

ENVISION

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

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT - *Trevor H.C. Baker*

Pastors Receive Awards

The Northeastern Conference Administration sponsored the third annual Pastoral Award Banquet on Wednesday, October 23, 2007 during the Fall Workers' Meeting held at Camp Victory Lake.

This event, which was begun in 2005 by the Administration, gives recognition to pastors and other workers for outstanding service during the year. Among the various awards, the two most coveted are the Evangelist of the Year and the Pastor of the Year.

The 2007 Evangelist of the Year recipient was Pastor Winston Stephenson of the Jamaica Church in Queens, New York. He lead the Conference in baptisms.

Pastor Joshua Deonarine of the Agape Church in Richmond Hill, Queens, New York, and Pastor A. Keith Morris of the Calvary Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut were named co-Pastors

of the Year for the outstanding leadership given to their respective congregations throughout the year.

The Pastor of the Year Award is granted to the pastor who leads his church in attaining all of the goals set by the Conference and has provided a well-rounded ministry to the church.



Baptismal Goals Reached

At the beginning of the year 2007, each pastor and church was assigned a baptismal goal; and the Administration takes pleasure in mentioning and saluting the pastors and churches that have, as of the close of the third quarter, reached or exceeded their goal.

The churches and pastors are as follows:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
Agape	Joshua Deonarine
Beacon	Trevor Stewart
Brockton Hispanic	Yenci Casildo
Calvary, CT	Ainsworth Morris
Gethsemane	Sylvan Lashley
Lawrence Hispanic	Hector Ramos
Mattapan	George Bulgin
New Dimension	Sednak Yankson
Primera Hispanic	Ramon Cabrera
Roxbury	Samuel Bulgin
Schilo French	Gedeon Fontil
Sinai French	Joel Cantave
Solid Rock	David Cuke
South Brooklyn	John Jones
Village	Kenneth Jones

Congratulations to these churches and pastors. We look forward to adding to this list as we close the year.

Five Brooklyn Churches Unite in Evangelism

Four pastors and their congregations united in a five week long evangelistic campaign in Brooklyn, New York. The meetings which were conducted under the banner "Brooklyn For Jesus" began on Sabbath, August 11, 2007, through Sabbath, September 15, 2007 and involved the following churches and their pastors: Christian Fellowship, Pastor Anthony Usher; New Life and Voice of Hope, Pastor Fitzroy Jackson; Community Tabernacle, Pastor Roody Auguste; and Cornerstone, Pastor Philip Wesley, Sr.

Hundreds from several communities in and around Brooklyn gathered each night under the big tent to hear the powerful and pointed gospel messages which were preached by Evangelist Dr. Abraham J. Jules, pastor of the Mount Vernon Seventh-day Adventist Church. As result of these meetings **83** souls accepted Christ and were baptized, and a new congregation, called Brooklyn for Jesus Mission, was planted.

Update From The Treasury

The Northeastern Conference Administration continues to actively pursue the achievement of a debt-free operation. It remains the goal to liquidate all of our debts and improve the Conference's financial credibility both with donors and creditors. With God's help, by the end of 2007, the second bond will also be fully retired six years ahead of schedule. This pay-off along with the payments to the higher organization reflects a sixty percent reduction of the initial 18 million dollar long term debt. This accomplishment translates into a savings of 1.5 million dollars in interest over the six year time period. Liquidation of the bonds will simultaneously release the existent liens on the Northeastern Conference

Office building, Camp Victory Lake, and all future tithes and offerings.*

A review of the current financial statement shows that even though we are not 'out of the woods' yet, we are making positive strides towards becoming one hundred percent debt-free and financially solvent. We continue to experience receivable problems from some churches and schools—such as with their annual insurance reimbursements and timely tithes and teacher remittances. It is therefore imperative that every church and school does its part in assisting in the achievement of financial strength and solvency.

We continue to give gratitude to our heavenly Father for the generosity

and faithfulness of our members. You have walked with us through the crucible of tough times, and your continued faithfulness is encouraged as we go through the period of transition. Our God is faithful; and if we are faithful, we can be certain that it will be our experience to hear from Him, "well done, thou good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (Matthew 25: 21)

* The lien on the Northeastern Academy was released with the pay-off of the smaller bond in 2006.

First Ghanaian Church Organized

The Northeastern Conference Administrators officiated at the organization of the newest addition to the family of churches in the Conference, The North Bronx Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church, on Sabbath, November 17, 2007. The church which was organized with 98 charter members is the first Ghanaian congregation of the Northeastern Conference. The Lord has blessed the church to realize growth in membership as well as to acquire its own house of worship located on Castle Hill Avenue in the Bronx. It is currently pastored by Pastor Dwayne Turner.



Mattapan Church Set to Open

The Mattapan Church of Mattapan, Massachusetts, will open the doors of its newly acquired and renovated church building in the Hyde Park suburb of Boston, Massachusetts on Sabbath, December 15, 2007. Since its inception, the congregation has been the tenants of the Berea Elementary School; and the members look with anticipation to the fulfillment of their long deferred dream on that date.

Stewardship Thought

"However large, however small the possessions of any individual, let him remember that it is only in trust. For his strength, skill, time, talents, opportunities, and means, he must render an account to God. This is an individual work; God gives to us, that we may become like Him, generous, noble, beneficent, by giving to others." *Counsels on Stewardship*, p.22.

Remember that November and December are "square-up with God" months.