



August 8, 2018

## **Greetings!**

The 2018 Feast of Tabernacles will start in less than two months. Preparations are progressing steadily for this year's Feast in Barbados at the Accra Beach Hotel in the parish of Christ Church. The website for the hotel is [accrabeachhotel.com](http://accrabeachhotel.com). Based on the information I have received, we should have about 150 in attendance.

### ***CURRENCY & FINANCIAL MATTERS***

The Barbados dollar is linked to the U.S. dollar at the rate of Bds\$1.98 to US\$1. That does vary slightly depending on where you are conducting business on the island. The U.S. dollar and major credit cards are accepted at most establishments, but it will be difficult to use personal checks. ATMs are available throughout the country and accept all major credit cards and bank cards that work on international networks like Plus or Cirrus. The ATMs only dispense Barbados dollars. By now you should have been contacted about the implementation of a mandatory room tax by the Barbados government. It was imposed on all hotels and properties throughout the island and applies to all reservations for a hotel stay after June 30, 2018 regardless of when the reservation was originally made.

### ***CLIMATE***

For the month of Sept. the day temperature will approximately be 75°F to 85°F. The prevailing northeast trade winds blow steadily so that although it is bright and sunny, it is not unbearably hot. However, do not forget to bring your sunscreen or purchase it when you get to the island. The nights are usually slightly cooler. Sept. is also during the rainy season. The rains usually come in quick showers and are followed just as quickly by sunny skies.

### ***ELECTRICITY***

The electricity in Barbados is 110 volts, 50 cycles. So no need for an adaptor.

### ***ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE INFORMATION***

For those who have never traveled outside of the United States, you will need a valid passport to enter Barbados and to reenter the United States.

Taxis are available at the airport. The rate to the Accra Beach Hotel will be about US\$20. The rate varies depending on the number of occupants and luggage in the vehicle. The rates are listed outside the arrival hall at the airport so you can verify the price before boarding the taxi. Car rental is available if you desire.

## **FESTIVAL SERVICES**

Services will be held in the Conference Centre of the hotel. The inaugural service will begin at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 23. There will be one service on the first holy day, Monday, Sept. 24. Services on Tuesday to Sunday, Sept. 25-30, will begin at 10 a.m. except for the Sabbath of Sept. 29, when the starting time for services will be 2 p.m. There will be two services on the Last Great Day at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The Conference Centre is air-conditioned, so regular Sabbath attire worn in North American congregations is appropriate. We will project the lyrics of the hymnal onto a screen during services. If you prefer using a personal copy of the hymnal, it would be best to bring your own.

## **ACTIVITIES**

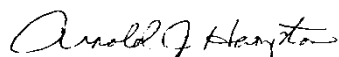
We are planning an **Island Tour** on Tuesday, Sept. 25. The cost will be about US\$30. **Family Day** is being planned for Thursday, Sept. 27, at Browne's Beach with a variety activities available, such as a glass-bottom boat ride, snorkeling with the turtles, speed boating and jet skis. There is a cost for these various activities. For further details of the Island Tour and Family Day, contact Wesley Holland at [wesleyholland1@hotmail.com](mailto:wesleyholland1@hotmail.com) by Aug. 18. We are working on a catamaran cruise for Sunday, Sept. 30. If you are interested, let me know. And finally, a social activity is being planned for Saturday evening.

## **FINAL COMMENTS**

Those of you coming before the Sabbath of Sept. 22, please let me know by the end of next week. Our normal hall is limited in the number of visitors it can accommodate. If a sufficient number of you are coming early, we will secure another hall.

I hope you have a spiritually profitable and enjoyable Feast of Tabernacles and fall holy day season.

Warm regards,



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