement  
ATTN: (Benefit Assistant's name)  
12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600

4. The Retirement office will usually be able to give a death benefit amount (if retiree or spouse is eligible) during the phone call, and often **survivor benefits** can be quoted as well, if applicable. However, *in many cases we will need to research our files and get back to you with this information.*

We will need the **name, address and telephone number** of the person who is to receive the death benefit check. *Please note that **the death benefit shall be paid to the surviving spouse, or if there is no surviving spouse, to the person who has undertaken the responsibility for the funeral arrangements.***

○ **PLEASE FILE THE ABOVE INFORMATION WITH YOUR IMPORTANT PAPERS! »**

Revised 6/21/04

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On a totally different subject.....

For those participating in SHARP's Rx plan:

"The SHARP brochure states that co-pays for prescription drugs are \$10 for generic and \$20 for brand name, and that co-pays are subject to change. It also states that Certain prescription drugs may require different co-pays or prior authorization before the prescription is filled. You should be aware that occasionally prescriptions you have been taking may change in price and your co-payment may suddenly increase. If you are asked to pay a higher co-pay for a prescription, contact Medco Health Solutions at 1-800-841-5396 for information on your drug."



**Heavenly Father, help us to realize that when we depend upon everything but God, we have nothing; and when we depend upon God and nothing else, we have everything. Help us to see that we are truly independent when we depend upon Thee; truly free when we submit to Thee. Be God in our lives—individually and collectively—to the glory of Thy name. Amen.**

**Richard C. Halverson**

**U.S. Senate Chaplain 1981-1995**



Send comments and suggestions to: Sharon Kuykendall, Editor, *Reflections*, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600 Email: [sharon.kuykendall@nad.adventist.org](mailto:sharon.kuykendall@nad.adventist.org)  
Website: <http://www.nadadventist.org/ret>

ARM	1-800-447-5002	Healthcare Claims Queries
ARM Email address:		<a href="mailto:RetireeHealth@adventistrisk.org">RetireeHealth@adventistrisk.org</a>
Submit medical claims:		ARM, PO Box 4088, Silver Spring, MD 20914
Medco Health	1-800-841-5396	Verify pharmacy participation with Medco Health
Jack Harris	503-255-8565	President, NAD Retirees Association— 15530 NE Knott #48, Portland, OR 97230 Email: <a href="mailto:Hjackharris@cs.com">Hjackharris@cs.com</a>
Payroll	1-888-838-8955	Bulletin Board of <b>Payroll</b> Information
Fax	301-680-6190	Retirement Fax Number
Phone:	<u>(301) 680—</u>	
Barbara Yowell	6244	Lost checks, direct deposits, 1099R, Tax Withholding, Change of Address, Verification of Benefits (For loans, housing, Medicaid) Payroll Email: <a href="mailto:Payroll@nad.adventist.org">Payroll@nad.adventist.org</a>
Dolores Allen	6249	General Retirement Office Information
Chris Meier	6192	Reporting a Death, Disability Reviews
Sharon Scheuneman	6287	Tuition Assistance for Children
Joyce Macatiag	6269	Healthcare Eligibility Queries

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