

ENVISION

IN THIS ISSUE

2005—NEC's 152nd Church Organized
Congregation Acquires New Home
Pastors in Transition
Pastoral District Leaders Appointed
Operation Restore Progress Report
Providence Hisp. Church Nears Completion
Town Hall Meetings & Other News

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

152nd church Organized

On Sabbath afternoon, February 19, 2005, the Northeastern Conference officers organized the Agape Seventh-day Adventist church in Richmond Hill, Queens, New York. The church, which was spawned by the Flatbush Church, brings the total number of churches within the Northeastern Conference to 152.

This new church was organized with sixty-one members, and represents the first church for the Northeastern Conference in that area of the borough of Queens. Present for the occasion was the first elder of the Flatbush Church, Dr. David Hosten, along with other members of Flatbush. Also present was a former pastor of the Flatbush Church, Pastor and Mrs. J. Melvin Janey, who offered the prayer of consecration. Elder Joshua Deonarine continues to provide leadership to the church.

Pastoral District Leaders Appointed

The Conference Administration has introduced a new paradigm. It is the paradigm of utilizing Pastors to assist the President and Administration in facilitating the work in specifically defined geographic areas. These Pastoral leaders will be working with their fellow pastors and their churches in an effort to increase effectiveness in accomplishing the goals and objectives of the conference, as well as encouraging good communication and accountability. You will be hearing more about this in the near future.

Providence Hispanic Nears Completion

The Providence Hispanic Church in Providence, Rhode Island, is just about completed. The congregation is excited at the prospect of worshiping in their new sanctuary after more than 37 years in the "wilderness". This construction, which began and was 90% completed under the leadership of Pastor Javier Alcon, will be culminated within the next few weeks. We rejoice with the members, and look forward to worshiping with them on the opening of this new place of worship.

Victory Lake Work Day

Sunday, May 15, 2005, is designated as a special work day at Camp Victory Lake. The Conference Administration is, therefore, requesting that all skilled painters and carpenters who are able, to join them at the camp on that date, and lend assistance in accomplishing some much-needed work. Please come with your paint brushes and carpentry tools. All paint, other materials, and meals will be provided. The scheduled time for the day is 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Youth Department Holds Institute

The Youth Department, under the direction of Drs. Newton Cleghorne and Garnet Morris, held its Sixth Annual Young Preachers Institute at Camp Victory Lake March 4-6, 2005. Eighty-three young people from across the Conference were in attendance for this specialized training in sermon preparation and delivery.

The special guest for this year's institute was Pastor James

Yansen, a doctoral student at Boston University, serving the Berea church in youth ministry.

Elder Cleghorne reports that 12 young people who have been influenced by attending past institutes are presently enrolled in a pastoral ministry track either at Oakwood or Atlantic Union College, or Southern Adventist or Andrews University. In 2004 more than 200 souls were baptized as a result of the ministry of the young preachers.

Town Hall Meeting Dates

- April 23 — CT/Springfield, MA
at Mt. Zion
- May 14 — Rock/Westchester
at Mt. Vernon
- May 21 — Queens
at Linden
- June 18 — Hud/Cap
at Trinity Temple

Congregation Acquires Church Home

The Schilo French-speaking church of Stamford, CT, opened the doors to its newly-acquired facility located at 977 Hope Street, in Stamford, on Sabbath, March 19, 2005. After 34 years of worshipping in homes, rented churches, hotels, and experiencing several disappointments, the members are rejoicing in their beautiful church home.

Pastor Gedeon Fontil, Pastor of the congregation, gives all praise and glory to God for His guidance and for all that has been accomplished. The church which was formerly owned by an Episcopal congregation, now affords the Schilo church the opportunity to expand its ministry to the community.

Pastor Jean Renaud-Joseph, of the Southeastern Conference, and former pastor of Schilo, preached a powerful and Spirit-filled message to the congregants and guests who came from all around to join in the opening celebration. Attendees from the Conference office were President & Mrs. Trevor Baker, Exec. Secretary & Mrs. Larry Bailey, Elder Jose Joseph, Haitian Coordinator; Dr. Pollyanna Barnes, Education Superintendent; and Elder Daniel Honore, Stewardship Director, and his wife.

A Call For Partners

There is still the need for faith-partners from members and friends across our Conference to join the hundreds of workers and members who are already participating in the *Operation Restore* project. We are pleased that \$868,000.00 have already been covenanted, of which \$330,481.00 have been received.

This program, which calls for a \$1,400.00 contribution from each faith-partner, has ten months remaining before its culmination. God can and will bring it to a victorious end, if each member and friend will place their trust in Him and partner with Him. So, become a partner today by visiting the Conference website at: www.northeastern.org, and sign up and make your tax-deductible contribution, or call the Conference office at 718-291-8006, ext. 214, to receive a brochure/covenant form.

Members Help in Grenada

On Sunday, December 19, 2004, Dr. W. Fitzgerald Kerr, Director of the departments of

Pastors in Transition

The Conference Executive Committee recently voted Pastor Brian Carter, current Pastor of the Brooklyn Temple of Seventh-day Adventists, to assume the pastorate of the Jefferson Avenue Church and Tabernacle of Joyful Praise Company in Rochester, NY. He will be assuming the pastorate vacated by Pastor Marcel Wip who was transferred in January to the South Brooklyn and Heritage congregations in Brooklyn and Queens, respectively. Pastor Carter's replacement at Brooklyn Temple is yet to be determined.

Also in transition is Pastor Roger Wade who has accepted a call to the Southern California Conference. Pastor Wade has been serving as pastor of the Breath of Life Church in Rochester, New York.

Elder Clement A. Murray resigned from the employ of the Northeastern Conference in January of this year, to assume the position of Director of Marketing with Three Angels Broadcasting Network in West Frankfort, Illinois.

Financial Update

In the year 2004, the Northeastern Conference was blessed to experience a tithe gain of .97% (\$954,918.00) over the previous year.

With the help of God, we were able, for the second consecutive year, to keep current with our obligations to the higher organizations, and current with our operational expenses and bond payments, as well.

We were successful also in not adding to our debt. We thank you for your faithfulness, and solicit your continued prayers in the days ahead.

Community and Health Ministries for the Northeastern Conference, headed a construction crew of seven individuals and flew to the island of Grenada to assist in the reconstruction of the island country in the aftermath of the destructive September hurricane, Ivan.

The mission of the crew was to rebuild as many houses as they could. Having raised a little over \$15,000.00 for the purchase of materials, the crew began work on Monday, December 20, 2004, and by the evening of December 26, 2004, completed five (5) two-bedroom houses, and we praise God for what He accomplished through this committed crew comprised of William Daniels of the Kingston church; Martin John and George N. Henry of the Rogers Avenue church; Victor Boushet of the Linden church; Lloyd Alexander of the Brooklyn Faith church; and Carl Chambers from the Hanson Place church.

