

# 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*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The year 2008 was a year of many twists and turns, challenges and set backs; but through them all, the Lord's sustaining power has been with us. As a Conference we were privileged to see souls come to Christ all across the Conference, and we praise God for the faithful pastors, church leaders and members who worked in spreading the good news of the soon return of Jesus.

The year 2009 must be no different. If anything, we must do more, because it is the Year of Evangelism. The challenge before each of us is to make it our determined purpose to share the hope that we have with somebody during this year. These are times in which many people are despairing over the economic conditions and the threat of terrorism and the like. It is for us to share the hope that we have in Jesus, and help them find and know the peace that He gives.

It is my prayer that God will bless you and our entire Conference family with physical and spiritual health throughout the New Year.

## RETIRING FROM SERVICE

Joining the ranks of the retired since we last reported are:

Joseph St. Jean, Pastor, 26 years

Veronica Shakes, School Treasurer, 27 years

We thank them for the years of dedicated service which they have given to the church of God, and wish them every blessing as they draw back from the demands of ministry.

## MINISTERIAL AND SHEPHERDESS ASSOCIATIONS HOLD BANQUET

The Northeastern Conference Ministerial and Shepherdess Associations, under the leadership of Pastor Japhe Saint-Louis and Mrs. Elfreda Blue, respectively, held a year-end banquet on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at the LaGuardia Marriott hotel in Queens, New York. The event, which was a first, was attended by approximately 150 persons comprising of pastors and their spouses from across the Conference, and made for a very relaxing change of pace.

## NEW CHURCH ORGANIZED

On Sabbath, December 13, 2008, the officers of the Northeastern Conference presided over the organization of the Oasis de Amor Hispanic Church in New Haven, Connecticut. The congregation, which was spawned by the Danbury Hispanic Church in the year 2000, is the first Spanish speaking church that the Northeastern Conference has in the city of New Haven.

The church was organized with a charter membership of 50, and continues to be under the pastoral care of Pastor Migdonio Rojas of the Danbury church.

## CHURCHES REACH GOALS

The following churches and pastors are to be congratulated for achieving their 2008 baptism goals:

Beraca – Serge Lamour  
Beulah – Herman Charles  
Bridgeport Tabernacle – Alphod Sinclair  
Brockton Portuguese – Afranio Feitosa  
Canarsie – Sednak Yankson  
Cornerstone Hispanic – Manuel Medina  
Elmont Temple – Willis Reed  
El Faro – Manuel Medina  
Emmanuel (Rhode Is.) – Samuel Blair  
Ephraim French – Elie Pierre  
Esmirna Hispanic – Armando Amadias  
Flatbush – Allan Martin  
Gethsemane – Sylvan Lashley  
Hyde Park – George Bulgin  
Kerith – Jean Monestime  
Lawrence Hispanic – Hector Ramos  
Le Phare – Sem Omeler  
Mahanaim – Gerard Mauze  
Maranatha Hispanic – Armando Amadias  
Mount of Blessing – Herman Charles  
Mount Vernon – Abraham Jules  
Mount Olive – Samuel Blair  
New Dimension – Sednak Yankson  
New Life – Fitzroy Jackson  
Newburgh – Trevor Stewart  
North Bronx Ghana – Dwayne Turner  
Peekskill – Vincent Goffe  
Primera – Ramon Cabrera  
The Waymark – Samuel Bulgin  
Shalom – Charles Creech  
Sinai French – Joel Cantave  
Somerville Portuguese – Eric Conceicao  
Springfield Gardens – Clifford Manie  
Springfield Hispanic – Armando Amadias  
Staten Island – Andrew Philbert  
Uniondale – Ferron Francis

## **PASTORAL CHANGES AND ASSIGNMENTS VOTED**

In recent meetings of the Conference Executive Committee, the following pastoral changes and assignments were voted to be effective in January 2009. We wish them well as they assume their new responsibilities.

| <u>Pastor</u>            | <u>From</u>                    | <u>To</u>                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pablo Huerfano           | First Rochester/Buffalo Hisp.  | Bethel/Salem Hispanic          |
| Frantzel Aguy            | —                              | Capernaum French               |
| Arnoldo Cruz             | —                              | First Rochester/Buffalo        |
| Jude Francis             | —                              | Faith                          |
| James Clark              | Mamre                          | Bronx                          |
| Lionel Martell           | Elim                           | Omega/Hill                     |
| Othnel Pierre            | Capernaum                      | Horeb/Laodicee                 |
| Gerome Leacock           | Amazing Grace/Majestic Heights | Bronx Temple/Smyrna            |
| Valtricts Binns          | New Hope/Dimensions of Hope    | First White Plains             |
| Lawrence Brown (Interim) | —                              | New Hope/Dimensions            |
| Earl Walcott             | Omega/Hill                     | Elim                           |
| Harris Thompson          | Mt. Sinai                      | Ebenezer                       |
| Lawrence Mason           | Bronx Temple/Smyrna            | Amazing Grace/Majestic Heights |
| Calvin Harrison          | New Rochelle                   | Cornerstone                    |
| Philip Wesley            | Cornerstone                    | New Rochelle                   |
| Farrell Jones            | Bronx                          | Mamre                          |
| Garnet Morris            | Youth Department               | Queensboro Temple              |
| Hope Ashmeade            | East New York                  | Mt. Sinai                      |
| George Bulgin            | Hyde Park                      | Hyde Park/Gethsemane           |
| Raymond Alcock           | School Chaplain                | School Chaplain/Patmos         |

## **A VIEW FROM THE TREASURER**

### 2008 in Review

The year 2008 was the best of times and the worst of times, where we have seen changes in our economy and some members have lost their homes due to foreclosures and other adverse factors. Despite all these setbacks, our God has kept His promise to us that He will never leave us nor forsake us. Jeremiah 29:11 assures us that God will give us an expected end.

In spite of the fact that our churches have experienced financial challenges in their operations, some have exceeded their tithe projections. A few also reached the one million

dollar tithe mark as early as September 2008. We praise God from whom all blessings flow. Our churches have experienced the blessings of God because of the continued financial support and soul winning efforts of the members. We pray that the Lord will continue to pour out His blessings on each one as we remain faithful to His cause.

We continue to be current in meeting all our liabilities. Our goal is to be completely debt-free by the end of the year 2011. We want to build our Reserves to a comfortable level and the goal is to attain a 10 - 15% increase in our Net Worth every year. We hope, by God's grace, that when

the books are closed on 2008, we will far exceed our 2008 tithe projection of \$36.2 million and end the year with a modest gain.

As an administration we continue to exercise the greatest prudence in the management of the sacred funds entrusted to us. We covet your prayers as we stretch our wings into the unknown future, trusting in the God who has the whole world in his arms.

### Coming Attraction

February 6 - 8, 2009; Clerks and Treasurers Workshop. You don't want to miss the specially designed breakout sections.