

# ENVISION

A Newsletter for the members and Friends of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

## IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ The Conference in Review
- ◆ Financial Update
- ◆ NAD to Launch New Website
- ◆ Fifty Years of Haitian Work in NAD Celebrated
- ◆ New Hispanic Church in Brooklyn
- ◆ Mattapan Congregation Acquires Building
- ◆ North American Division to Hold Urban Congress

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 2

JUNE 2007

Page 1 of 2

## From The Desk Of The President - *Trevor H.C. Baker*

### The Conference in Review

The Northeastern Conference continues to experience renewal in its operations, and positive trends in its evangelistic endeavors. Over the past few years, because of the faithfulness of the pastors, church members, and careful management by the Administration, the Conference has emerged from the tenuous position which characterized it for years. Although, unlike the President of the United States, we are unable to declare that the mission is accomplished, we can humbly state that, by the grace of God, our Conference is not where it used to be.

The Administration continues to

encourage and promote spiritual growth among our pastors and other workers, knowing that it is only as we first seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness that true progress can be realized. Evangelism funding, out of necessity, has not been at the levels of former years, but thanks to the pastors and churches, there has been no slackening in baptisms. New companies continue to be planted, and new churches are being organized annually.

In regard to financial obligations, the Conference remains current with its bills, and continues to reduce its

indebtedness. One of the marked accomplishments has been the early liquidation of one of two outstanding bonds in 2006. We look forward with eager anticipation to the early retirement of the second bond in the near future.

We are presently undertaking the completion of the stalled Sewage Treatment Plant at Camp Victory Lake. Once that is completed, it will enable us to accomplish other things at the camp. We solicit the prayers and wholehearted support of everyone as we seek to move the Northeastern Conference forward and upward.

### Financial Update

The financial achievements of the Northeastern Conference thus far is a testimony to the greatness of God's love. The giving trends show a continual increase in tithe income. Our total tithe income of \$11,397,969.58 at April 2007, represents a 5.8% increase over the same period last year. This amount also represents an increase of 11.8% over what was projected for April 2007. We give God all the glory.

Total Assets continue to increase steadily while Total Liabilities decrease, resulting in marked improvement in net assets. This is a good indicator that our financial picture continues to move in a

positive direction. We believe that with prudent financial management coupled with God's blessings, we will be able to see a healthier Balance Sheet, the consequence of which will be our ability to operate the Northeastern Conference at optimal levels.

We are grateful to our dedicated church members for their faithfulness to God and His church. Let us heed the admonition of Solomon found in Proverbs 3:5,6: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding, In all thy ways, acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths."

### NAD to Launch New Website

The North American Division will be launching a new Religious Liberty Association Website on July 4, 2007. This site will provide information regarding what the Seventh-day Adventist Church is doing about current religious liberty issues around the world. Beginning July 4, you can glean information by visiting [www.religiousliberty.info](http://www.religiousliberty.info)

## Fifty Years of Haitian Work in NAD Celebrated

On the weekend of May 4 and 5, 2007, the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists celebrated 50 years of the Haitian Seventh-day Adventist church in North America. The special celebrative services were held in Brooklyn, New York, the birthplace and home of the Hebron Seventh-day Adventist Church, the very first Seventh-day Adventist Haitian church on the continent.

The weekend activities which were coordinated by Elder Alvin Kibble, Vice-President of the North American

Division, and Chairman of the Division Haitian Advisory, began with a Friday vesper service, at which Elder Trevor Baker, President of the Northeastern Conference, preached the opening message.

Joining the more than 2,500 congregants from Canada and across the United States of America, were the officers of the Northeastern and Greater New York Conferences along with the Northeastern Conference Haitian Ministries Coordinator, Elder Jose Joseph, and coordinators from several other conferences. Also

present were the officers of the Atlantic Union Conference, and official representatives from the North American Division and General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The Sabbath sermon was powerfully presented by Elder Roscoe Howard, Secretary of the North American Division; and Elder Kibble culminated the day's celebration with a Spirit-filled Sabbath vesper message.

We praise God for His blessings and the growth of the work in the Haitian community.

## New Hispanic Church in Brooklyn

The Cypress Hills Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist church was officially organized on Sabbath, June 9, 2007, in Brooklyn, New York. It becomes the third Hispanic church of the Northeastern Conference within the borough of Brooklyn. The church, which was organized with 49 charter members, was planted by the Jamaica Hispanic Church. It began as a small group of believers in 2001 as result of the vision and dream of the then pastor of the Jamaica Hispanic Church, Pastor Jose Alarcon. He saw the need for evangelizing the Cypress Hills community and pioneered the work with the help of Daniel Marquez, one of the eld-

ers of the Jamaica church. Those early efforts were continued by Pastor Manuel Medina who followed Pastor Alarcon as Pastor of the Jamaica Church. The current pastor, Pastor Javier Alcon, has shepherded the fledgling congregation for the past two years, and is pleased to see it grow and become a lighthouse in the Cypress Hills community.

Officiating at the service of organization were the President and Treasurer of the Conference, Elders Trevor H. C. Baker and Ebenezer G. Agboka and Elder Isaias Rojas, Coordinator for Hispanic Ministries.

## North American Division to Hold Urban Congress

The first ever Urban Congress will be held July 22-27, 2007 on the campus of Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama. This congress which is being sponsored by the North American Division Adventist Community Services is designed to train laypersons and clergy to positively impact those living in the urban communities.

You may contact the Northeastern Conference Community Services Department for more information or register for the congress at [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org).

## Mattapan Congregation Acquires Building

During the month of May 2007, the members of the Mattapan Church in Mattapan, Massachusetts, realized their long deferred dream of acquiring a church home. The building, a magnificent church edifice with a sanctuary that seats approximately 700, is located in the Hyde Park section of Massachusetts, and has enough space to accommodate the needs of the congregation. The pastor, Elder George Bulgin, reports that the church was privileged and blessed to pay 1.8 million dollars cash for the building. We rejoice with the Mattapan Church family and congratulate them on their acquisition.

## For Your Inspiration

“Not a sigh is breathed, not a pain felt, not a grief pierces the soul, but the throb vibrates the Father's heart....God is bending from His throne to hear the cry of the oppressed. To every sincere prayer He answers, ‘Hear am I.’ He uplifts the distressed and downtrodden. In all our afflictions He is afflicted. In every temptation and every trial the Angel of His presence is near to deliver.” *The Desire of Ages*, p.356