

July | 2025

LEGACY ISSUE

THE LEGENDS OF THE EDITORS DESK

HONORING THE STORYTELLERS
BEHIND THE LEGACY



FEATURE STORY:

BEYOND THE LENS - THE EDITOR'S
TRUE ROLE

LEGACY SPOTLIGHT:

CONVERSATIONS WITH FORMER
EDITORS

EDITOR'S REFLECTION:

LESSONS, GROWTH, & IMPACT BEYOND
YPD

They weren't just taking pictures – they were
capturing history.

RAVE OF CONTENTS

Celebrating the storytellers, the trailblazers, and the legacy-makers of the YPD Editorial Desk.

What is Legends of the Editors' Desk?

Get to know the heart behind this legacy project—why it was created and what it hopes to inspire.

 **PAGE 3**

Meet the Legends

Introducing the past editors who shaped stories and inspired a generation:

- Paballo Blom
- Stephen “Kidox” Motsepe
- Baatile Kgothatso Mohale
- Katlego Evelyn Xaba
- Realeboga Motlhoiwa-Molwedi
- Thuso Sekhaolele

 **PAGE 4**

Memory Wall

A visual tribute of captured moments, cherished connections, and unforgettable milestones.

 **PAGE 18**

The Interview Series

In-depth conversations with each editor. Candid insights, challenges, triumphs, and wisdom from their time in office.

 **PAGE 5–17**

Legacy Highlight

Moments that mattered:

- Designing logos
- Launching newsletters
- Digital innovations
- Breaking stereotypes
- Growing in faith and leadership

WHAT IS *The Legends Of The Editors Desk?*

“Legends of the Editor’s Desk: Editorial Legacies” is a gazette dedicated to insightful conversations with past Conference Editors who have significantly impacted the lives of YPDers and contributed meaningfully during their term. The aim is to celebrate and preserve the legacy of these editors, inspire and educate future editors, foster a sense of community, and highlight the vital role editors play in shaping the success of the Conference.

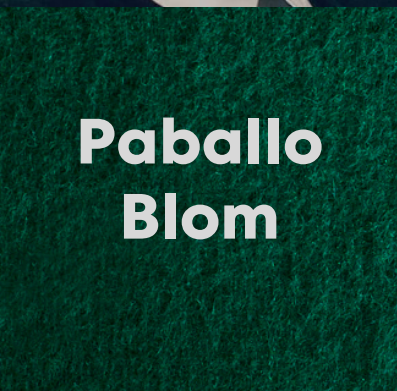
Meet The Legends



**Katlego
Evelyn
Xaba**



**Baatile
Kgothatso
Mohale**



**Paballo
Blom**



**Thuso
Sehaolelo**



**Realeboga
Motlhoiwa-
Molwedi**



**Stephen
"Kidox"
Motsepe**



The Interview

Katlego Evelyn Xaba

1. What inspired you to become a YPD Editor?

Honestly, I never planned to serve at Conference level—I was content as an Area Editor. But I engaged a lot with the Conference Newsletter; I loved doing the crosswords and all that jazz stuff. I was also lucky to be surrounded by editors from higher levels—the Conference Editor, Episcopal Assistant Editor, and even the Connectional Assistant Editor (who was from the 19th District). Their closeness and our frequent Officer Forums gave me constant exposure and learning opportunities. The Forums really stood out—they were like progress check-ins, unlike Convention, which comes too late if growth for Christ is the goal. Around that time, social media was just emerging, and collaboration with other East Editors opened new doors. That stirred my passion—but honestly, staying at Area level started to feel too small for me.

2. What was your experience like in the role?

I won't lie it was difficult in the beginning, I had to find my feet but I had an awesome Associate Editor and we worked really close with the Communications Secretary (when they say Editorial Team, it meant exactly that the three of us) but we also met outside of the board to align our plans and I had Sis. Tinyiko Mokale (IPP at the time) at my side and my Ass Editor, Thabo Mpotu, who both did this professionally (from a brand point-of-view). But honestly, I'd like to think I was learning and evolving too but also was having a lot of fun and a lot of what I did was an extension of what I enjoyed doing (like I love social media). But I cried most of the time (and I'm a crier).

3. What were the challenges you faced, and how did you overcome them?

Personalities and way of working and I think quite early on we established rules on how to do things or tackle them. So rules are great because as leader one needs to know how to manage people but I honestly think the Editorial team at the time was awesome which attributed to a lot of things being seamless. Oh, another thing was a challenge was getting images (we produced a newsletter for every event by the way and a lot of our event countdowns and marketing the events required imagery) and the simple solution was taking the pictures ourselves which is why I feel now there's a misconception about the role of this office (we're not event photographers, we collect the news and produce a newsletter - that's it). But also had a two year term so that meant what we couldn't achieve in year one we could amplify or rectify in the second part of term. But more than anything I believe my fear of disappointing GOD is the reason why I could not fail - man I used to cry in this office and my simple prayer would be "GOD, I cannot disappoint you - so your people better like this".

4. Which moment or project as an Associate Editor stands out most for you?

All of them stand out for me because I learned the most as an Editor and it shaped me as an officer. But also I had the privilege to have our newsletter articles appear in the Connectional WMS magazine and I was introduced to the Connectional WMS Ass Editor and that relationship still exists today. And Instagram launched while I was in office and had our work at Connectional and they would retweet/repost our stuff (at the time the Connectional seemed so far so it was really big for me honestly).

5. How did the skills you developed as an Associate Editor help you later in life?

Well, I still do this for the church and I think yes I love social media and digital but I think as my first office in the YPD (like I was Editor even at Area Level), it shaped the leader I am. Like all the offices I have been in, I have always had social media integrated into it - even today people in the church trust my "digital capabilities" because of it. I'm going to sound pompous half the time but I learned a lot and I think no one can do what I do because of it - man even my first job (which I didn't study for) I harnessed this energy from being Editor - and half the time I was winging it (like you wouldn't believe me if I told where I edited my pictures - but you must ask me in person LOL). But also having attended three Quadrennial Conventions I never realised the impact of our work until I was ready to ask someone to take a picture with me and they knew who I am and this person was the Connectional President, they see and interact with YPD related content from 20 Districts so for people outside my world to know that because of the work we do in the YPD is big - it proves how much impact being in office is.

Katlego Evelyn Xaba

6. What advice would you give to the current or future YPD Editorial Team?

It's not about pictures or social media – you have to love media as a whole. But everything you do, do it with your heart – have a village of people behind you, whether it be by way of mentorship, sound board. But more than anything because this is an office in a CHRISTian organisation, let it be about GOD and HIS people (I promise you will see wonders) but also learning never stops so never stop learning. Another thing is always add your spice to it (there's a reason why I say, no one can do what I do how I do it because truth is in my time what I brought was exactly what was needed for this office and that's why I think it was impactful in my opinion – so what does the YPD of your time need a YOU and not a replica of another Editor, you'd be doing GOD and HIS people a disservice and you are too brilliant for that (GOD didn't put you in office to be like someone else or for mediocrity).

7. What does being part of the YPD legacy mean to you?

No offence to the President, but we can't all be Presidents (the nature of church remembers a term by its President) so doing what I do with heart and in an innovative way means so much (in or out of office). What in your capacity as a YPD member sets a precedence for greatness? Being the person you needed when you first interacted with the organisation because you inherently create a culture of paying it forward. A legacy for me means more than just being remembered or honoured (well that's nice) but it's about who get to benefit from you but also for people outside the church or the YPD did they see CHRIST in you, were you a good ambassador for the Kingdom if the answer yes then that's enough legacy. But also to be a symbol of representation that you can do it in the LORD's house for me is big.

8. Challenges and triumphs encountered during your tenure?

Still say personalities but was lucky enough to learn how to manage that. Imposter syndrome at the beginning because you assume that being in office, especially at Conference level, means you need to be perfect but the truth is that you need to be a sponge willing to learn. And a triumph for me will always be seeing the impact this office has – like you assume your work will reach only the people in your jurisdiction but it goes beyond that.

9. How did your editorial experience shape your life, studies, or career?

I laugh about this and maybe it's the voice of self doubt but being in this office, people assume I'm an expert in this field (it's good right, it means I did it well right). Also when I left this specific office I was in my final year in varsity I took a leap of faith into a career I didn't study for and 10 years later I can only brag about the brands I've worked on but I never forget to say that the biggest of those brands is YPD, Google us. That leap of faith turned into my employer paying for me to study Digital Marketing (maybe people aren't wrong to assume I'm an expert). My service though is a big part of my faith and I'm not shy about that at work – I never forget to mention it in my CV or at work that my impact is beyond these walls. But also shaped the course of how I was in other offices after being Editor which I'm grateful for.

10. Any notable lessons or skills acquired as an editor?

To be honest, I had people when I was in office – in my time in the YPD I always tried to emulate the person I needed when I was starting out (try being a beacon). It taught me what kind of leader I am and how to receive someone leading me and because I always assumed I needed to know by way of learning, everything I do now needs to yield growth. But honestly, I think I do the work that I do because I was Editor (it proved that I can).

11. How has being part of the YPD impacted your personal and professional growth?

To be honest, everything is linked I can attribute being in the YPD to my faith, my confidence in things, I studied Economics but I trust in my creative capabilities because of it, YPD has been an outlet for my purpose and the Google us thing is true and I have had the honour of having genuine friendships (relationships) with people in this organisation and the impact that the work we do has had is all an honour.

Baatile Kgothatso Mohale

1. What inspired you to become a YPD Editor?

Prior to stepping into the role of YPD Editor, I served as the Associate Editor. What truly inspired me to take on this leadership position was recognizing that it was vacant and feeling a deep conviction that it was meant for me. Sometimes, you just know when something is yours—when you are called to be in a specific place at a certain time. Before graduating, I had set a clear goal to either be an Editor or Associate Editor, as I knew how important this role was to me. My love for the editorial space is a gift I never realized I needed until I fully embraced it.

2. What was your experience like in the role?

The experience was both incredible and eye-opening. I discovered the power of collaboration and the importance of working with a team. My colleague, Thabang, and I worked exceptionally well together—he brought a sense of calm to our dynamic, which balanced out the team. This role reinforced the value of teamwork, effective communication, and shared responsibilities.

3. What were the challenges you faced, and how did you overcome them?

Two key challenges stand out:

- **Misconceptions about the Editorial Team**— Many people assume editorial work is solely about sharing pictures and videos online. There is often an expectation that we must post every single image we receive, which is simply unrealistic.
- **Using Personal Equipment** – Editorial work often requires expensive equipment, and using personal gear comes with significant risks. I personally experienced this when my equipment was stolen while traveling to a YPD event. Unfortunately, incidents like these raise concerns about responsibility and compensation. I strongly believe YPD should invest in equipment and ensure it is properly insured to safeguard against such losses.

4. Which moment or project as an Associate Editor stands out most for you?

Rather than a single moment, what stands out to me is the engagement and participation from people in the challenges we created. Seeing individuals actively involved and enjoying the initiatives we launched was truly fulfilling.

5. How did the skills you developed as an Associate Editor help you later in life?

The experience shaped my professional journey in profound ways. I live and breathe the digital world, and today, my career revolves around digital media. I manage multiple church social media accounts, a role that aligns perfectly with my passion and expertise. Looking back, I believe my time as an Associate Editor was no coincidence—it was a path divinely designed for me.

Baatile Kgothatso Mohale

6. What advice would you give to the current or future YPD Editorial Team?

Enjoy the journey! Creating memories for people is a rewarding experience. There's something truly special about capturing joyful moments and allowing people to relive them through your lens. Do the work wholeheartedly, and trust that God will handle the rest.

7. What does being part of the YPD legacy mean to you?

Being part of the YPD legacy signifies purpose and impact. It means I was meant to walk this journey and help pave the way for others. It also serves as a reminder that there is always room for new leaders to step in and continue carrying the vision forward. I am deeply honored and proud to have contributed to this legacy.

8. Challenges and triumphs encountered during your tenure?

One of the biggest challenges was managing expectations—it's impossible to satisfy everyone. People often expected me to upload every picture taken, which wasn't feasible. Additionally, some individuals would request images to be sent directly via WhatsApp, which became overwhelming. However, beyond these challenges, my overall experience was positive, and I thoroughly enjoyed the role.

9. How did your editorial experience shape your life, studies, or career?

As mentioned earlier, my career is rooted in the digital space, and my time in the YPD Editorial Team played a significant role in preparing me for this path. Managing digital content and social media accounts is now a key aspect of my professional life, and I continue to apply the skills I developed during my tenure.

10. Any notable lessons or skills acquired as an editor?

One of the most valuable lessons I learned was the importance of teamwork. Working with a team required strong communication skills and the ability to collaborate effectively to achieve shared goals.

11. How has being part of the YPD impacted your personal and professional growth?

Stepping into the editorial role was no accident—it was a divine alignment. This experience allowed me to recognize my strengths in the digital space and even build a career out of it. While the work can be demanding, I am grateful for the opportunity to use my creativity in ways that make an impact. I feel honored to be trusted with such a responsibility.

Realeboga Mothoiwa-Molwedi

1. What inspired you to become a YPD Editor?

My dedication and drive is what inspired me , seeing the editorial team do their work, I just fell in love with the idea of being an editor .I used to take pictures at events for the love of being behind the camera and would sometimes share the pictures with the team . That's when I later fell in love with the idea of serving the Lord through sharing beautiful memories with people.

2. What was your experience like in the role?

My experience was rewarding and challenging at the same time, seeing myself push through barriers and having a team that push every issue to its full potential was really amazing .I must say its been such a beautiful learning process for me .To this day I still thank God for such an opportunity.

3. What were the challenges you faced, and how did you overcome them?

Editorial team was still fairly a new office at the time ,trying to actively bring it out there to the YPDers was challenging because it was not so popular. To many people it seemed like an easy job of just taking pictures were there's a lot in putting together a piece ,printing ,writing all the logistics behind it .As time went by creating new ideas, sharing stories and involving YPDers in our gazette helped us a lot in being valued and noticed as the editorial team.

4. Which moment or project as an Editor stands out most for you?

When we presented our digital issue ,with a lot of interesting features I think it was at the 2013 Leadership Retreat at RS Thelela Embalenhle.

5. How did the skills you developed as an Associate Editor help you later in life?

An editor role require skills such as communication , presenting , capturing and writing. All this has helped me a long way especially when it come to presenting. Having all those skills and knowledge made my life just a bit easy when it came to my school work ,presentations and putting power points together became my thing at school.

Realeboga Mothoiwa-Molwedi

6. What advice would you give to the current or future YPD Editorial Team?

Remember why you wanted to become an editor. The road will never be easy but the process is beautiful, it's not about the destination but rather the journey. Plan ahead of the ideas and what you going to contribute to the team, create new ideas that will excite you and your team above all just have fun its worthwhile enjoy the journey. You serving the Lords work don't let all the administration and executive duties derive you from your spirituality.

7. What does being part of the YPD legacy mean to you?

I am very honored to be part of the YPD legacy. This had made me reflect on how YPD has had a huge impact in my life, it's the memories we treasure and the impact we have paved for generations to generations.

Thank you for such an amazing project.

8. Challenges and triumphs encountered during your tenure?

My first year in office was bit more challenging for me meeting deadlines, struggling to believe that I could actually do the work I knew I could. I also encountered not having all the necessary materials needed to put together my work. I must say being the youngest executive member at the time was daring enough too.

9. How did your editorial experience shape your life, studies, or career?

Editorial experience helped improve my communication skills, involvement within tasks given, to creatively putting my work together and thinking out of the box. This has helped me stay claim in challenging situations, personally YPD helped me a lot in making it in the outside world.

10. How has being part of the YPD impacted your personal and professional growth?

YPD played a magnificent role in my personal and professional growth even today I still remember speakers from different professions some being our own YPDersto present to us about different issues of life such as business, financial literacy, career, empowerment, women growth and spirituality. All that shaped me into the woman I am today, knowledge is power. Furthermore coming into office as a 16 year old girl had its own bliss however I believed in myself. Today I am a lady whose not afraid of challenges working in a male dominated work place and thriving in it.

Thuso Sekhaolelo

1. What inspired you to become a YPD Editor?

I'm a publicist by profession and telling stories is at the core of the work I do on a daily. With that in mind, I saw the editorial position as the best position for me to not only use my skills but also polish them.

2. What was your experience like in the role?

It was very interesting and eye opening, as I got to interact with different kinds of people as well and tell different stories. I got to learn to be more patient with people and work better in a team. The role unlike others in the auxiliary relies heavily on teamwork and relying on others to share info with you to move forward, which was a challenge at times with people either not being able to send feedback on time or at all.

3. What were the challenges you faced, and how did you overcome them?

As mentioned above, getting feedback from people on time was the biggest challenge, which would delay things on my end. The solution for me was to give myself and the team a buffer – so we'd give a certain deadline, knowing that the true deadline for us to get everything done is probably a week out. We basically bought ourselves time.

Another challenge was that the editorial office wasn't as popular as it is now, we often had areas that didn't have individuals in the office and would have to rely on the communication secretary or president to action what we needed to do.

Technology or lack thereof was another challenge, but we managed to work with what we had to produce newsletters at every YPD event.

4. Which moment or project as an Associate Editor stands out most for you?

It would have to be the first issue that went out.

5. How did the skills you developed as an Associate Editor help you later in life?

The interpersonal and public speaking skills I developed during my tenure really helped me later in life. These skills are among those you need to become a strong publicist.

Thuso Sekhaolelo

6. What advice would you give to the current or future YPD Editorial Team?

This office is all about documenting and telling the YPD story and the stories of the people that make the auxiliary what it is, and if you keep that at the centre of your role, you will remain excited about your role and find fulfilment in what you do.

7. What does being part of the YPD legacy mean to you?

Being a part of the YPD legacy is special to me – as a shy and reserved teenager YPD is a place where I found my voice, which is something I hold dear to my heart. It's the place where I saw young women in leadership roles and a place where I'd like to believe I in turn inspired others that came after me. I view the YPD as a springboard for personal and professional growth and I am very happy to be a part of such a legacy.

8. Can you describe a particularly memorable moment or story from your time as editor?

Putting out the first edition of the newsletter was a definite highlight – I cannot recall which event it was, but I do remember that the team and I had a sense of pride that through all the challenges we managed to produce and deliver our first issue.

A look back at my time as a YPD Editor

Becoming a YPD editor was more than just a role, it was a natural extension of my passion as a publicist. Storytelling is at the heart of what I do, and the editorial office offered a perfect platform to not only apply my skills but refine them. The experience was eye-opening, filled with meaningful interactions and the chance to share different narratives that made up the heart of the auxiliary.

The role taught me patience and the importance of teamwork. Unlike other positions, editorial work thrives on collaboration and timely feedback—something that proved challenging at times. Delays in communication were frequent, but by building in extra time, we created a system that helped us stay on track. Even when resources were limited or team members were unavailable, we found creative ways to meet our goals and publish newsletters for every YPD event.

Beyond the technical skills, I grew as a communicator. My interpersonal and public speaking abilities improved, tools that continue to shape my career today. Being a YPD editor wasn't just about managing content; it was about capturing the spirit of the people and the movement.

Most importantly, being part of the YPD legacy is deeply personal. As someone who entered the space reserved and unsure, I found my voice here. I was inspired by young women in leadership, and I hope my time in the role helped inspire others too. YPD became a springboard for my growth, and I carry its lessons, and pride with me always.

Paballo Blom

1. What inspired you to become a YPD Editor?

I always loved how free the editors would walk around and stand out of the elected officers. My friend Kopano and I also used to capture a lot of moments at events which is one of the biggest reasons

2. What was your experience like in the role?

My experience was fantastic. I learned a lot in the office. Not just about the office but other positions as our president allowed us to co-exist with others or stand in for others in their absence.

3. What were the challenges you faced, and how did you overcome them?

I served as an Editor for 4 years alone. It was a lot to take in. Extremely overwhelming after events. However, I pulled and worked with those who called themselves the conference influencers in the background which would help with the workload. I also worked hand in hand with other conference editors who helped a lot.

4. Which moment or project as an Editor stands out most for you?

Ask God a question. That will forever be my take home programme. Everything about it was perfect. It was the first ever event that turned out that way. Still proud of it.

5. How did the skills you developed as an Associate Editor help you later in life?

I can confidently address a room and run administration without hesitation. It has taught me that team work is the dream work

Paballo Blom

6. What advice would you give to the current or future YPD Editorial Team?

Stand firm. Your office is not to only take photos but to market and create newsletters. DO NOT be people pleasers. You will create unnecessary admin for yourselves.

7. What does being part of the YPD legacy mean to you?

That being in the presence of loving God and loving God is a honor. Serving has taught me so much and I would never change anything really.

8. Challenges and triumphs encountered during your tenure?

I honestly did not really have challenges in office. The only thing was that I was a team alone. But apart from that. I really did well. I think.

9. How did your editorial experience shape your life, studies, or career?

I studied politics and I was able to move around my course beautifully cause the administration of church helped me with my course. Church is a practical of what I studying. Life wise. I'm who I am cause of YPD. Today I can pray, sing, worship, stand firm because of it.

10. How has being part of the YPD impacted your personal and professional growth?

Oh my word. This auxiliary has taught me that everyone gets a chance and all we need to do is to be patient with ourselves. Everyone is going to reach point B, however our journeys are not and will never be the same.

Stephen “Kidox” Motsepe

1. What inspired you to become a YPD Editor?

With the little knowledge of designing and editing I had and so much ideas I wanted to introduce to the office, found it valid enough for me to utilize all that into being an editor.

Not forgetting the work I saw from previous editors, I wanted to improve all that and bring it all to a whole new level.

2. What was your experience like in the role?

Mostly was a walk in the park as I was already familiar with the duties and what was expected of me, even though there were times where I would feel like not everyone understands my vision, but regardless of the negative energy and feedback, I knew what was my mission to serve the youth as best as I know how to.

3. What were the challenges you faced, and how did you overcome them?

One of my primary goals to achieve was to publish a hard copy newsletter to YPD during my serve term, but with the limited budget of the conference, it wasn't possible and I kept it as a soft copy.

Secondly, it was the coordinating with area editors when it comes to submitting their work on time. It was a total hassle as some would drag their feet when it comes to work. As a result of that we had to publish and get on with work as planned.

Lastly, it was the pressure from the Superior Editors or Episcopal offices putting pressure on me to do things their way. In this case, all I could do was to show them that our conference (TREC) does things according to its year plan.

4. Which moment or project as an Associate Editor stands out most for you?

There's so much to choose from, designed the new logo for the conference, Logos & banners of certain areas namely; Area2, Area1, Area8, Area4, Area5, including A3 logo under the Orangia Conference as Respective of its Editor. Poster design of all conference gatherings. New Official TIN 19th Episcopal District logo.

5. How did the skills you developed as an Associate Editor help you later in life?

Soon after graduating from YPD, I worked with a local Newspaper company as a layout designer and photographer. At some stage I was appointed to compile and publish a newsletter for an external Church, working with junior journalists.

Stephen “Kidox” Motsepe

6. What advice would you give to the current or future YPD Editorial Team?

Simple, stick to your plans and ideas, know how to execute them. Introduce/ innovate new ways of doing things.

7. What does being part of the YPD legacy mean to you?

Honestly, I never thought there would be such a time where I would be part of such an initiative.

All to me was to serve and bring new innovative to the youth of the AME church as a whole, but overall, I’m honored to be part of it.

8. Challenges and triumphs encountered during your tenure?

Compiling events pictures had to be done so I had my own camera on every events, which made it easy to capture every of memorable moment.

Communication break-down with the Associate editor- my way of overcoming this was to show area editor the importance of doing their work and what impact it has on others.

9. How did your editorial experience shape your life, studies, or career?

I learned the importance of innovation, how to stand in front of the crowd and present.

I can type a report without any hesitation and realized it takes time to compile material for any you wish to achieve.

10. Can you describe a particularly memorable moment or story from your time as editor?

I remember the day I became an editor, I wasn’t actually elected, I was appointed into office.

It was a plannery and all the offices were filled but only one was without an occupant, a fellow YPD brother stood up raised my name and another seconded it, with me being all surprised by this I accepted the duty of being the editor. Till to this day I still recall how it felt and to realize that fellow brothers and sisters had faith in me.

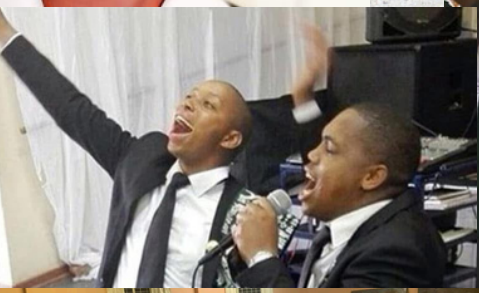
11. Are there any notable editors or mentors who inspired or guided you during your time as editor?

I was actually inspired by Sis. Thuli Magome as communicating Secretary, her work was outstanding. I wanted to run for the office after her but, I guess it wasn’t meant to be, I was meant for a greater service.

Memories Wall



The Revived Energetic East Conference 2013



The end!



Share your thoughts with us!



Great East Ypd



@thegreateastconferenceypd



@the.great.east.ypd