



2017 Feast Montego Bay, Jamaica

March Newsletter

THE LAZY RIVER IS A GREAT PLACE TO SOAK IN THE SUN AND FELLOWSHIP

Welcome to Jamaica

We are so excited about this year's Feast of Tabernacles at the Hilton Rose Hall Resort and we thank you for choosing Jamaica.

This will be the largest Feast in Jamaica in recent memory with nearly 450 members attending. To help you get the most out of this spiritually filled, action packed week, we will be sending newsletters periodically throughout the next several months. Our goal is to help you to get to know the local brethren better through articles and photos. We also hope to assist you as you plan and prepare for your trip.

Feel free to send us any questions you may have so that we can answer them here to the benefit of all.

The Congregations

The island of Jamaica is home to three United Church of God congregations with a total attendance of 80 members: Montego Bay (15), Ocho Rios (25), and Kingston (40).

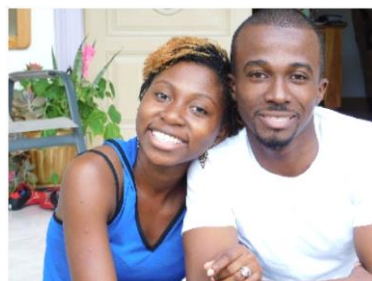
The Montego Bay congregation is the youngest of the three, but has the oldest and most outgoing member, Lady C. You never ask a Lady her age, but she does like it when you ask her how she got her name. Lady C is full of wisdom and spunk, and a delight to

talk to, so make sure to set aside time to get to know her better.

Ocho Rios is led by Mr. Courtney Lattery, a longtime member and Deacon. He is assisted by several teenagers who have stepped up and accepted the challenge of serving in the capacity of song leaders, running the sound system and in giving sermonettes.

Kingston is the capital of this island nation and is home to the largest congregation. Its growth is helped by the fact that our young members move to Kingston to go to university. It is an active group in the community.

Meeting the Brethren



Olivia and David Taylor attend the Kingston congregation.



Jamaica

Montego Bay (Blue), Hilton Rose Hall Resort (Orange), Ocho Rios (Green), and Kingston (Red)

Information to remember

Church web site: caribbean.ucg.org

Feast email: jamaicafot@gmail.com

Hotel web site: www.rosehallresort.com/

Tour/Taxi web site: www.jamaicatoursltd.com/

(Full tour info to follow in a future newsletter)

Dates to remember

July 31, 2017 – Final hotel balance due.

October 4, 2017 Opening Services 7:30 pm

Travel Tips

by Alisa Lockhart

Passports – Everyone will need a passport (even infants) to come into Jamaica. Due to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative of 2007, over 20.9 million Americans could possibly be renewing their passports in 2017, so if your passport will expire between now and April 2018, renew it now. Expect this process to take longer this summer. (Your passport needs to be valid for six months after your travel dates.)

Travel Insurance – Travel insurance is optional but should be considered, because you are making a big financial commitment. Emergencies can come up either before the Feast or even during the Feast. Trip cancellation, trip interruption, lost baggage or medical expenses can happen. Plans may reimburse you for non-refundable costs incurred. Remember, this insurance can only cover emergencies, not simply changing your mind about your trip. You can compare and get online quotes at www.reviews.com/travel-insurance/ Review plans and choose what is best for you and your family.



Southwest Airlines – Several different airlines fly into Montego Bay, Jamaica (Airport code **MBJ** is Sangster International Airport). Southwest Airlines will open booking on March 16 for travel through November 3. With Southwest you may check 2 bags free per paid ticket.

Note – For budgeting purposes, there is no separate departure tax at the airport. (These fees and taxes are already included in your airline ticket price.)



TAXI TO THE HILTON

The resort is 7 miles from the airport (15 – 20 minutes). We have arranged with Jamaica Tours Ltd. to provide round trip ground transportation to the resort for a fee of \$15 per person. More information to come.

A few rooms still available!

Due to the early favorable response to this Feast site, we have requested and been granted *more* rooms. Our window for making reservations has been extended until the end of March or until our block of rooms is filled.

If you have friends who would like to join us, let them know that there is one last chance. The interest link is at <http://caribbean.ucg.org/content/jamaica-2017>.

Frequently Asked Questions: JAMAICA CURRENCY Currently, one US dollar = 128.65 Jamaican dollars. Virtually all vendors will accept US dollars, but you will likely receive change in Jamaican dollars. For reference, if you see something priced at \$2,000 Jamaican, that is about \$15.55 USD.

CREDIT CARD FOREIGN TRANSACTION FEES - Many U.S. credit card companies/banks charge a foreign transaction fee (usually 3% of transaction amount) for purchases made in currency other than U.S. dollars. Check with your credit card company or bank.

