

July 2024

# Reflections

## Three Siblings and a Spouse

**D**uring the year 2022 my brother lost his wife unexpectedly. It was a shock when Carol passed away. Not long after, he surprised my husband Hal and I with a visit, and then said he would like to come back in the fall and go to the Grand Canyon. We loved this. When my sister heard our brother's plan, she said, "I think I want to come, too—when David does—and go to the Grand Canyon with you!" Jane's husband suffers from Parkinson's and was unable to make such a trip, but with a caregiver in place she and our brother embarked on a flight to the Ontario Airport where my husband (our chauffeur) and I met them. The week that began was delightful with a few twists and turns we will not soon forget—going around in circles to find our Airbnb in Flagstaff, very dubious thoughts about the neighborhood and the little blue house, getting locked out, difficulty finding restaurants, major car trouble on a mountain road . . .

As we drove on Sunday, we suddenly remembered the distance from Flagstaff to the canyon—74 miles. Why had we not remembered that and stayed closer? On Monday morning we made the trip. My brother got out of the car and quickly



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*"Being a sibling means you are part of something wonderful. It means you will love and be loved for the rest of your life. No matter what."*

—Proud Happy Mama

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### PAYROLL BULLETIN BOARD

Checks /EFT Released

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**THIS MONTH:**  
July 26

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**NEXT MONTH:**  
August 27

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**Judy Thomsen** writes from Apple Valley, California and the high desert sunshine. She works a few hours a week for the Adventist Review/Adventist World and will spend time with her sister and brother anytime.

disappeared to the rim of the canyon. When we caught up, he said, “I have wanted to come here my whole life!” The 74-mile drive? Totally forgotten! The day was fantastic with sun, light breeze, and spectacular canyon views.

The restaurant we chose on our return to Flagstaff was not where the phone directed us. After questioning several people (including two guys who turned out to be from Norway and had no clue), we finally found Diablo Burger in an alley behind everything where we had a wonderful supper and headed back to the blue house—where we could not get in. It was dark. The door was very secure. The host was not available by phone. When she finally received our distress call, we had each tried opening it a dozen times. The problem was that she had “been having trouble with that door. You pull the door toward you, put in the code, and then it will open.” Well, sure enough.

Funny stuff and not so funny stuff: 1) The next day we drove back to the canyon. It was a gorgeous day with extravagant scenery. We got off the tour bus at one stop, quickly surveyed the view and decided to take the next bus which stopped and hurry our trip along a little. Alas, it was the bus going back to the parking lot! We had to start over. 2) Soon after reaching the highway on our way home, we came upon stopped traffic and were at once surrounded by an absolute canyon of semi-trucks. Not a car in sight, only high trucks in front of, beside and behind our car which suddenly felt very small. 3) We decided to go to Big Bear Lake the next day and left in high spirits. It is 49 miles,

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*“It’s not what we have in life that is important, but who we have in life that matters.”*

—Proud Happy Mama

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*The happy travelers take a break. From left, David Scott, Judy Thomsen, Jane Wareing, and Hal Thomsen.*

and part of the way up is a very steep grade. Our car suddenly was flashing every light and warning available. Fortunately for us there was a turnout where the car died a sudden death, losing all its oil on the ground. After multiple calls to our roadside assistance company and many other calls trying to get back down the hill, miraculously a tow truck drove in. Our “knight in shining armor” was not on our call list but waited until we had clearance from our insurance company to take us down the hill and deliver us to our driveway. Added twist—our neighbor started to come and get us. Just a mile from us his car overheated, and he waited an hour for a tow truck for himself.

We decided to stay home the next day.

The thing is, we travel quite a bit and just never experience setbacks like this. I do not think any of us will ever forget the quick changes in mood

or the ability to laugh about all these kinks in our plans. It was an incredibly fun part of our week together. The little blue house turned out to be a diamond in the rough; the search for food became a source of merriment; the car trouble on the mountain allowed the miracle of the rough-puff tow truck driver; and my sister and I had the opportunity to walk on the Pacific Crest Trail!

It's not too late to make memories. Summer is here, time for vacations and other meaningful life moments. Create some opportunities to enjoy time with others. You will not regret it.

Oh, David called me just the other day and said, "How would it be if I plan to come in September? I'll tell Jane." ■

## SHARP Corner

(Supplemental Healthcare Adventist Retirement Plan)

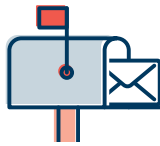
### New Coordination of Benefits Rule for SHARP Dental/Vision/Hearing

Effective April 1, 2024, the SHARP Dental/Vision/Hearing (DVH) Coordination Rule has been changed to allow for coordination of benefits with other DVH plans.

This means SHARP DVH will pay secondary to other DVH insurance plans. To request secondary payment, you, or your provider, may submit a claim for your dental, vision, or hearing expenses along with the EOB (explanation of benefits) showing what the other (primary) insurance paid, and SHARP will consider the remaining balance of costs not paid by the other insurance subject to your available SHARP benefit.\*

If you have any questions on this process, please contact WebTPA directly at **1-800-447-5002**, or SHARP via email to: **SHARP@NADAdventist.org**.

As a reminder, you have four options to submit your SHARP DVH claims:



#### MAIL

(address located on your SHARP ID card)

**WebTPA**  
**PO Box 1928**  
**Grapevine, TX 76099-1928**



#### FAX

**(469) 417-1960**



#### EMAIL

**retiree@webtpa.com**



#### MEMBER PORTAL

Directions may be found at **adventistretirement.org/retiree/sharp**.

Click on **WebTPA Claims Processing** and then see the **WebTPA Member Portal Overview**.

\*The SHARP annual maximum paid amounts are \$2,200 for dental, \$400 for vision, and \$2,200 for hearing.



## Adventist Retirement

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### **Adventist Retirement:**

*Reporting a death, change of address,  
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Ph.: 443-391-7300 | Fax: 443-259-4880  
Email: [NADRetirement@nadadventist.org](mailto:NADRetirement@nadadventist.org)  
Address: 9705 Patuxent Woods Dr,  
Columbia, MD 21046

### **Alight Retirement Health Solutions:**

Phone: 1-844-360-4714

### **SHARP Healthcare Eligibility Queries:**

Ph.: 443-391-7338  
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### **Submit DVH claims to:**

Adventist Risk Management  
SHARP, PO Box 1928,  
Grapevine, TX 76099-1928  
Ph.: 1-800-447-5002

### **Payroll Bulletin Board:**

Ph.: 443-391-7343

### **General payroll information:**

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