

ENVISION

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

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 2

JUNE 2005

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

Camp Gets New Manager

Mrs. Ann Marie Fraser, formerly Assistant Treasurer of the Conference, was recently voted Assistant Treasurer for Camp Operations, and assumed management of Camp Victory Lake as of June 1, 2005. As manager, she has general oversight of the camp and its operations. Our thanks to Ms. Elaine Forbes who served on an interim basis after the departure of Elder Leroy Hampton.

Words of Gratitude

The Conference and Camp Administration are grateful to those members and pastors who participated in the Camp work day on May 15, 2005. Special mention and appreciation go to Pastor Garnet Morris and the Pathfinders from the Linden and Berea, Nyack churches. There is much that can be accomplished at the camp during these scheduled work days; and we appeal to our members to contribute to the beautification of Camp Victory Lake by joining us on the next scheduled work day.

Financial Update

Constrained management by the Administration continues to bring positive results to the financial position of the Northeastern Conference. For the second consecutive year there has been no increase in Conference indebtedness, and some reduction in the past outstanding debt.

For the first five months of 2005, the records show that the actual tithe income is ahead of the budgeted projection for the same period by \$1,210,004.13, and this is with only 81 churches reporting at the time of this report. We thank God for the faithfulness of our members.

Workers in Transition

<u>Pastor</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
A. Amadias	_____	Springfld./Esmirna Maranatha/South Bridge Mission, MA
J. Burroughs	Lawrence/Haverhill/ Metheun Manchester	Bethel/Salem/Allston, MA
S. Byers	_____	Bklyn Temple, NY
R. Cabrera	Chelsea/Cambridge/ Somerville Everett	Apocal. 14/Primera Mt. Vernon Hisp. Mission, NY
Y. Casildo (Part-time)	_____	New Bedford/Fall River/Brktn. Hisp. Missions, MA
D. Cuke	Ellenville/Kingston, NY	Accepted call for a deanship: an academy in Dayton, TN
D. Francisco	Spgfld./Esmirna Maranatha/South Bridge	Chelsea/Cambridge Somerville/Everett E. Boston Hisp., MA
V. Jordan	Friendship (Volunteer)	Ellenville/Kingston, NY
E. Lopez	Primera/Apocalipsis 14 Hisp.	Accepted pastorate Idaho Conference
R. Peters	Calvary Bridgp. Bridgp. Tab.	Accepted pastorate Northern CA Conf.
H. Ramos	Bethel/Salem Hisp. Brktn./Allston	Lawrence/Haverhill Methuen/Manchest. District, MA
C. Wesley	Mattapan/Roxbury, MA	Breath of Life/ Antioch, NY

Procedures for Church-Pastor Conflict

The following procedures have been adopted for addressing and resolving conflicts between a church or church board and its Pastor. We print them for your information.

Whenever there is a conflict between a church or its Board and the Pastor:

1. The Elder(s) are to meet with the Pastor and address with him their concerns with the aim of achieving resolution.
2. If matters remain unresolved, the situation should be brought, in writing, to the attention of the Conference Ministerial Secretary by either the Elders or appointed delegation from the Church Board, with a request that his office intervene in resolving the conflict.
3. The Ministerial Secretary will then contact the Pastor and inform him of the complaint that has been lodged, and arrange a meeting with the Pastor to obtain his perspective of, and response to the allegations brought forth.
4. The Ministerial Secretary next schedules a meeting with the Pastor and Elders, and/or delegation, and works to bring about a resolution. The Ministerial Secretary has the option of initially meeting with the parties without the special Committee on Conflict Resolution. However, if the situation remains unchanged, he schedules a meeting and involves the Committee on Conflict Resolution.
5. In the event that the conflict is yet unresolved after these steps, the Ministerial Secretary brings the matter to the attention of the Conference President (accompanied with a written report) who will assign an Officer of the Conference to meet with the Pastor, Church Board, and/or church to achieve resolution. The Conference officer reserves the option of inviting the Ministerial Secretary to be with him. Upon resolution, a written report on the outcome is presented to the Conference President.
6. If he is unsuccessful in achieving resolution, the Officer will inform the Conference President, in writing, stating clearly his view as to wherein the problem lies, and offer any recommendation that he might have.
7. The President, with his fellow Officers in Administration, may choose to meet with the Church Board or Church, along with the Pastor, in a further attempt to bring about an amicable resolution.
8. Should all efforts fail, the Conference Administration will make a recommendation to the Conference Executive Committee, or the church may appeal to the Executive Committee through the Chairman and/or Secretary of the Committee. Members are advised to follow the above process before sending any correspondence to members of the Conference Executive Committee.

Evangelism

Evangelism is the reason for our existence as a church; and our pastors and churches continue to keep evangelism alive. The Conference goal for souls in 2005 is 3,000. We challenge every member to do his/her part to reach somebody for Christ during this year.

All that is required for the goal of 3,000 souls to be achieved is for each church to baptize at least 20 persons for the year. We are pleased to report that some churches have already surpassed that, and still counting. The Spanish and Portuguese-speaking churches have baptized 265 souls through May 21, 2005, and other early reports from other churches are encouraging. Pray that God will grant His Pentecostal power to every effort put forth in His name.

Operation Restore Facts

Goal:	\$23,000,000.00 <i>(adjusted)</i>
Faith-partners needed:	16,000
Registered Faith-partners:	649
Amount covenanted:	\$ 908,600.00
Amount received:	\$ 388,164.00
Days remaining:	200 <i>(as of 7/15/05)</i>

All those who are willing to be a part of this venture of faith are encouraged to visit the Conference website at www.northeastern.org, and click on *Operation Restore*. You can sign up as well as contribute electronically; or you may contact your pastor or the Conference office at 718-291-8006, ext. 214.

Quote: "So far as his opportunities extend, everyone who has received the light of truth is under the same solemn and fearful responsibility as was the prophet of Israel to whom the word of the Lord came saying: 'Son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel . . .'"
(Great Controversy, p. 257).

