

# 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*

### Conference Liquidates Bond

At the Executive Committee meeting held on September 11, 2006, the Administration recommended and the Committee voted to liquidate the smaller of the two outstanding bonds, and on November 3, 2006, the payment of \$1,085,454.99 was made. This payment represents an early retirement of seven years, which saves hundreds of thousands of dollars interest annually, and releases the liens on the Northeastern Academy and the Conference Office. We praise God for His blessings, and thank the members of the Conference for their faithfulness.

It is the hope of the Administration that we will be able to accomplish an early liquidation of the second and bigger bond in the near future. Your prayers and continued support and faithfulness are solicited.

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### Financial Update

The Conference continues to experience positive strides in its finances, thanks to the blessings of God and the faithfulness of His people. The Tithe and Mission report through the month of November 2006, shows that there has been a 7.9% increase in tithe income above what was projected. At the end of 2004, the audited financial statement showed a negative Net Asset total of (\$1,161,778), and the 2005 audited financial statement shows the total Net Assets of the Conference to be a positive \$2, 477,405. We praise God for his goodness, and solicit the prayers of all of God's people as we endeavor to meet the challenges of fiscal responsibility, and restore our Conference in all of its dimensions so that we may effectively fulfill the great gospel commission.

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### President Participates in Inter-Clergy Business Conference

Elder Trevor Baker was a panelist at the Christian Times Business Means Conference held at the Brooklyn Museum on Tuesday, December 12, 2006. The panel which was composed of clergy from around the New York City area, discussed the role of the church in economic development, and presented ways in which the church may empower its members and the community.

### Administrators' Mission Trip

During the month of August, the Conference President, Elder Trevor Baker and Conference Secretary, Elder Larry Bailey and their wives accepted the invitation of the North American Division's Hope for Humanity Department to join other Regional Conference administrators on a humanitarian trip to South Africa. The purpose of the trip was to visit the Nhlengelo (pronounced *en-gay-low*) project which has been adopted and supported by funding through Hope for Humanity—the new name for the old fund raising program known as Ingathering, and in so doing, gain a sense of the immensity of the challenges facing more than 12 million AIDS orphans in Africa.

The Nhlengelo project was started by a retired Seventh-day Adventist minister, Paul Mawela and his wife, in a small township called Dwarsloop, situated about 200 miles northeast of Johannesburg, South Africa. The ministry of the Mawelas involves training care-givers who work without pay, but enter the homes of HIV positive or AIDS victims to care for the sick, the dying or the orphaned. The administrators on the trip had the opportunity to accompany the care-givers on their mission of mercy.

### **Pilgrim Tabernacle Acquires a Church Home**

After several years of being a nomad congregation, the Pilgrim Tabernacle church of Hempstead, New York has acquired their own church building. The church which is pastored by Pastor John Talbert is elated to own their own church home, and looks forward with excitement to increased ministries and growth in the Hempstead community.

### **Construction Resumes at Springfield Gardens**

Pastor Clifford Manie of the Springfield Gardens church reports that construction of the new church edifice has resumed. This construction which was suspended for several years is now well underway, and is anticipated to be completed in 2007. The Springfield congregation has long outgrown the present building, and looks forward to more spacious facilities.

### **Ephesus Church Restores Steeple**

On Monday, December 12, 2006, was a significant day for the members of the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist church. On that date, the 30 foot copper crown of the steeple which had been removed two years after the devastating fire in 1969 was reinstalled. The capping was the culmination of the church's multi-year \$2 million renovation project. The Ephesus church which is located at 123<sup>rd</sup> Street and Lenox Avenue in New York City, sits in the very heart of the historic Harlem community. As the steeple, towering 120 feet above street level, helps to shape the Harlem skyline, we anticipate that the ministries of the church will help to shape the Harlem community.

### **Conference Treasurers' Summit**

Recently, the Northeastern Conference, along with Mutual of America Investment firm, hosted the 2006 conference for treasury personnel of the eight Regional Conferences and the Bermuda Conference. This conference which was held on the October 15-18, takes place every two years, and is designed to hone and improve the skills of those who work in the Treasury departments. The focus of this year's conference was "Keeping Focus and Best Practices". Among the special guests and presenters were: Mr. Melvin Ming, Chief Operating Officer of Sesame Workshop, and Pastor Abraham J. Jules, Pastor of the Mount Vernon church, who presented some power packed devotional messages.

### **Pastor Retires After 30 Years**

A gala banquet was held in honor of Pastor Doctor Smith who is retiring after 30 years of ministry. The banquet which was held at the Holiday Inn in Suffern, New York, was hosted by the Berea Church where Pastor Smith has been the pastor for the last six years.

The 400 attendees at the banquet comprised members of all of the churches which Pastor Smith served as well as fellow workers, friends and officials from the city and Nyack community.

*May Peace, Health, And Happiness  
Be Yours Throughout The New Year*

