

REFLECTIONS

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

Couple builds churches, warms hearts

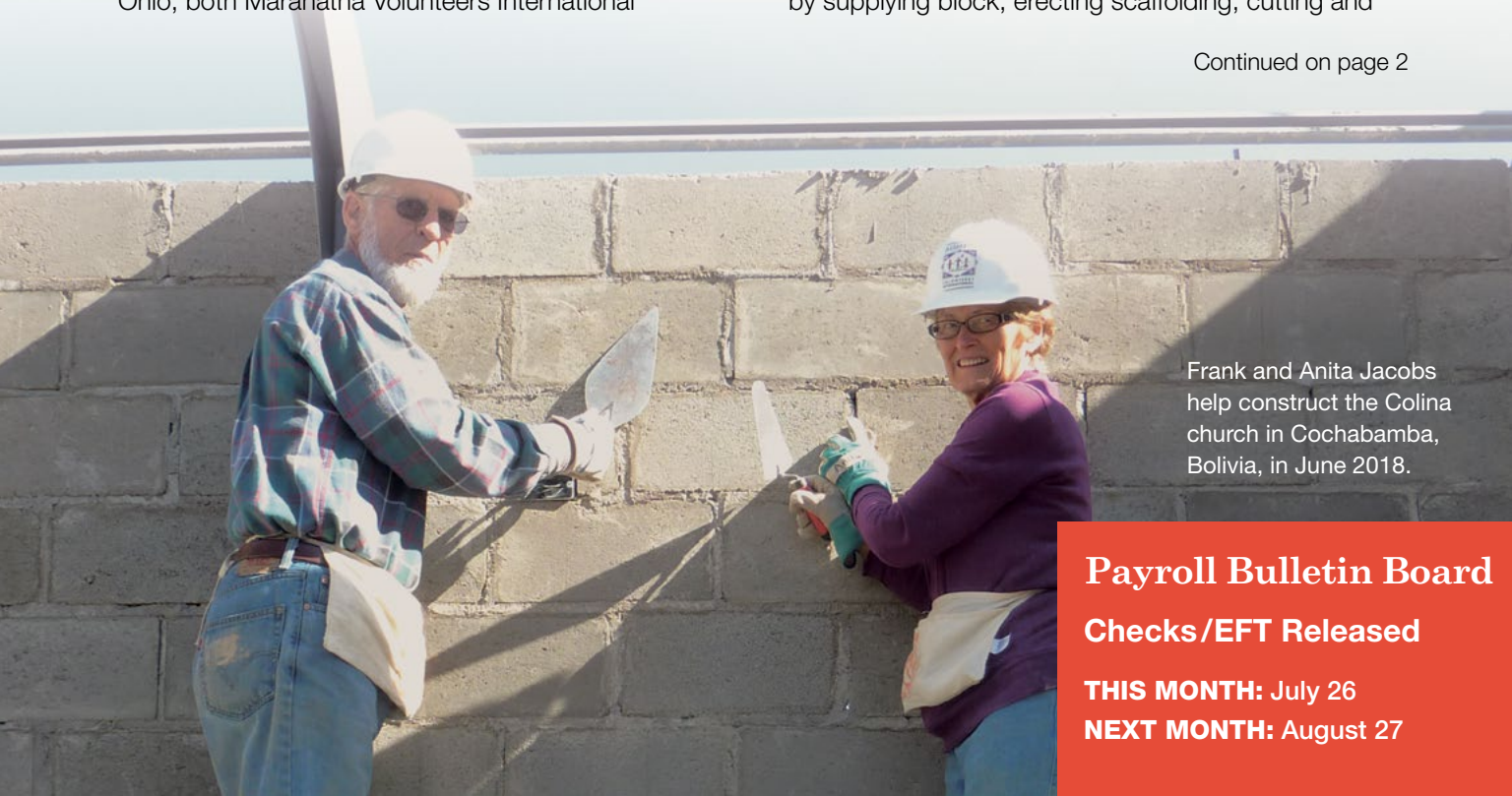
Anita Jacobs gets excited when she talks about excursions. But she’s not referring to the shoreline adventures one books for the day when a cruise ship is in port. She’s talking about the 23 mission trips she has participated in along with her husband Frank.

It all started in 1982 when Frank decided to join son Monty, a student at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, Md., at the time, on a trip to Antigua. The trip was coordinated by then Columbia Union Conference youth director Ron Stretter and Roger Hatch, a contractor based in Ohio, both Maranatha Volunteers International

board members. Students and staff from several Columbia Union academies participated. Since then, the Jacobs’ have partnered with Maranatha Volunteers on 18 more “excursions.” The 10-20 day projects have included four trips to Africa, five to South America, 10 to Central America and the Caribbean, and two stateside as well as India and Fiji. Although they retired 12 years ago (Anita from Griggs University and Frank from the Review and Herald Publishing Association), they continue to participate in a mission trip nearly every year since 1993.

The couple have concentrated in the construction area by supplying block, erecting scaffolding, cutting and

Continued on page 2



Frank and Anita Jacobs help construct the Colina church in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in June 2018.

Payroll Bulletin Board
Checks/EFT Released
THIS MONTH: July 26
NEXT MONTH: August 27

Building Churches

Continued from page 1

tying rebar, pouring grout for horizontal and vertical bond beams, as well as assisting with medical outreach and children’s ministry. They come home and share their experiences in their local church in Williamsport, Md., and have inspired others to participate in volunteer service both locally and abroad.

In 2010, they joined 180 Maranatha volunteers in Zambia for a huge building project in the Livingstone area. The group constructed two school complexes of 14 buildings each and 25 One-Day churches of varying sizes. Anita remembers they worshipped in the old “sanctuary” with termite-riddled posts and beams and a leaky thatched roof. They were given umbrellas for protection from the drizzly rain as they sat on wooden benches. The roar of Victoria Falls competed with the Sabbath worship service. After lunch the group walked a short distance to the block and metal roof church that had been completed that week. The new church quickly filled with joyful members and

visitors—some stood outside, crowding around the windows to watch.

For many of the members, mostly women, their source of income is working at a quarry and breaking the large rocks into gravel. Their tools are pitiful—lightweight, awkward, and ill-suited for the task. Some of the women toiled with a baby on their back while their young children played nearby. The mothers would earn one dollar per wheelbarrow load and were hopeful of completing two in a day, Jacobs recalls. She gets teary even now as she remembers the volunteers donating their own tools to the local workers, and the disappointment of not having enough to go around.

“We do see poverty that breaks your heart,” she says. Cold showers, and air mattresses on the ground sometimes come with the territory but helping others who have so little is what drives the couple to go again and again.



Anita and Frank Jacobs attended South Lancaster Academy and Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts and were charter members of the Leominster, Mass., church. Both denominationally employed, they worked in Massachusetts, North Carolina, Tennessee and Maryland before retirement. In addition to mission trips, they are engaged in church life and enjoy using their National Park Service Golden Age Passport to visit parks, memorials, monuments and battlefields throughout the United States. To learn more about the One-Day Church initiative or how to join or support a mission trip, visit maranatha.org.

Photos courtesy Anita and Frank Jacobs

The Jacobs’ cut the ribbon for the first worship service in the new Maranatha One-Day Church in Chumbvieri, Kenya, in August 2016.

SHARP Corner NEW! HRA Reference Guide

Understanding your Adventist Retirement Health Reimbursement Account and How it Works

You will find this document online at adventistretirement.org under the SHARP tab. This brochure is full of useful information and tips all about your Health Reimbursement Account, automatic reimbursement, submitting claims, required documentation, how to navigate your online account, and more!

Mark Your Calendar

Thursday July 25, 2019 - Online informational webinar for newly eligible Medicare retirees! Get an in-person look at Medicare, your options, and how to enroll in a plan — from the comfort of your own home. Log on to this free, special online webinar presented by Aon Retiree Health Exchange at 10:00 AM Central Time.

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6. PATIENT RELATIONSHIP TO INSURED Self Spouse Child Other

8. PATIENT STATUS Married Other

11. IN...

1a. INSURED'S I.D. NUMBER

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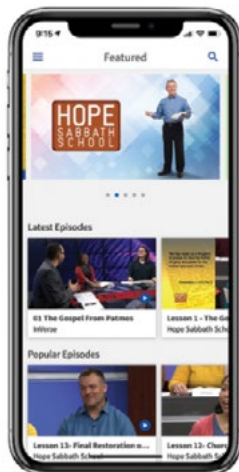
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Know who to call

Aon recently sent a postcard with a peel-off static cling reminder of who to call when you have questions about coverage, benefits and updates to your personal information. We hope you will find this resource handy!

