

REFLECTIONS

A monthly source of information for beneficiaries of the Adventist Retirement Plan

Courage Under Fire

It's been just 14 months since the Camp Fire—the deadliest wildfire in California's history—leveled the city of Paradise. Here's a look back at what that fateful day was like for Pastors Mary and Ben Maxson.

Nestled in the Ponderosa Pine forest, our recently remodeled home was located at a dead-end street in Paradise, California. We retired 10 months previously, loved our home, and planned to stay there indefinitely. God led us to pastoral ministry at the Paradise Adventist Church where for 14 years Ben was lead pastor and I was an associate pastor.

Thursday, November 8, 2018 began with my morning devotion at around 6:45. I noticed the

sky looked unusual and went out to capture a photo of the yellow-orange hue clouds. Outside, the sound was like raindrops on the deck umbrellas. I stretched out my hand and ash, not raindrops, showered on my palm. Quickly, I called to Ben to check it out. He worried it was fire and we went to our front door and discovered huge billows of black and grey clouds. It began raining hot embers onto the pavement. I dashed back under the front porch before my hair caught fire.

Continued on page 2

As they left, Mary snapped a picture of the house—with no idea that within an hour their Paradise home would be completely gone.

Payroll Bulletin Board

Checks/EFT Released

THIS MONTH: January 27

NEXT MONTH: February 27

Continued from page 1



The day after the fire Mary and Ben returned to find their home reduced to rubble.

This was our fifth evacuation for fire warnings, and we didn't realize our life would change forever in the next few hours. Back in the house, we knelt in our family room and asked for God's protection over us— the very last prayer in our Paradise home.

I called my cousin, Carrie Lambert, who lived five minutes north of us, and she urged us to leave immediately. The nearby Adventist Health Feather River Hospital had evacuated. The fire crept up the Feather River Canyon engulfing the hospital. By 9:15 a.m. the scorching fire was travelling the length of one football field a second, with 50 m.p.h. winds. Ben felt

convicted to hook up our RV to the truck. I threw clothing into the RV then rapidly collected treasured pictures from the walls of our home.

Evacuating, we entered into the inferno—the obscure atmosphere was so black it was the blaze that illuminated

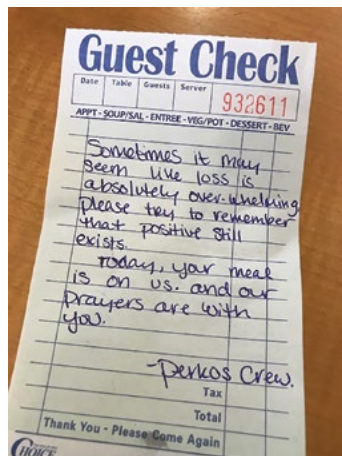
the road for a visual of the pavement. We crept inch by inch past burning telephone poles toward the city of Chico. As I continued along the road, burning power lines dropped and I swerved so the wild flames wouldn't land on the car. I prayed again for God's protection to surround us. The intense heat inside the car was so penetrating that I turned on the air conditioning in order to breathe. When I touched the car window it almost burned my hand. I knew then we were in a serious, horrific situation.

Flames licked at the tires of cars as I passed them, and in the median a jeep was fully ablaze. Looking forward, I could see a brief light of hope as we drove through the furnace. When we got to Chico we quickly decided to travel on

to Modesto where our son and his family reside. The Modesto community has embraced us with love and caring compassion. People have gifted us with prayers, money, furniture, clothing, and food. We have new a place to call home.

The morning after the evacuation, I opened my Bible to Isaiah 43:2b, "When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned: the flames will not set you ablaze, For I am the LORD your God the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. . ." God has shown His beauty through the ashes and through His faithfulness. We are grateful for His care.

By Mary H. Maxson



Staff of the Perkos Café Grill where Maxsons stopped to eat took care of their check and offered encouragement.



Photo credit Karlin Maxson

SHARP Corner

Submit HRA Reimbursement Claims by April 30

The deadline for submitting 2019 eligible claims for HRA reimbursement is April 30, 2020. Claims may be submitted online at retiree.aon.com/adventistretirement. Log into your account online, then click on the "Get Reimbursed" link located on the homepage under the TAKE ACTION section. Once you click on the link, you will be guided through the process.

If you are mailing in the claim, please make sure to use a current claim form as it has recently changed. To request a paper copy of the form, call 1-844-360-4714. Be sure to use YSA's new address:

P.O. Box 661147
Dallas, TX 75266-1147

Have Medicare Questions? Aon's Monthly Medicare Webinar Can Help

February 18, 2020, 10-11 a.m. Central Time

To view online go to webex.com, click the Join tab in upper right corner of the page. On the next screen enter the meeting number: 592 574 456.

To listen by phone, call 877-542-7993.
Enter access code 592 574 456.

The password is Medicare1!

Adventist Retirement Plan

www.adventistretirement.org

Raymond Jimenez, III
Administrator

Lisa Turpen
*Associate Administrator
Defined Benefit and Healthcare Plans*

Beth Roberts
*Associate Administrator
Defined Contribution Plans*

Edwin Romero
*Associate Administrator
Chief Financial Officer*

Lisa Sharpe
Assistant Administrator, SHARP

Tara Mead
*Assistant Administrator
Defined Benefit Plans*

Samantha Young
Editor, Communications Manager

Adventist Retirement
*Reporting a death, change of address,
disability reviews*

Phone: 443-391-7300, Fax: 443-259-4880
Email: NADRetirement@nadadventist.org

9705 Patuxent Woods Drive,
Columbia, MD 21046

Aon Retiree Health Exchange:
1-844-360-4714

SHARP: 443-391-7338
Email: SHARP@nadadventist.org
Healthcare Eligibility Queries

Submit DVH claims to: *Adventist
Risk Management
SHARP, PO Box 1928, Grapevine,
TX 76099-1928
1-800-447-5002*

Payroll: 443-391-7343
Bulletin Board of Payroll Information

Barbara McLaughlin: 443-391-7345
*Lost checks, direct deposits, 1099R, tax
withholding, verification of benefits for
loans, housing, Medicaid*

AdventistRetirement

North American Division of SDA
9705 Patuxent Woods Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
NAMPA, ID
PERMIT NO. 147

Resources for you

Check out our website AdventistRetirement.org/Retiree for information you may find useful. Under the SHARP tab you'll find lots of helpful videos, forms and documents relating to SHARP, Aon, Medicare and more. We welcome your suggestions for making our website a better place to find the answers you need. Send your ideas to ARPnews-comm@nadadventist.org.