



# The Feast of **Tabernacles**

## Registering for the Feast

All U.S., Canadian and Caribbean head-of-household members should fill out the Festival Registration form found below, whether you are going to your assigned site or applying for a transfer.

### Applying to a Feast Site Within the United States or Canada

- U.S., Canadian and Caribbean head-of-household members should fill out the Festival Registration form found below.
- Indicate your requested transfer site on the registration form.
- This form is to be given to the Festival adviser in your local congregation on **April 11, 18 or 25.**

### Applying to a Feast Site Outside the United States or Canada

- U.S., Canadian and Caribbean head-of-household members should fill out the Festival Registration form found below.
- Those requesting a transfer to a Caribbean site must also directly apply to that site per the instructions given for that site.
- This form is to be given to the Festival adviser in your local congregation on **April 11, 18 or 25.**

### Applying to a U.S. or Canadian Feast Site From Other Areas

- Please apply by contacting the home office via e-mail at [USFestival@ucg.org](mailto:USFestival@ucg.org) or have your pastor do it. Please provide the requester's name, number of adults aged 20 and over, number of teens, number of attendees 12 and under and the Feast site requested.
- Please apply by **April 25.**
- You may apply to a U.S. or Canadian Feast site after April 25, but approval will depend upon space available at the site.

## 2009 Festival Fund

To meet Festival expenses throughout the world, U.S. members are asked to send in a 10-percent donation from their expected second tithe total (a tithe of the tithe). Canadian members may make a similar donation to the Canadian office.

- Please indicate the amount you are sending in the spaces below.
- Include your personal identification number (PIN) from your latest *United News* or *Good News* label.
- Make your check payable to United Church of God and label it "Festival Fund."
- Clip out and enclose the completed form, along with your check, in one of the labeled reply envelopes mailed to you recently from the home office.
- Affix postage and mail.

Your PIN: U _____	Donation Amount Enclosed: \$ _____
Name _____	
Address _____	City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

## 2009 Festival Registration Form for U.S., Canadian & Caribbean Members

U.S., Canadian and Caribbean head-of-household members should clip out or copy this form and take it to services on April 11, 18 or 25, 2009. It should be filled out and given to the Festival adviser in the local congregation.

Any U.S., Canadian or Caribbean member wishing to transfer to a site outside the United States or Canada should contact the Festival coordinator of that site directly, but still complete this form. Some additional information may be in the *Festival Planning Brochure*.

Name _____	Home Telephone ( ) _____	Work Telephone ( ) _____			
Address _____	City _____	State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____			
How many in your household will attend? _____	Number of Adults (aged 20 and over) _____	Number of Teens (aged 13 to 19) _____	Number of Children (aged 12 and under) _____		
Where are you planning to attend? _____	Name of Site (including those transferring internationally) _____	(Automatic transfer approval is expected for all U.S. and Canadian sites except Hawaii, Panama City Beach, Snowshoe and Steamboat Springs. Pastors will receive transfer notification by May 16.)			
Number of: _____	Single Adults _____	Young Adults (high school grad to 30-something) _____	Seniors (aged 60 and over; include spouse even if under 60) _____		
Special Needs:	Handicapped Parking [ ] (driver only)	Wheelchair [ ]	Deaf [ ]	Hard of Hearing [ ]	Need Translation (specify) [ ] _____

\*\*\*Do Not Mail to Home Office—Contact Local Festival Adviser or Pastor for Registration\*\*\*

## Notification of Approval

### Attending Your Assigned Site

If you will be attending your assigned site, approval is automatic.

### Requested Transfer to any U.S. and Canadian Site

- For U.S. and Canadian members, approvals will be announced at church services on May 16.
- You can go to [feast.ucg.org/](http://feast.ucg.org/) to see the list of sites where denials might have occurred. If your requested site had denials, see your pastor for further instructions.
- Brethren wishing to transfer to a U.S. or Canadian site from another country will automatically be accepted if you apply by April 25.

### Requested Transfer to any International Site

Approval comes directly from the site's Festival coordinator.

## Key Dates to Remember

**April 11, 18, 25** U.S., Canadian and Caribbean head-of-household members should clip out their completed 2009 Festival Registration form (see below left) and give it to their local Festival adviser at Sabbath services.

**Late April** *Festival Planning Brochure* mailed to member households.

**May 16** Notification at services if any U.S. and Canadian sites cannot accept all transfer requests (automatic transfer approval is expected for all U.S. and Canadian sites except Hawaii; Panama City Beach, Florida; Snowshoe, West Virginia; and Steamboat Springs, Colorado).

**June 7** Members attending a U.S. or Canadian Feast site may begin making reservations from the list of accommodations supplied in the *Festival Planning Brochure*.

In this special supplement are descriptions of Feast sites in alphabetical order by country. More sites may be added, but sufficient information was not available to print in this issue.

The *Festival Planning Brochure* will contain additional site information; a list of housing establishments for U.S., Canadian and some other sites; helpful tips for planning your Feast; and articles on the meaning of the Feast.

On the following pages, the + sign at the beginning of international phone numbers signifies the country code. Dollar amounts are in U.S. currency unless noted otherwise. The Web site [www.oanda.com/convert/classic](http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic), among others, provides up-to-date currency conversion information.

## Argentina

### Mendoza

We again plan to have the Feast of Tabernacles for Argentina and central Chile in the city of Mendoza, Argentina.

Mendoza is in the foothills of the Andes, in the western part of Argentina. It is actually closer to Santiago, Chile, than to Buenos Aires, Argentina. It is about 240 miles from Santiago and can be reached by plane either from Buenos Aires or from Santiago.

We advise visitors from other parts of the world to fly directly to Mendoza, unless you want to sightsee through the Andes, in which case you could fly into Santiago, then travel by bus to Mendoza. However, if you enter Chile for the first time even just to travel to Mendoza by land, you will be charged \$130.

Most of the brethren in Chile and Argentina will be housed in the Hotel Ejercito de los Andes, which will also be the location for services. Unfortunately this hotel is not large enough to accommodate our visitors.

However, we have located a four-star hotel nearby, the Microtel Inn. This hotel has double rooms and suites available. The double rooms are available at \$45 per day and include breakfast. The suites are available at \$50 and also include breakfast. Prices could vary a little at the time of the Feast because of the devaluation of the dollar. Suites are designed for a couple with a child. The rest of the meals can be bought in the same hotel at reasonable prices. For more information you can consult [www.microtelinn.com.ar](http://www.microtelinn.com.ar).

You can also choose to have your meals with the local brethren in the Hotel Ejercito de los Andes at very reasonable prices. Lunch or dinner will be around the equivalent of \$8.

You can also choose to stay in other hotels of the same or higher category in the vicinity. However, we recommend the Microtel Inn because of its nice quality and its closeness to the main hotel where we will have services. All of the brethren who have stayed in this hotel have been very pleased. Transportation by taxi is very reasonable, so you do not need to rent a car.

To get more information about Hotel Ejercito de los Andes, where services will be, you can visit [www.molise.com.ar](http://www.molise.com.ar).

Temperatures in Mendoza at Feast time are in the 70s, and normally there is no rain at that time. Nice summer clothing will be appropriate.

Those of you who chose to attend the Feast in Mendoza will not regret your decision. You will have the opportunity to meet hundreds of your brethren from this part of the world and at the same time enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

We will help you as much as possible with making your reservations.

We look forward to receiving our visitors. We know this will be a great opportunity for all of us to be together and strengthen one another during God's Festival. There will be translation into English for all of the services.

**Location of Services:** Auditorium of the Hotel Ejercito de los Andes, Mendoza, Argentina.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 8 p.m.

**Reservations:** You do not need to send any money for your reservations; however, when you express your desire to attend this Feast site, we will send you a simple application in order to proceed with your reservations. You can e-mail Saul Langarica at [slangarica@unidachile.org](mailto:slangarica@unidachile.org) or write to him at Casilla 10384, Correo Central, Santiago, Chile.

*Saul Langarica*

## Australia

### Devonport, Tasmania

At the mouth of Tasmania's Mersey River lies the vibrant, tourist-oriented seaport city of Devonport. It welcomes thousands of visitors each year and is known as the "gateway" to Tasmania.

This year the Feast will again be celebrated at the Yacht Club in Devonport—nestled on the bank of the Mersey River, only minutes away from the "Spirit of Tasmania" ferry terminal and 10 minutes from the Devonport Airport.

Drive for an hour to the east and you will arrive in Launceston—one of the oldest cities in Australia. A 90-minute drive will bring you to the World Heritage area of Cradle Mountain. Food and wine, history and heritage, wildlife and natural beauty are just a short trip away. Caves, canyons, rivers and mountains are all within easy reach.

Locally there are parks and walkways that follow both the river and the foreshore. Good cafes and restaurants abound both in Devonport and the surrounding townships. Fancy a Belgian-style breakfast in a chocolate factory—or a ride on a steam train—or a visit to the "Town of Murals"? It's all possible here.

Accommodations are plentiful. Cottages, self-contained units, hotels, motels, caravans and cabins are all within a few minutes' drive of the venue.

The climate is mild at this time of the year—about 16 degrees Celsius (61 Fahrenheit), with cool mornings and evenings. If you are planning to travel to the mountains, pack some warm clothing.

Useful tourist information can be found at [www.dcc.tas.gov.au](http://www.dcc.tas.gov.au).

**Location of Services:** Mersey Yacht Club, 1 Anchor Dr., East Devonport, Tasmania.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Information:** For further information, contact Barry Williams by e-mail at [bjswilliams@bigpond.com](mailto:bjswilliams@bigpond.com) or by telephone at +61 3 9743 4341.

We look forward to welcoming you. We know you will enjoy the beautiful surroundings and the friendly members.

*Barry Williams*

### Merimbula, New South Wales

The Feast for New South Wales and Victoria will once again be held at Merimbula at the RSL Club. Merimbula is a coastal town situated on the South Coast of New South Wales.

We would like to invite overseas visitors to enjoy an absolutely wonderful part of Australia. The Feast site is noted for its hospitality. Members often have open houses where people mix in together.

An overseas visitor could stop off in Sydney and see the greatest harbor city in the world or visit Melbourne, voted the world's most livable city. Merimbula is approximately a six-hour drive from Sydney and a seven-hour drive from Melbourne. There are also air flights to Merimbula from both Sydney and Melbourne.

Merimbula is a small township situated on a picturesque inlet and offers a relaxed time with delightful boardwalk cafes, restaurants and clubs. There are many unspoiled beaches, tours, fishing trips, secondhand shops, whale-watching trips, amusement centers for the young and first-class golf courses.

The weather is usually mild and sunny with temperatures in the 20s Celsius (70s and even low 80s Fahrenheit)—great for walks and sightseeing!

Costs for accommodations are very reasonable, with plenty to choose from. Check the following Web site for more information on the area: [www.sapphirecoast.com.au](http://www.sapphirecoast.com.au).

Activities will cater for the entire family as well as youth activities, a seniors' activity, children's lessons, youth studies and a luncheon on the Last Great Day. After the first Holy Day service, there will be a get-acquainted activity with cheese platters and refreshments.

Members really appreciate the low-cost meals that are available in the RSL Club. This gives many opportunities for fellowship straight after services.

**Location of Services:** Merimbula RSL, 52-54 Main Street, Merimbula.

**First Service:** Friday evening, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Reservations:** Accommodations can be organized through the many Web sites for accommodations in Merimbula. Here are a few specific resources:

The Sapphire Coast Tourist Information Centre, phone +61 2 6495 1129.

Fisk & Nagle Real Estate, phone +61 2 6495 2000; Web: [www.fisknagle.com.au](http://www.fisknagle.com.au).

Ray White Real Estate, phone +61 2 6495 3200.

Merimbula Lake Accommodation Centre, phone +61 2 6495 1522; Web: [www.merimbulalake.com.au](http://www.merimbulalake.com.au).

For further information, contact Bruce Dean by e-mail at [bfjadean@bigpond.com](mailto:bfjadean@bigpond.com) or by phone at +61 2 95258139 or fax +61 2 95250497.

*Bruce Dean*

### Sunshine Coast, Queensland

The Sunshine Coast, a tropical ocean resort area with spectacular beach and hinterland views, is again our location for the Feast of Tabernacles in 2009. The Sunshine Coast is a 90-minute drive north of Brisbane and an easy motorway drive from the Brisbane International Airport. Car rental and shuttle services are available.

A new air-conditioned facility, the Lake Kawana Community Centre, is our meeting venue, located between the towns of Caloundra and Mooloolaba and a short 10-minute drive from any accommodation in these areas.

Accommodations include one- to three-bedroom units, self-contained (with kitchen, living area, etc.), ranging from luxury units to economy. Most are beach resorts that are located on or within walking distance from the beach or ocean. Many are in high rises that give spectacular ocean views that include migrating whales.

Restaurants are plentiful and varied in cuisine and very good! Beach and ocean dictate the recreational activities for the area—surfing, kayaking, beach and boat trips to view whales. There are plenty of other favorite spots for visitors such as Steve Irwin's Australia Zoo, complete with croc feeding, rain forests and hinterland mountain tours. Some visit the Great Barrier Reef either before or after the Feast.

Weather will be warm and generally sunny and perfect for outdoor activities.

The normal range of activities includes a Family Day, senior citizens' tour and a dinner dance social for all the Feast attendees. Please check our Web site, [www.ucg.org.au/fot/2009qld.asp](http://www.ucg.org.au/fot/2009qld.asp) for information and updates about these activities and other information about the Feast in Caloundra.

**Location of Services:** Lake Kawana Community Centre, Sportsman Parade, Bokarina, Queensland.

**First Service:** Friday evening, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

Learn about what the area offers and find a wide range of accommodations on these Web sites: [www.caloundra-tourism.com.au](http://www.caloundra-tourism.com.au), [www.mooloolaba-beach.com](http://www.mooloolaba-beach.com) or [www.sunshinecoast-australia.com](http://www.sunshinecoast-australia.com). If I can help you, please contact me at [billbradford@bigpond.com.au](mailto:billbradford@bigpond.com.au).

*Bill Bradford*

### Western Australia

The United Church of God will host the Feast of Tabernacles in Western Australia.

Look for more information regarding Festival site location, accommodations and other information in upcoming issues of the *United News* and in the *Festival Planning Brochure*.

*Stephen Clark*

## Barbados

Barbados is the most easterly of the Caribbean islands. The island is fringed by coral reefs and the west and south coasts are generously gifted with white sandy beaches, while the ruggedly beautiful northeastern coast presents a rocky shoreline and a vigorous, pounding surf, bordered by majestic cliffs.

The island experiences two seasons: a mostly sunny dry season from December to May and a wet or rainy season from June to November. For most of the year the northeasterly trade winds provide cool, refreshing breezes.

The South Coast is most alluring with sun-drenched sands and turquoise waters, luring one to bathe and relax comfortably. This year, the Feast will be held at the Southern Palms Beach Club, which is situated in St. Lawrence Gap, Christ Church, on the South Coast. The seating capacity of the conference room is very limited, so the Feast will be primarily for those in the Caribbean region. Limited space is, however, available for a few international brethren who may be interested in transferring.

**Reservations:** If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Arnold Hampton by e-mail at [arnold\\_hampton@ucg.org](mailto:arnold_hampton@ucg.org).

*Arnold Hampton*

## Bolivia

### Cochabamba

This year we plan to have the Feast of Tabernacles in the city of Cochabamba at the Casa Campestre Convention Center, located 7 miles from downtown Cochabamba.

The city of Cochabamba is known as the grain center for Bolivia and is located in the very center of the country at 2,560 meters above sea level, which gives the city an excellent climate. Almost the whole year round Cochabamba has a spring climate. In this environment we plan to have the congregations of La Paz and Santa Cruz together with visitors to celebrate the Feast to God.

The hotel offers us food and housing at a very reasonable price. The cost for eight days per adult, including housing and food in this four-star hotel, will be \$190. The cost could vary a little due to the devaluation of the dollar. The transportation cost to and from the hotel is not included. However, there will be no need to travel very much since services and all activities will take place at the same hotel. Children between 4 and 10 years of age will pay half of the cost, and children under 4 will not have to pay.

Visitors could choose either to fly to La Paz or Santa Cruz and from there to Cochabamba, since the city is almost exactly halfway between the cities.

The hotel is located in a very tranquil part of the city, which will allow us to have a lot of fellowship. It is a special place to meditate, rest and worship God, surrounded by beautiful gardens.

Since the hotel has lots of visitors from other countries, it has developed a variety of food from all parts of the world that are offered in a very comfortable and elegant restaurant. For the Feast attendees, the hotel will be offering three meals in buffet style. Besides that, the hotel is also offering coffee and tea in the middle of the morning and midafternoon.

We all plan to arrive at the hotel on Friday, Oct. 2, and we plan to leave as a group on Saturday night after the Last Great Day, Oct. 10.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 8 p.m.

We would be very happy to have visitors from other parts of the world. Unfortunately, we plan to have services only in Spanish.

**Reservations:** If you are interested in attending in Bolivia, please contact Saul Langarica at [slangarica@unidachile.org](mailto:slangarica@unidachile.org) or write to him at Casilla 10384, Correo Central, Santiago, Chile. You can also contact Raul Machicao at [raulmachicao@hotmail.com](mailto:raulmachicao@hotmail.com).

*Saul Langarica*

## Brazil

### Maloca de Moscou

Once again our brethren from the Wapixana community in the north of Brazil will come together to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles 2009 using their own facilities within their community. This community is located 50 miles north of Boa Vista, the capital city of the state of Roraima, Brazil. In this part of the world we have about 50 brethren who get together every Sabbath and on the Holy Days to worship God.

Brethren visiting this site should fly to Boa Vista. They could also fly to the city of Manaus and then travel by bus to Boa Vista. The trip by bus is breathtaking since it passes through the exuberant vegetation of the Amazon.

Because of the lack of hotels in Maloca de Moscou and the lack of transportation between Boa Vista and Maloca de Moscou, we recommend visitors either rent a car and travel from Boa Vista to the community each day, or stay in the community in the homes of brethren. The brethren have graciously built a house to be used by visitors.

Most of the brethren speak Portuguese and English, besides the local dialect. That means any visitor should speak one of those languages. Translation between those three languages would be available if necessary.

Even though traveling to the Feast site could be tiring, brethren there would greatly appreciate any visitors from other parts of the world, since most of the year they do not have visitors due to distance and cost of transportation.

We do have services every day, a talent show with the participation of most of the brethren, sports activities and Bible studies. During services, it is very inspiring to hear the hymns in Portuguese, English and Wapixana—the local dialect.

Our brethren in this part of the world live a simple life based mainly on agri-

culture. They are people blessed by God in many ways. They do not lack food or water. They all have houses, and they are happy and willing to share their blessings with any visitor for the Holy Days.

**Reservations:** If you are interested in attending this site, please contact Saul Langarica at [slangarica@unidachile.org](mailto:slangarica@unidachile.org) or write to him at Casilla 10384, Correo Central, Santiago, Chile.

*Saul Langarica*

## British Isles

### Llandudno, Wales

The Feast site in Britain will be in Llandudno on the northern coast of Wales. Additional information is featured at [www.ucg.org.uk/feast2009](http://www.ucg.org.uk/feast2009).

Llandudno has been a holiday resort since Victorian times and retains much of the elegance of that age. Straddling a promontory, it boasts two beaches with sweeping promenades. North of the town is the Great Orme, a small mountain reachable by cable tramway—or a steep climb for the energetic.

The town is readily accessible by road and train. The nearest major airport would be Manchester. A car would be useful for those who would like to explore the area, although we hope to offer some coach tours.

Nearby attractions include a number of stately homes and castles. Five miles away is the walled town of Conwy, with its ancient castle originally built over 700 years ago by King Edward I of England. In the beautiful Conwy valley, Bodnant Gardens, run by the National Trust, is worth a visit. Further down the coast is perhaps the most famous of the Welsh castles, Caernarfon Castle, where the Investiture of the Prince of Wales took place in 1969. Also built by King Edward, it was intended to be a royal residence.

On the Isle of Anglesey, Mount Snowdon dominates the Snowdonia National Park with a height of 3,560 feet. The Roman city of Chester is within easy reach by train. Also about an hour's drive away is last year's European Capital of Culture—Liverpool—with its museums, art galleries and shops.

**Location of Services:** Assembly Room in the Town Hall near Llandudno's North Shore.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 8 p.m. The anticipated attendance is 50, but for reasons of comfort, attendance is capped at 180.

**Reservations:** As in past years, members arrange their own accommodations. Options may be seen at [www.visitwales.co.uk](http://www.visitwales.co.uk). Prices quoted include 15 percent VAT where applicable. Or phone the Visit Wales Centre between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., seven days a week: 08708 300 306, Fax: 08701 211259, e-mail: [info@visitwales.co.uk](mailto:info@visitwales.co.uk).

*Peter Hawkins*

## Cameroon

### Douala

Douala, the principal port city of Cameroon in central Africa, will host

the Feast of Tabernacles in 2009. Lodging is available at a number of hotels in the city, including Le Meridien, the Akwa Palace and the Ibis.

Approximately 60 people are expected to attend this site. This site is French-speaking only; any wishing to transfer in need to be fluent in the language. Services will be held at the Church hall on the outskirts of Douala, about 45 minutes by taxi from the city center. Activities will include a family games day and a talent show. A visa and a yellow fever vaccination are required.

**Registration:** More information and registration forms may be received by contacting [info-fr@ucg.org](mailto:info-fr@ucg.org); by writing to French Department, United Church of God, an International Association, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027; or by calling (513) 576-9796.

*Joel Meeker*

## Canada

### Kelowna, British Columbia

Kelowna is an urban oasis of 111,000 people, with a backdrop of rural splendor.

The area has an established fruit-growing industry and has become well-known for its wineries (14 in or near the city). The community is the largest in the interior of British Columbia. It has moderate temperatures, with the average daily high of about 23 Celsius (73 degrees Fahrenheit) in September and 14 Celsius (57 degrees Fahrenheit) in October. The area has lots of sunshine (2,000 hours per year). The sparkling 110-kilometer-long (68 miles) Lake Okanagan nurtures the valley's agriculture.

The area has plenty of fine restaurants, a good variety of accommodations, indoor and outdoor attractions and boasts 15 golf courses. There are unending miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, trail riding and family walks. The downtown core, where services are held, houses galleries, museums, theaters, studios, restaurants, a waterfront park and walkways.

The Kelowna International Airport serves the area with direct flights from some major cities. It is easily accessible by vehicles from all directions, being about 400 kilometer (248.5 miles) from Vancouver and 600 kilometer (372.8 miles) from Calgary, featuring a lovely drive through the Canadian Rockies, including Banff and Lake Louise.

#### Local Web Sites:

- [www.kelownabc.com](http://www.kelownabc.com)
- [www.castanet.net](http://www.castanet.net)
- [www.tourismkelowna.com](http://www.tourismkelowna.com)
- [www.kelowna.ca/cm/site3.aspx](http://www.kelowna.ca/cm/site3.aspx)

**Location of Services:** Kelowna Community Theatre, 1375 Water St., Kelowna, British Columbia.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m. The following day's service will be at 1 p.m.

**Taxes:** There is a provincial sales tax of 7 percent (8 percent on hotels) as well as GST, which is 5 percent.

*Rainer Salomaa*

### Midland, Ontario

Due to popular demand, the Feast of Tabernacles will be held again this year in Midland. This quaint town is located on beautiful Southern Georgian Bay, only 90 minutes from Toronto and 30 minutes from Barrie. The area has a natural blend of scenic landscapes, wildlife diversity and a picturesque harbor with waterfront trails and parkland. The spectacular fall colors should be at their best during the Feast.

You can also visit several historic attractions that reflect the region's founding cultures of aboriginals, English and French, including the Huronia Museum and Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons.

Other superb attractions include a 30,000 islands cruise, the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre and the Elmvale Zoo.

There is an array of shopping in the historic downtown and a selection of familiar chain stores. For food lovers, there are local culinary delights and a variety of chain restaurants throughout the area.

One of the main reasons for returning to Midland is the warm and friendly welcome that we received at the Best Western Highland Inn and Conference Centre last year. It is the premier full-service hotel in the Southern Georgian Bay area. It has an excellent auditorium with seating capacity for 500 people. It has deluxe room accommodations and suites that come complete with a small refrigerator, a coffeemaker and free high-speed Internet.

The restaurants on-site include the Atrium Café for breakfast and lunch and the Pines for casual fine dining. The Office is a cozy fireplace lounge—great for those who like to sit and chat. Other amenities at the Best Western include a heated indoor swimming pool, hot tub and sauna for total relaxation.

Room rates start at \$76 (Canadian) for a standard room. For those who need alternative housing, there is also an ample supply of cottages and bed-and-breakfasts in the area.

Festival activities will include a meet-and-greet night, a luncheon boat cruise, a family day at the zoo, seniors' brunch, young adult and teen outing and much more.

For further information on the area, please go to [www.southerngeorgian.bay.on.ca](http://www.southerngeorgian.bay.on.ca). The Web site for the host hotel can be found at [www.bestwesternmidland.com](http://www.bestwesternmidland.com).

For more information on the Midland Feast, please call the Canadian National Office at (905) 876-9966.

**Location of Services:** 924 King St., Midland, Ontario (at the corner of Hwy. 12).

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** 10 percent for guest rooms (non-Canadian residents refunded 5 percent).

*Dennis Horlick*

### Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

The quiet city of Saskatoon will be the Feast site for Saskatchewan in 2009. It is a city of about 240,000 inhabitants and boasts fine restaurants

and museums, few traffic jams and lovely walking and jogging paths alongside the river. Our Feast location is near the airport, but the highways are excellent if traveling by car.

We are planning for about 75 attendees—small in number, big in heart.

The Sandman Inn has an indoor pool and jacuzzi as well as a workout room and Internet. A 24-hour Denny's restaurant is located nearby. Parking is free. We have rooms set aside for group rates. Rates for the Sandman are \$114 (Canadian) per night for a room with two queen beds. (This price does not include hotel tax.) There are several rooms with a fridge and microwave as well as a separate sitting room. These are not included in this list.

Also available is the Country Inn and Suites, which is located next door to the Sandman Inn. Deluxe continental breakfast is included as well as access to an exercise room and the Internet. A room with two double beds costs \$110. A one-bedroom suite with king-sized bed costs \$120. (Tax is not included.)

There are a variety of other motels and hotels in the vicinity and all close to the airport.

**Location of services:** Sandman Inn (Royal Room), 310 Circle Dr. W., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

**Taxes:** PST 5 percent, GST 5 percent, DMF Levy 2 percent.

**Information and Reservations:** For more information about the Sandman Inn, call (306) 477-4844, e-mail [sandskrs@shaw.ca](mailto:sandskrs@shaw.ca) or visit [www.sandmanhotels.com](http://www.sandmanhotels.com).

For more information about the Country Inn and Suites, visit their Web site [www.countryinns.com](http://www.countryinns.com) or call (306) 934-3900.

For questions about the Feast, you can contact the Festival coordinator Bob Berendt by e-mail at [robert\\_berendt@ucg.org](mailto:robert_berendt@ucg.org).

*Robert Berendt*

### St. John's Newfoundland

We invite you to come celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in beautiful St. John's in 2009. It is the oldest city in North America as well as its most easterly port city. This capital of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador has some of the warmest and friendliest people you will ever meet. St. John's has a rich and colorful history, unmatched by any other Canadian city.

With a population of 180,000, St. John's is a thriving modern-day city with first-class facilities and services. It offers an enticing combination of Old World charm, unique architectural and historic landmarks, fine local cuisine and access to spectacular coastlines, wildlife and many other superb attractions.

Shop or simply stroll on Water Street, the oldest commercial street in North America, or visit Signal Hill for a panoramic view of the harbor and the place where Marconi sent the first wireless message across the Atlantic Ocean in 1901.

If you would like to tour the city by boat, watch humpback whales or travel along strikingly vast coastlines, then St. John's is the place for you. For

information on available attractions, visit [www.stjohns.ca](http://www.stjohns.ca).

Lodging and services will be held at the modern 3½-star Capital Hotel, which is only 15 minutes from downtown. All rooms have air-conditioning and complimentary high-speed Internet service, a 27-inch color TV, iron and ironing board, hair dryer and coffeemaker. All local calls are free. The hotel's business and fitness centers are also available free of charge. Rates start at only \$99 (Canadian) for a standard guest room.

Also at the Capital Hotel is Jacks Restaurant, which offers fine dining with a flare for steak and seafood. They offer numerous traditional Newfoundland dishes. Finally, there is the Safe Harbour Lounge, which offers an ambience for chatting and relaxing with friends. For more information visit [www.steelehotels.com](http://www.steelehotels.com).

Festival activities include a traditional Newfoundland dinner, a harbor or city bus tour, variety show and much more. If you like unique and beautiful surroundings and a small cozy Feast site, then St. John's is the place to be for the 2009 Feast of Tabernacles.

For more information about the St. John's Feast site, please contact Dennis Horlick at (905) 831-6308 or e-mail [dennis\\_horlick@ucg.ca](mailto:dennis_horlick@ucg.ca).

**Location of Services:** 208 Kenmount Rd., St. John's, Newfoundland.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** 16 percent for guest rooms (non-Canadian residents are refunded 13 percent).

*Dennis Horlick*

## Chile

### Lican Ray

Once again we plan to have the Feast of Tabernacles for the brethren in southern Chile in beautiful Lican Ray this year.

We plan to hold the Feast at the Complejo Turistico El Conquistador, located near the middle of the town, only a few blocks from breathtaking Lake Calafquen and at the base of the Villarrica Volcano, which is snow-capped all year.

Lican Ray is located only 70 miles from the main city of Temuco, which has an international airport. Ground transportation from Temuco or Santiago to Lican Ray is readily available, comfortable and inexpensive. From Santiago it takes about 10 hours to cover the 480 miles between the two cities.

The Feast site has five acres of land and 42 beautiful cabins. A supermarket is just around the corner, so families can cook their own meals in order to lower the cost of the Feast. The complex also has its own restaurant.

Services take place in the same complex. During the Feast there will be activities organized by the Church, but also there will be opportunities to visit the many beautiful natural places this area offers and, of course, swim and fish in beautiful Lake Calafquen.

Unfortunately, we are not offering translation of services into English. However, we will be very happy to have Spanish-speaking visitors.

You do not have to send any money for your reservation; however, when you express your interest in attending this site, we will ask you to fill out a simple application. The cost per person for a six-person shared cabin will be approximately \$10 per day, which only includes the housing.

Since this cost does not include meals, most of the brethren cook their own food. We have not contracted food for the group at the restaurant. Each person would be making his own arrangements. If you want to eat at the restaurant in the complex, the cost of meals is very affordable. Of course you could also eat in restaurants outside the complex, which are also very affordable.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 8 p.m.

**Information and Reservations:** If you want to have more information about the facilities at the site, please visit [www.turismoelconquistador.cl](http://www.turismoelconquistador.cl).

If you would like more information about the Feast site or want to apply to attend these Holy Days of God with us in southern Chile, please contact Saul Langarica at [slangarica@unidachile.org](mailto:slangarica@unidachile.org) or write to Casilla 10384, Correo Central, Santiago, Chile.

*Saul Langarica*

## Congo

### Kinshasa

The capital city of Kinshasa will host the 2009 Feast of Tabernacles in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Services will be held in a local-style conference center near the N'Djili international airport. Expected attendance is 60 people.

Services will be in French and Linguala. No English is spoken. There will not be an elder present during the Feast.

Activities will include a family games day, soccer matches and a talent show. A visa and a yellow fever vaccination are required for entry into Congo.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a dangerous country to visit. There has been a resurgence of combat along the eastern border with Rwanda in the past weeks. The largest UN peacekeeping presence in the world is in Congo, with significant concentrations of troops even in Kinshasa. The U.S. State Department issued an updated travel warning on Feb. 2, 2009, advising, among other concerns, of increasing crime in Kinshasa targeting U.S. citizens. Only people well acquainted with travel in such places and situations should consider transferring to this site.

**Registration:** More information and registration forms may be received by contacting [info-fr@ucg.org](mailto:info-fr@ucg.org); by writing to French Department, United Church of God, an International Association, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027; or by calling (513) 576-9796.

*Joel Meeker*

## Estonia

Plans are underway to experience two locations for the Feast in Estonia.

Estonia, known as part of the land of the Vikings, is nestled between Russia, the Baltic Republics and Scandinavia.

The first half of the Feast will be on the beautiful, historic and strategic island of Saaremaa, which controls one of the sea gates to Russia.

We will spend the first four days of the Feast at the luxurious Georg Ots Spa Hotel, which overlooks the Baltic Sea. Scandinavians love their spas, and this location was very popular with Feastgoers in 2007. Children and adults alike will love it.

A double room at the spa will be a very reasonable \$75 per night. This price includes a buffet breakfast, unlimited access to saunas, pools and a fitness center, use of a personal bathrobe and sandals, Internet connection in the hotel rooms and all taxes. See the hotel's Web site at [www.gospa.ee](http://www.gospa.ee).

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, we will travel by bus from the island through picturesque countryside to the lovely city of Tartu, Estonia's second largest and oldest city in the Baltic States.

We have reserved rooms at the upscale London Hotel in Tartu. The rates for accommodation at the London will be \$54 for a single room, \$74 for a double, \$93-\$105 for a double deluxe and \$124 for a suite. Rates include all taxes, fees and a buffet breakfast. See its Web site at [www.londonhotel.ee](http://www.londonhotel.ee).

You will not need to rent a car at either location as many restaurants and sites are within walking distance. Taxis are plentiful, and you can still get almost anywhere for about \$5.

**Location of Services:** All meetings will be held on-site in both Saaremaa and Tartu.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Information and Registration:** Median coach airfare from the United States to the capital city, Tallinn, is about \$1,300 per person. There are two flights daily from Tallinn to the island of Saaremaa for about \$40 one way.

Additional information about other charges for bus, excursions and a few group meals will be made available on our Estonia Feast Web site at [www.kubik.org/estonia](http://www.kubik.org/estonia).

You may request an application by e-mailing Festival coordinator Victor Kubik at [estonia@kubik.org](mailto:estonia@kubik.org), by writing to 3707 Turfway Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46228-2095 or by calling (317) 216-0802.

Please come join us for a memorable and enjoyable Feast of Tabernacles!

*Victor Kubik*

## France

### Portbail

The historic crossroads of Normandy will host the Feast of Tabernacles in France in 2009. Normandy is an area rich in natural beauty and abundance. It is famous for its creamy butter and has given the world Camembert cheese and calvados—a strong apple brandy—among other famous foods. It is also rich in historically crucial sites.

Julius Caesar conquered it in the first century, when it became part of the Roman Empire. The word Normandy came later, from the Norsemen, the Vikings that plundered the region during the Dark Ages and finally settled there in the early 900s, thereby giving it a version of their name.

It was from here in 1066 that William the Conqueror, the duke of Normandy, started the expedition that made him the king of England. The members of the royal line of England from that time to the present, including Queen Elizabeth today, were and are direct descendants of William. England and France fought battles of the Hundred Years War in Normandy during the 1300s and 1400s. It was here that Joan of Arc was tried and burnt at the stake in 1431.

More recently it was on beaches and fields of Normandy that the liberation of France from Nazi Germany began in June 1944. This ancient battleground region will be a beautiful and memorable area in which to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles and the ultimate world peace it portends.

The Feast site is a VVF vacation colony on the west coast of the Cherbourg peninsula in the small resort town of Portbail, about 350 kilometers (200 miles) from Paris. Prices are inexpensive; lodgings are simple but clean and include kitchenettes. This is an all-inclusive site, where the per-person price includes lodging and three meals per day (including wine with lunch and dinner).

Services and most Festival activities will be on-site. It is not necessary to rent a car. There are playgrounds and other leisure activities on the site. Attendance is expected to be 200.

Festival excursions will visit several sites associated with the D-Day landings of June 6, 1944 (including Omaha and Utah beaches, and the Colleville-St. Laurent military cemetery), the city of Bayeux (famous for its tapestry recounting the Norman Conquest of England) and the Mont Saint-Michel (a walled city that becomes an island at high tide). The cost of excursions varies according to the destination.

International access from most countries (not necessarily U.K. or other European visitors) will be through Paris airports. We will organize coach transportation from Charles de Gaulle Airport to the Festival site for visitors arriving on Friday, Oct. 2. It is also possible to arrive by train at the Valogne train station about 15 miles from the site.

Temperatures in Normandy can be crisp in the autumn and there is also the chance of some rain. Visitors should bring a jacket or sweater.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 9 p.m.

**Registration:** More information and registration forms may be received by contacting [info-fr@ucg.org](mailto:info-fr@ucg.org); by writing to French Department, United Church of God, an International Association, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027; or by calling (513) 576-9796.

*Joel Meeker*

## Germany

### Schluchsee

Join us this year to celebrate our 11th Feast of Tabernacles in Schluchsee! The picturesque town of Schluchsee is set on Lake Schluchsee in southern Germany, in a beautiful area just 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the Black Forest's highest mountain, the Feldberg (1,493 meters, 4,860 feet).

Lake Titisee, with its scenic town of Titisee, is a 20-minute drive from Schluchsee, and the famous Rhine river waterfall in Schaffhausen/Neuhausen, Switzerland, is about 60 minutes by car.

Temperatures in early October can still be mild, but the evenings can be chilly because of Schluchsee's altitude (900 meters, approximately 3,000 feet).

Accommodations for transfer guests are available in selected hotels and vacation apartments. Vacation apartments offer kitchenettes. Half-board arrangements are available in most hotels. Lodging costs range from \$75 to \$125 for a vacation apartment and from \$50 upwards per person for hotel accommodations, which includes breakfast. (Please note: Prices depend on the dollar/euro exchange rate.)

Transfer guests can make their own reservations if they wish; lodging information is available via the Schluchsee Web site, [www.schluchsee.de](http://www.schluchsee.de).

The hall where services will be held is within walking distance of most lodging units within the main village area.

Direct "German Rail" (Deutsche Bahn AG) service is available via Freiburg to Schluchsee. However, car rental is recommended for ease of transportation and sightseeing. Schluchsee is about 180 miles (300 kilometers) south of the Frankfurt International Airport or 50 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of the Zurich International Airport.

Expected attendance is approximately 200. Most services will be held in German, with a simultaneous translation into English. International guests who do not speak German will need to bring their own FM radio and headphones to services to be able to receive the simultaneous translation.

**Location of Services:** Grosser Kursaal, Kurhaus Schluchsee (next to the Rathaus, behind the tourism office).

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Reservations:** Visitors wishing to attend should register on the UCG-Germany Web site at [www.vkg.org/fot.php](http://www.vkg.org/fot.php). Registration is required and an e-mail address is needed for registration.

*Paul Kieffer*

## Ghana

The United Church of God will host the Feast of Tabernacles in Ghana in West Africa in 2009.

Look for more information regarding Festival site location, accommodations and other information in upcoming issues of the *United News* and in the *Festival Planning Brochure*.

*Melvin Rhodes*

## Guatemala

### Antigua

The congregations in Guatemala and El Salvador will celebrate the 2009 Feast of Tabernacles in the colonial city of Antigua, Guatemala, and we welcome you to join us!

Antigua is a beautiful city that enjoys mild and peaceful weather and is located about 45 minutes from Guatemala City.

Everything is close in Antigua, and this allows visitors to tour places of interest by walking. For lodging and food, the city offers a complete range of options that any budget can manage, from five-star hotels and fancy restaurants to fast food and economy hotels. All suggested accommodations are clean and convenient.

All Feastgoers will have the opportunity to share this special time with God's people and enjoy a variety of organized activities during the Feast.

If you are interested in visiting the brethren in Guatemala for the Feast this year, you are invited!

**Location of Services:** Salón César Brañas, Antigua, Guatemala.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m.

**Reservations:** We will take reservation requests until June 30. Contact the local minister, Luis Mundo Tello, by phone at +502 22561341 or by e-mail at drmundotello@hotmail.com. You can also write to the office in Guatemala at Iglesia de Dios Unida de Guatemala, Apartado postal 1064, Guatemala.

We will be waiting for you!

Luis Mundo Tello

## Guyana

### Lethem, Rupununi

For the fifth consecutive year, the Feast of Tabernacles will be held at the Savannah Inn Hotel in Lethem, Rupununi, Guyana, in South America.

Lethem is a small town that sits on the border with Brazil, separated by the Takutu River about 300 miles from the capital, Georgetown.

The Rupununi Savannah is the home of two of Guyana's nine indigenous Amerindian tribes, the Wapishana and Mucushi people. The population of Lethem is a diverse culture with a mixture of the coastlanders (from Georgetown and the surrounding area), and the local Amerindians. Some of the residents are a mixture of Guyanese and Brazilian nationals. This creates a unique blend of cultures. Lethem is also the administrative center for the Rupununi District.

Services will be in English, the language that is spoken by most residents of Guyana. Your South American brethren would welcome you to join them at this year's Feast.

**Room accommodations:** The Savannah Inn Hotel offers 13 rooms and cabins at the following rates per night:

Regular rooms with fans, one person: G\$3,000 or US\$15.

Regular rooms with fans, two people: G\$4,000 or US\$20.

Rooms with air-conditioning for family: G\$5,000 or US\$25.

Cabins (small) with air-conditioning and refrigerator: G\$6,000 or US\$30.

Cabins (large) with air-conditioning and refrigerator: G\$7,000 or US\$35.

The hotel has a restaurant and serves meals at the following prices per person: breakfast, G\$700 or US\$3.50; lunch, G\$1,000 or US\$5; dinner, G\$1,000 or US\$5; snack, G\$400 or US\$2.

The hotel can also arrange tour packages for nature lovers.

Trans Guyana Airways has regularly scheduled flights from Ogle airport near Georgetown, the capital.

**Immunization is highly recommended.** Brethren who plan to transfer to Lethem for the Feast should contact the medical authorities in the country where they live.

**Location of Services:** The conference room at the Savannah Inn, Lethem, Rupununi.

**First Service:** Saturday, Oct. 3, at 10 a.m.

**Taxes:** All prices are subject to 16 percent V.A.T. government tax.

**Information and reservations:** For further information about the Feast site, contact Kingsley Mather by e-mail at kingsley\_mather@ucg.org or by phone at (242) 324-3169; or Gary Atkinson by e-mail at g\_atki@yahoo.co.uk.

For hotel reservations, contact Alfred Ramsaran, Savannah Inn Hotel, Lethem, Rupununi, Guyana, S.A.; by e-mail at ramsaran4al@yahoo.com or by phone at +592-772-2091.

Kingsley Mather

## India

India is the seventh largest country by geographical area, the second most populous country and the largest democracy in the world. It has a long history of important trade routes and vast kingdoms. The climate is pleasant, the people are wonderful and hospitable and the food is delicious.

The location of the Feast site is still under negotiation, but we plan to hold the Feast in the vicinity of the city of Hyderabad.

The weather in October will be warm and tropical. Services will be in English, and the expected attendance is approximately 25 people. India has many wonderful sites for tourism and excursions, which you can visit before or after the Feast of Tabernacles. Tours can be arranged without much difficulty.

Hyderabad has an international airport and guests can hire a taxi to the Feast site.

More details and updates will be announced in *UnitedNews* and the *Festival Planning Brochure*.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m.

**Information and Reservations:** For additional information and reservations, please contact David Baker by e-mail at david\_baker@ucg.org or call (585) 624-5166.

David Baker

## Italy

### Sabaudia (South Rome)

Once again we'll celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles at Sabaudia, the beautiful and peaceful seaside town near Rome, as our four-star hotel prices (full board

inclusive) are kept amazingly low. We can offer bus transportation from and to the Rome international airport on any day, before and after the Feast.

Church services will be held alternately in English and Italian, with simultaneous translation. Headphones will be provided on-site.

To give the overseas brethren the opportunity to rest on their arrival, there will be no services on the evening of Oct. 2. However, there will be two Holy Day services on Oct. 3.

English is spoken and understood by a good number of Italian brethren who are looking forward to meeting and fellowshiping with you.

Our two Feast hotels have their own private beach facing one of the most limpid and uncontaminated stretches of water in the Tyrrhenian Sea. This means that in your spare time, and especially during the Feast's Family Day, you can enjoy activities such as swimming, beach volleyball and table tennis, at no extra cost. Also, a beauty center with gym and sauna will be available to all Feast participants at a very affordable price.

The hotels' facilities provide opportunities for relaxation and fun for all the brethren and their families. The site is surrounded by sunny dunes, lakes and the National Park of Circeo. The entire area appears to the visitor as an incomparable witness of the perfect fusion of natural elements, which draws us closer to our Creator God, the greatest Artist of all. The climate is very mild even in October: night and day temperatures range from 68 to 94 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Feast site is located very close to Rome, Vatican City and Pompeii (which was destroyed by volcanic eruption in 79 B.C.). Cultural tours to those places will be offered at affordable prices. Famous historical sites in Rome, like the Coliseum, Imperial Forum, Christian catacombs, the Vatican museums and several other places, are a witness of the conquest of paganism over true Christianity. Also, a two-day, pre-Feast cultural tour in Tuscany is being planned.

Rooms are equipped with telephone, TV set, air conditioner and shower. Prices include full board (three meals a day) and tax: 67 euros (equivalent to approximately US\$87) per adult in double bedroom. Discounts are offered to children who will be sharing a room with their relatives: 50 percent discount for children 3 to 6 years old; 30 percent discount for children 7 to 12; no cost for children under 2.

The Italian cuisine is one of the most delicious in the world. The hotel staff can speak English, and we can enjoy our meals all together in its restaurant. The chefs know the distinction of clean and unclean foods, and the restaurant staff is looking forward to welcoming and serving us diligently.

Furthermore, our young Italian brethren will offer a talent show, an evening dance and a Family Day on the beach, by involving as many talented volunteers as possible. If you can either sing or play the piano or any other musical instrument, or if you have any other artistic talent that may entertain the brethren at the talent show, your talent will be most welcome. Choir singers and piano players are most welcome as well.

Your involvement in making the Feast a greater success to God's glory will be appreciated with gratitude. We hope that you and your family can make it to Italy this year. We are looking forward to welcoming you and fellowshiping with you in Jesus Christ.

**Reservations:** Your Feast application/registration should be submitted as soon as possible, through the Italian Web site ([www.labuonotizia.org](http://www.labuonotizia.org)) where more information can be found. From outside Italy you may also contact us by phone/fax (+39 035 452 35 73) or e-mail ([feast\\_italy@labuonotizia.org](mailto:feast_italy@labuonotizia.org)).

Carmelo Anastasi

## Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire)

### La Mé

The Feast of Tabernacles site in the West African nation of Côte d'Ivoire will be the rural village of La Mé about one hour's drive out of the commercial capital of Abidjan. All services will be in French. La Mé has an unair-conditioned, rustic inn that may be capable of receiving a few visitors. Attendance will be about 25 people.

There is ongoing civil unrest in Côte d'Ivoire, following a civil war that lasted several years and split the country in two. At the time of writing there is a ceasefire and the situation is relatively calm, but there have been periodic outbreaks of civil unrest and occasional combat situations. There is a significant UN peacekeeping presence in the country. The U.S. State Department issued an updated travel warning about Côte d'Ivoire on Dec. 15, 2008. Any potential visitors should take this situation into account before planning to attend the Feast in Côte d'Ivoire.

No visa is currently required from most Western countries for entry into Côte d'Ivoire. A yellow fever vaccination is required for entry.

**Registration:** More information and registration forms may be received by contacting [info-fr@ucg.org](mailto:info-fr@ucg.org); by writing to French Department, United Church of God, an International Association, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027; or by calling (513) 576-9796.

Joel Meeker

## Jamaica

We are planning to hold the Feast of Tabernacles on the north coast of Jamaica again this year. However, we are still negotiating for a venue. The details regarding the site will be posted on the UCG-Caribbean Web site [www.ucgcaribbean.org](http://www.ucgcaribbean.org) and will be printed in the *Festival Planning Brochure*.

Kingsley Mather

## Malawi

If you are looking for a unique Feast experience next to a beautiful lake, Malawi, the "warm heart of Africa" is the place for you.

Malawi is a landlocked country in Africa bordered by Tanzania to the north and Zambia to the west and is a peaceful

country filled with very friendly people. Lake Malawi is the third largest lake in Africa at 362 miles long and 10 to 50 miles wide. There are plenty of activities that you can participate in, like safaris to game parks, sailing, kayaking and snorkeling.

The climate is mild, with temperatures around 27 degrees Celsius (80 Fahrenheit) at that time of year. Entry to Malawi is easy, as an American passport is all that is necessary and visas are not required. An airport fee of around \$30 must be paid before leaving the country.

British Airways and South African Airways have many flights to Malawi. Keep in mind the country is in a malaria area and precautions should be taken. The Feast occurs during the dry season, which reduces the risk.

Housing is available at Nkopola Lodge at the Lake. All rooms at the lodge have air-conditioning and digital satellite television. The lodge has gear available for the water sport of your choice. Rates are about \$115 per day per couple at the present exchange rate (subject to change). This includes breakfast. Although the lodge is located within walking distance of the hall where services are held, it is advisable to hire a vehicle.

Lake Malawi offers the opportunity for a unique African experience.

**Reservations:** If you are interested in attending the Feast in Malawi, call Morgen Kriedemann at +27 82 929 8844 or send an e-mail to [morgenk@fotrsa.co.za](mailto:morgenk@fotrsa.co.za) or [morgen\\_kriedemann@ucg.org](mailto:morgen_kriedemann@ucg.org).

Morgen Kriedemann

## Mauritius

### Flic-en-Flac

Mauritius is a beautiful tropical island in the Indian Ocean located some 600 miles east of Madagascar. It is a well-known tourist destination with an excellent infrastructure and safe, stable conditions.

The beachfront resort town of Flic-en-Flac will host the Feast of Tabernacles in Mauritius this year. Lodgings will be in Western-standard, air-conditioned vacation apartments near the beach.

Services will be within a few minutes-walk of the apartments, which feature full kitchens. Meals can either be self-catered or taken in one of the many local restaurants, ranging from simple and inexpensive to very high quality. Expected attendance is 25. There will be a Church elder present during the Feast. Services will be in English with French translation available. Most Mauritian brethren speak both French and English.

Activities will include a beach outing and visits to the island's beautiful botanical gardens and to the colorful waterfront of the capital city of Port Louis with its charming market. No visa or vaccinations are required for nationals of most Western countries.

Access is through the SSR International Airport in the south of the island. Daily flights arrive from London, Paris, Johannesburg, Mumbai and Abu Dhabi. Taxis can be taken from the airport to Flic-en-Flac.

Temperatures will be tropically warm at Feast time, with the chance of occasional showers.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 8 p.m.

**Registration:** More information and registration forms may be received by contacting info-fr@ucg.org; by writing to French Department, United Church of God, an International Association, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027; or by calling (513) 576-9796.

*Joel Meeker*

## Mexico

### Acapulco

The Feast site for Mexico this year will be beautiful Acapulco. The price for the UCG group per room for the three-star Avalon Excalibur Acapulco Hotel (the official Feast hotel where services will be held) is 650 pesos per night for quadruple occupancy rooms (including children). The same price applies for 1 to 4 people and includes 17 percent for taxes. (The rate of exchange is about 13 pesos to \$1 at the time of writing.)

For your convenience, we recommend that all international visitors stay at the Avalon Hotel since all of the Mexican brethren will also be staying there. Most activities will take place there as well.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Location of Services:** Salon Acapulco; please bring your hymnals and a portable FM radio for translation reception.

**Reservations:** For more information about the hotel, visit hotels.bookit.com/mexico/acapulco/avalonexcaliburacapulco.

To make your reservation, call +52 744 485-5050 (from the United States). Ask for Dulce Navarrete (hotel group manager) at extension 30218. Mention that you are with the "United Church of God group" (Grupo Iglesia de Dios Unida). Dulce or one of her assistants will help you.

After making your reservation at the hotel, you need to register with Pablo Dimakis (Church reservation coordinator) by e-mail at pablodimakis@hotmail.com or by phone from the United States at +52 552 621-1181.

For more information, please check our Web site [www.unidamex.org.mx](http://www.unidamex.org.mx).

We will look forward to seeing you in Acapulco for our best Feast ever!

*Larry Roybal*

## New Zealand

### Taupo

Volcanically created Lake Taupo is the stunning backdrop for this year's Feast in New Zealand. The beautiful resort town of Taupo is located on New Zealand's North Island, just four hours' drive south of Auckland International Airport. Taupo may be reached by rental car or bus, traveling through the green countryside of the lush Waikato farmland. Regular domestic air flights also service Taupo from Auckland and Wellington.

Taupo, population 30,000, is nestled on the northern end of beautiful Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake.

Lake Taupo is internationally famous for its rainbow trout and offers a wide range of chartered fishing boats for hire. Bungee jumping, Zorbing, sky-diving and various adventure sports are attractions in this region.

Places of interest include the Aratiatia Rapids and Huka Falls, Craters of the Moon boiling mud pools and the Wairakei Geothermal Project. Thermal hot pools are included in some accommodation units, as well as in inexpensive public facilities. Tourist information about many activities is provided on Taupo's official Web site [www.laketaupo.nz](http://www.laketaupo.nz) and [www.destination-nz.com](http://www.destination-nz.com).

Within an hour's drive of Taupo is the city of Rotorua, with its many Maori and thermal attractions. Close by are areas for fly-fishing, hunting and bush walking. Taupo offers visitors a wide range of attractions making this a truly marvelous Feast site.

Mount Ruapehu is a two-hour drive south of Lake Taupo. The mountain, an active volcano, is known for its excellent snow skiing. The ski fields are normally operating during the Feast period.

Services will be held at the Suncourt Hotel and Conference Centre ([www.suncourt.co.nz](http://www.suncourt.co.nz)) in central Taupo.

Taupo offers an excellent range of accommodations, including backpacker hostels, motels, lodges, holiday rental homes and four-star hotels. Prices range from NZ\$40 to over \$200 per night. Useful New Zealand accommodation Web sites include [www.aatravel.co.nz](http://www.aatravel.co.nz), [www.jasons.com](http://www.jasons.com) and [www.holidayhomes.co.nz](http://www.holidayhomes.co.nz). Current exchange rates are found on [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com).

Our Feast weather is normally temperate, with cooler nights and warm sunny days. Visitors should bring warm clothing, as it can be cool in the evenings.

The New Zealand brethren look forward to welcoming you and the many overseas visitors who visit us each year. Attendance is expected to be over 100 people this year.

**Location of Services:** Suncourt Hotel and Conference Centre, 14 Northcroft St., Taupo; phone +64-7-3788265.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Reservations:** Visitors wishing to attend the Taupo site, please contact Feast coordinator Jeff Caudle, P.O. Box 22, Shortland St., Auckland 1140, New Zealand; e-mail [jeff\\_caudle@ucg.org](mailto:jeff_caudle@ucg.org); or phone +64 9 817 5496.

*Art Verschoor*

## Philippines

### Baguio City

Baguio is a city in the northern mountains of Luzon some 260 kilometers (160 miles) north of Manila. Being a temperate place in this predominantly warm and humid tropical country, it has been known as the summer capital of the Philippines.

As in the past seven consecutive years, services for this year's Feast of Tabernacles will again be held at the conference hall of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) Ang Ating Tahanan grounds. The hall where services

will be held can easily accommodate as many as 150 Feastgoers.

The GSP grounds have cottages and dormitory-type accommodations where Feastgoers can lodge within walking distance from the service hall. But for those who are more adventurous and prefer to stay outside the Festival grounds, nearby hotels and inns are also available. Costs of accommodations range from \$6 per person per day for dormitory-type accommodations to \$75 per night for hotel room accommodations.

This year, we are expecting some 130 to 150 Feastgoers. These are mostly brethren coming from the Luzon Island region of the country. But we always welcome and are looking forward to meeting as many brethren as possible who are coming from international areas who would like to enjoy and celebrate the Feast with us.

**Location of Services:** Conference hall of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) Ang Ating Tahanan grounds along South Drive, Baguio City, Philippines.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 6:30 p.m.

**Reservations:** Those interested may get in touch with Rey Evasco by e-mail at [ucgmn1@pacific.net.ph](mailto:ucgmn1@pacific.net.ph) or by phone at +63 (917) 814 7826 or by mail at MCPO Box 4774, Makati City 1287, Philippines.

*Rey Evasco*

### Davao City

What are you looking for in a Festival site? If it is the strong spiritual component rather than luxury and pleasure, plus plenty of fellowship, then perhaps, you may want to attend the Davao Festival site! It can be a good life-changing experience!

Davao City is considered the "fruit basket of the country," sitting on Mindanao Island. As a bonus, the Feast of Tabernacles falls near the peak of fruiting season, giving you the chance to sample tropical fruits galore.

Traditionally, this Festival site focuses more on spiritual food and nourishment above material consideration. Most visitors have been inspired by the Q&A sessions, where questions are answered straight from the Bible and where the duration is not by the clock, but by the audience's interest. Separately focused Bible-based sessions are also held for teens, young adults and married couples. Scheduled activities and a variety show include all age groups from children to seniors, producing a balanced Feast.

Beyond these nice physical features and the traditional feasting on roasted calf on each of the Holy Days, the Festival site ambience lends itself to enhanced fellowship and focuses on our being called out of this world and into a better world. Services and Bible studies are all conducted in English (with translation into Cebuano as needed).

The Festival venue this year will again be at the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) Regional Training Camp in Daliiao, Toril, Davao City, which is about a kilometer from the seacoast, and is familiar to most taxi drivers. It is about 20 kilometers (12.5 miles) from the Davao International Airport.

This Festival site may not have classy accommodations at the camp, but the

brethren's hearts and hospitality more than accommodate visitors. Nonetheless, all rooms at the camp have screens and some are air-conditioned. Meals at the camp will be served in the air-conditioned dining hall. Designed to make it most affordable, it is hard to beat the offer of three buffet meals per day with an air-conditioned room for only about \$10 per person per day. Private rooms are somewhat limited.

For those who desire standard hotel accommodations and meals, downtown hotels located between 1.5 and 15 kilometers from the Festival site offer more choices and range of prices. Downtown five-star buffets costs about \$18 per person per meal. Rates already include taxes. Tips are not obligatory. (Presently US\$1 exchange rate is about PhP45.)

**First service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m.

**Information and Reservations:** For more information about Davao City, visit [www.davaotraveler.com](http://www.davaotraveler.com).

For more information about the Feast site, please contact the Festival coordinator, Edmond Macaraeg, through any of the following: e-mail: [ed\\_macaraeg@ucg.org](mailto:ed_macaraeg@ucg.org); mail: P.O. Box 81840, DCCPO 8000 Davao City, Philippines; phone/fax: +63 82 241-0150; or mobile phone: +63 918 919 4346. We suggest Festival applicants register online at our Web site [www.ucg.org.ph/feast](http://www.ucg.org.ph/feast).

*Edmond Macaraeg*

## Rwanda

### Muhazi

Beautiful Lake Muhazi in north central Rwanda will be the site of the Feast of Tabernacles for 2009. Attendance at this French- and Kinyarwanda-speaking site is expected to be 70.

Lodging, meals and services will be in a house and on its grounds on the lakeshore. Meals will be prepared by those attending this site. Visitors would need to stay in Kigali and commute to the site each day via a one-hour taxi ride. At present the situation is somewhat tense in parts of Rwanda due to recent military clashes on the North Kivu border with Congo. This situation appears to be improving. Most interior regions of Rwanda are calm.

Visitors can arrange a trip to visit mountain gorillas in the Virunga National Park on a day trip from Kigali. Gorilla-visiting permits cost \$500 per person for one hour and must be arranged in advance as quantities are limited.

Festival activities will include a family activity day, a talent show and Bible studies.

At the time of writing no visa is required for U.S. and most European citizens. Nationals of other countries should check with the Rwandan Embassy in their country. A yellow fever vaccination may be required for entry depending on point of origin.

**Registration:** More information and registration forms may be received by contacting info-fr@ucg.org; by writing to French Department, United Church of God, an International Association, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027; or by calling (513) 576-9796.

*Joel Meeker*

## South Africa

### George

George is a beautiful town situated at the foot of the Outeniqua mountain range. There are a variety of game reserves and animal parks to visit, for those who are interested. It is very close to the warm Indian Ocean and is surrounded by magnificent mountain ranges, lakes and natural forests. At Feast time, the weather is normally mild and pleasant.

The locals are known for their friendliness and desire to assist tourists. During the Feast, brethren meet in a hall with abundant parking under shady trees within the secure grounds of the Moreson Children's Home. There are plenty of quality accommodations to meet the needs of all who attend the Feast site in George.

**First service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Information:** For more information, please visit our Web site, [www.fotrsa.co.za](http://www.fotrsa.co.za), or contact the Festival elder, Stan Botha, at [stanbotha@xsinet.co.za](mailto:stanbotha@xsinet.co.za).

*Stan Botha*

### Uvongo

The town of Uvongo is situated on the Hibiscus Coast of the province of Kwazulu Natal, approximately 120 kilometers (75 miles) south of Durban International Airport. The warm waters of the Indian Ocean, the mild subtropical climate and ample accommodations make it an ideal Feast site for both local and overseas visitors.

Accommodations are very reasonably priced compared to most other areas in the country. The average price of a three-bedroom, self-catering apartment is 500 rand (US\$50) per night.

Most of the brethren usually choose to stay at the popular Laguna La Crete complex, which has over 100 two- and three-bedroom apartments. Many of these apartments have spectacular views of the Uvongo Lagoon and coastline. Often schools of dolphins or an occasional whale can be seen close to shore. For the more adventurous, offshore dolphin/whale watching can be arranged.

A few kilometers inland from the coast, the scenery changes quite dramatically and there are many scenic drives and sites such as the spectacular Oribi Gorge. It is here that the brave-hearted can bungee jump a distance of over 100 meters (328 feet) down into the gorge.

There are many fine restaurants in the area, as well as two large shopping malls.

Accommodation costs range from \$25 to \$100 per night, depending on the type of accommodation that is required.

**Location of Services:** Uvongo Municipal Hall.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** There is a 14 percent VAT on most purchased items, which is refundable to international visitors at point of departure. Receipts will be required.

**Information and reservations:** Visitors requiring further information should visit the Web site [www.fotrsa.co.za](http://www.fotrsa.co.za) where there are links to Hibiscus Coast Tourism or contact Neville Smith via e-mail at [neville\\_smith@ucg.org](mailto:neville_smith@ucg.org).

For accommodation bookings at Laguna la Crete, please contact Rhona Worthmann of Pam Golding Properties via e-mail at [rworthmann@pam-golding.co.za](mailto:rworthmann@pam-golding.co.za). Mention that you are from United Church of God in order to qualify for the special group rate.

*Neville Smith*

## Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is a small island of diversity off the southern coast of India. The climate is tropical, the people are wonderful and hospitable, and the food is delicious.

The location of the Feast site is still under negotiation. Visitors will enjoy some beautiful sunsets over the Indian Ocean. The weather will be warm and tropical with sunny skies tempered with the cooling effect of some tropical rains.

Services will be in English, and the expected attendance is approximately 30 people. One of the highlights of the Feast will be the talent show. Short excursions can also be arranged during the Feast and longer excursions to the hill country (tea-producing area) can be arranged before or after the Feast.

International guests will arrive at the Colombo International Airport and can hire a taxi to the site.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m.

More details and updates will be announced in *United News* or you may check our Web site at [ucg-srilanka.org/feast](http://ucg-srilanka.org/feast).

For additional information and reservations, please contact David Baker by e-mail at [david\\_baker@ucg.org](mailto:david_baker@ucg.org) or call (585) 624-5166.

*David Baker*

## Thailand

### Bangkok

We are pleased to announce Bangkok, Thailand, as a new Feast of Tabernacles site for 2009. (Bangkok is replacing the Singapore Feast site.) Bangkok, known as the City of Angels, is a modern Asian city, rich and multifaceted in culture and scenery. Thailand is often described as the "Land of Smiles" due to the friendliness and hospitality of the Thai people.

The Feast venue will be the five-star Siam City Hotel ([www.siamhotels.com/sch](http://www.siamhotels.com/sch)) located at 477 Si Ayuthaya Rd., Phayathai, Bangkok. The Siam City Hotel has offered us a very good rate of 3400 baht per night (approximately US\$100) for a single deluxe room and 3600 baht per night (approximately US\$105) for a double deluxe room. These rates include a full buffet breakfast.

Four group activities are planned, the Siam Niramit Show (including dinner), Grand Palace tour, Damnern Saduak Floating Market and the River Kwai tour with buffet lunch. The total cost of the group activities, including transportation, will be approximately \$122 per person.

Brethren from Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and possibly Hong Kong will also be attending the Bangkok Feast site.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m.

**Information and Reservations:** For further details about the Feast in Thailand and to register online, please visit our Web site at [ucg.org.ph/fot09thailand](http://ucg.org.ph/fot09thailand). If you are interested in attending the Bangkok Feast site, you must register online. All bookings will be handled by DJ International Travel. Once you register, your information will be forwarded to the travel agent. DJ International can also help arrange pre- or post-Feast tours to other areas of Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries.

If you require further information or cannot register online, please contact David Baker via email at [david\\_baker@ucg.org](mailto:david_baker@ucg.org) or by phone at (585) 624-5166.

*David Baker*

## Togo

### Kpalimé

Members from Togo and Benin will celebrate the Feast at a private school complex in the town of Kpalimé about 75 miles north of the capital city of Lomé. About 70 people are expected to attend this French-speaking site. As this site is French-speaking only, anyone wishing to transfer needs to be fluent in the language.

Lodging, meals and services will be at the site, and those attending the Feast will prepare the meals. One rustic hotel is available to visitors in Kpalimé.

The situation is currently calm in Togo, and travel there is relatively safe, though there has been political unrest and some rioting in recent years, especially targeting French nationals, following a controversial election. Potential visitors should monitor the situation.

Activities will include hikes, a family games day, soccer matches and a talent show. A visa and a yellow fever vaccination are required for entry into Togo.

**Registration:** More information and registration forms may be received by contacting [info-fr@ucg.org](mailto:info-fr@ucg.org); or by writing to French Department, United Church of God, an International Association, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027; or by calling (513) 576-9796.

*Joel Meeker*

## United States

### Bend-Redmond, Oregon

The Bend-Redmond area is pleased to host the Feast of Tabernacles again in 2009. Nestled in the pines of Central Oregon, Bend is the hub of the Cascade Mountains resort area—a truly millennial setting. Warm, sunny days and crisp, cool nights are typical autumn weather during the Fall Festival season.

Central Oregon offers a wide range of family-oriented activities. The nationally acclaimed High Desert Museum features impressive indoor natural history exhibits and live outdoor animal programs. Newberry National Volcanic Monument offers views of interesting features of the area's volcanic past, including a large lava cave to explore on foot. Crater Lake is within driving distance of the Bend-Redmond area.

Outdoor activities include sightseeing, hiking or biking, horseback riding, hay

rides, rock climbing, caves to explore, agate and fossil hunting, fishing, canoeing, boating and whitewater rafting. Golfers will enjoy some of the nation's best courses with reasonable green fees.

Bend has three expanding shopping malls, including a factory outlet mall and the award-winning Old Mill District on the banks of the Deschutes River. The small tourist town of Sisters is a must for window-shopping and souvenirs. Resort village Sunriver offers shopping, dining and housing and a nature center.

Central Oregon offers a wide variety of restaurants, including a unique dining facility that offers a 32-ounce steak (or a whole chicken) with all the trimmings in the rustic atmosphere of a former cowboy shack.

Check our Web site ([www.ucgbend.org](http://www.ucgbend.org)) for more details as they become available.

**Location of Services:** Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center, Middle Sister Conference Room, 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond (easy to find and conveniently located less than a mile from the Bend-Redmond airport).

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

*Larry J. Walker*

### Branson, Missouri

Branson is a world-class, family-oriented resort town located in the hardwood-forested hills of the Ozarks. Fall colors provide a stunning, almost millennial setting during the Feast.

Situated beside two beautiful lakes with miles of hiking trails meandering along clear, flowing streams, Branson has something for everyone. An afternoon drive through the spectacular scenery brings you into close contact with God's beautiful creation.

In addition to its natural beauty, Branson offers an almost endless variety of recreation and entertainment options for everyone. The area is home to several museums including the Titanic museum. The entire family will enjoy Silver Dollar City, which hosts the National Festival of Crafts during the Feast. Kids will love the go-cart tracks and the miniature golf courses. Music enthusiasts are treated to more than 90 live music shows, while golfing enthusiasts can enjoy any of 10 championship golf courses.

Branson Landing is the latest addition to the shopping and dining scene, providing upscale shopping and dining in many fine restaurants. In the evening you can enjoy a magnificent water show, synchronized to lights, music and fire!

The site will again provide added educational opportunities during afternoon or evening seminars in addition to regular services and Bible studies.

Branson provides a wide variety of housing options ranging from first-class hotels to kitchenettes and cabins. For those who want or need more space, you can enjoy the spacious beauty of one of many reasonably priced condominiums overlooking the hills or lakes.

Weather during the Feast is usually mild, with lows in the 50s and highs in the 60s and 70s.

Services are held in a modern theater with plush seating. A room for those with severe allergies is available.

**Location of Services:** Baldknobbers Theater, 76 Country Blvd., Branson, Missouri.

**First Service:** Saturday, Oct. 3, at 10 a.m.

**Taxes:** Vary from 6 to 13 percent.

*Michael Blackwell*

### Bushkill (Poconos), Pennsylvania

The Northeast Region will once again host the Feast of Tabernacles in the beautiful Pocono Mountains at Bushkill, Pennsylvania. The fall colors and peaceful surroundings make Bushkill a popular venue for Feastgoers.

We are pleased to announce that although the majority of the housing for the Feast will again be located at the Fernwood Hotel and Resort, the location for Church services has been moved to the Mountain Laurel Center for the Performing Arts. The MLCPA is a nonprofit performing arts center serving the Pocono Mountains and is located just west of the famous Bushkill Falls.

Fernwood Hotel and Resort is one of the largest vacation destination resorts in the Pocono Mountain region. This facility offers a variety of hotel rooms, including suites as well as one- and two-bedroom villas. All hotel rooms are non-smoking and a convenient walk to the multiple restaurants located in the resort.

The 440-acre resort provides a picturesque backdrop for your Festival memories. Surrounded by the rolling hills of Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains, the resort offers a host of activities and amenities. These include an 18-hole par 71 golf course, themed restaurants, live entertainment, fitness facilities and indoor and outdoor pools.

Or you may want to take a hike around the resort and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation area. Other activities include scenic rides on horseback, navigating the Delaware on a river trip, taking in some miniature golf or taking a hike in the mountains.

No visit would be complete without making a trip to Bushkill Falls. Often referred to as "the Niagara of Pennsylvania," Bushkill Falls provide a relaxing, yet breathtaking atmosphere. We are considering this venue once again for our Family Day.

Those desiring more vigorous activity may walk the wooden pathways and staircases winding around the park. There are four trails around the property with varying levels of difficulty, with the longest being 2½ miles. Bushkill Falls also offers miniature golf and paddleboats on the property. There is also a little village of stores and snack bars and museums as well. Don't forget to pack your cameras for this tour.

Additional trips in the region are also being considered.

If you would like to see more of what Fernwood Hotel and Resorts has to offer, please go to [www.resortusa.com/fernwood.php](http://www.resortusa.com/fernwood.php).

**Location of Services:** Mt. Laurel Center for the Performing Arts, Bushkill Falls Rd., Bushkill, Pennsylvania.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** Sales and hotel tax combined is 12 percent.

*Todd Carey*

### Escondido (San Diego North County), California

The San Diego area will host the 2009 Feast of Tabernacles in the beautiful concert auditorium at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido, California. Escondido is a northern suburb of San Diego, about 30 minutes north of downtown and San Diego's Lindbergh International Airport. The airports in Ontario and Orange County are about 1½ hours away. Los Angeles International Airport is approximately 2½ hours away.

The "North County" of San Diego offers a variety of housing options from homes and condos on the beach (25 to 30 minutes away) to economy properties near the meeting facility. Available optional activities in the San Diego area include the world-famous San Diego Zoo and Balboa Park, the maritime exhibitions on San Diego's harbor, Old Town San Diego, Sea World, the Wild Animal Park outside Escondido, Lego Land in nearby Carlsbad, and the beautiful wine country of nearby Temecula.

We will host a number of special activities for all age groups, including a Family Day, teen activities, young adult activities, seniors' lunch and educational seminars. We are expecting about 950 to 1,000 in attendance. Average temperatures range from highs in the upper 80s to lows in the 60s.

**Location of Services:** California Center for the Arts Escondido, 340 North Escondido Blvd., Escondido, California.

**First Services:** Saturday, Oct. 3, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. (no opening night service).

**Feast Site Web Page:** [www.ucgsd.org](http://www.ucgsd.org) (San Diego congregation's Web page).

**Taxes:** 10 percent room tax and 8 percent sales tax.

*Dave Register*

### Jekyll Island, Georgia

Located on the Atlantic Ocean, just off the southern coast of Georgia, Jekyll Island was once an exclusive resort area for American millionaires in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The state of Georgia now owns the island and has opened it to everyone.

Visitors come from around the world to enjoy the peaceful environment that offers beautiful beaches, hiking, fishing (requires a license), golfing, tennis and wildlife viewing (65 percent of the island is a nature preserve). A tour of Millionaires' Village is one of the highlight attractions. Horseback riding is available on Jekyll Island and nearby St. Simons Island.

This year we plan to have two activities for the whole family: a family beach party and a family dance.

Temperatures on Jekyll Island range from 60 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit (16 to 24 Celsius), with the possibility of rain. Major airports for arrival and departure are Savannah, Georgia; Brunswick, Georgia; and Jacksonville, Florida. A rental car is advised. There is a \$3 toll per vehicle every time one enters the island; one-week passes may also be purchased. For more information on Jekyll Island, go to [www.jekyllisland.com/index.html](http://www.jekyllisland.com/index.html).

Expected attendance is 1,200. A fragrance-controlled room will be available.

For details about activities, see [www.jekyllfeast.org/](http://www.jekyllfeast.org/).

**Location of Services:** Hartley Auditorium, 1 Beachview Dr., Jekyll Island, Georgia.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** Local tax is 5 percent; state tax is 7 percent.

*David Treybig*

### Kerrville, Texas

Kerrville offers a wonderful taste of the Texas hill country. The accommodations are first-rate, the people are friendly and the scenery is definitely Southwestern. Sparkling spring-fed creeks meander through the rugged terrain and rolling hills of the Guadalupe River Valley.

We have reserved the Inn of the Hills Conference and Resort ([www.innofthehills.com](http://www.innofthehills.com)). Having exclusive use of the conference resort will give us unlimited opportunities for intimate fellowship and activities. Most of the additional housing is available within three miles of the site. With so many of our members staying on property or within a short drive, and our exclusive use of the meeting rooms, we plan to offer special venues for teens, singles, young adults and senior citizens. Services will be held in the beautiful 1,100-seat ballroom.

San Antonio is only one hour away via direct interstate highway. A trip to San Antonio will give our brethren the opportunity to visit the famous River Walk, River Walk Mall, the Alamo and other popular sites.

The Kerrville area offers 14 wineries within an hour's drive of the resort. Historic Fredericksburg, with its German heritage and over 150 shops and boutiques, is only a few miles away.

Kerrville's riverfront location lends itself to a variety of water-oriented recreational activities, such as canoeing, kayaking, tubing, fishing, swimming or waterside family picnicking. Numerous antique shops, contemporary art galleries and boutiques as well as two challenging golf courses add to Kerrville's appeal. Kerrville also offers a four-star-style restaurant for the gourmet.

The Inn of the Hills Conference Resort has a beautiful courtyard with pool and spa. Its on-site restaurant, the Alpine Lodge, has seating for 160 with the Inn Pub open nightly offering live entertainment.

Complimentary membership to the Family Sports Center, located just across the street, is available to those staying on property. This facility has an indoor pool, lap pool, basketball, racquetball and volleyball courts, weight-lifting center, sauna, a 16-lane bowling alley and other amenities.

With all of its out-of-the-way charm, Kerrville is only one hour from beautiful San Antonio, only 1½ hours from Austin, four hours from Houston and five hours from the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The elevation is 1,645 feet, with a mild climate and temperatures averaging a high of 80 and low of 52 degrees Fahrenheit.

Visit our Web site at [www.ucgfortworth.org/kerrville/](http://www.ucgfortworth.org/kerrville/) for additional information and updates.

**Location of Services:** Inn of the Hills, 1001 Junction Hwy., Kerrville, Texas.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** Room tax is 13 percent.

*Britton M. Taylor*

### Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii

Beautiful Lahaina, Maui, will again be the Hawaiian Feast site this year. Services will be held at the elegant Maui Theatre, a modern, comfortable, air-conditioned auditorium seating close to 700 people.

There will be many activities available for young and old to make it a more family-oriented Feast. Among these are a traditional luau by the oceanfront, a children's party, a seniors' luncheon, singles' and teens' hospitality get-togethers, Bible studies for teens and young adults, a family dance and a Family Day picnic and snorkeling at the famous Kapalua Bay.

Tourist attractions that can be contracted include dinner cruises, road to Hana tour, the Maui Ocean Center, helicopter rides, scuba diving, deep-sea fishing and plenty of nearby surfing sites. Also, dozens of shops and numerous restaurants are only a block away from the meeting place.

There is a varied range of prices for housing, with many types of hotels and condominiums available at the famous Kaanapali beach area. Most housing is within 20 minutes from the meeting place.

The island of Maui is located about 80 miles south of Honolulu, Oahu. There are numerous direct flights to Maui from the U.S. mainland. Check with your travel agent or go online. Daily temperatures should be in the 80s Fahrenheit (26 to 31 degrees Celsius).

Please remember the attire at services is Hawaiian wear—for men, it's nice Hawaiian shirts and slacks—no suits or ties are used; for ladies, it's summer or Hawaiian dresses or pantsuits.

**Location of Services:** Maui Theatre, 878 Front St., Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii.

**First Service:** Saturday, Oct. 3, at 10 a.m.

**Taxes:** 11:5 percent.

*Mario Seiglie*

### Panama City Beach, Florida

The Edgewater Beach Resort along the coastline of Panama City Beach will again host the Feast of Tabernacles in Florida for 2009.

Edgewater's 110-acre gated community incorporates an array of activities and amenities sure to make a successful Feast, with 11 swimming pools, 12 tennis courts, 11 shuffleboard courts, four hot tubs, a tanning salon, gift shop, game arcade and a full-service restaurant.

A complimentary tram service is available for transportation across the resort and to the meeting facility if needed. Part of the resort rests along the Gulf of Mexico. Step back a few yards from the deck surrounding Edgewater's famous Lagoon Pool. Landscaped islands and several flowing waterfalls find their way into this 11,000-square-foot Polynesian-style, free-form pool, while several whirlpools and reflecting ponds make this tropical area complete.

The other part of the resort, across the street connected by a 10-foot wide pedestrian walkway, houses the meeting facility and a cluster of golf villas; a 9-hole, par 3 executive golf course with nine lakes

and several island greens; a complete clubhouse and pro shop; 11 Plexicushion tennis courts with six lighted for night play; and also shuffleboard courts.

Edgewater's health club is a 1,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility that features everything from cardiovascular exercise equipment to an aerobic salon to a massage therapy room.

**Housing:** Approximately 70 percent of the units are oceanfront, which includes studios, one-, two- and three-bedroom condominiums. The remaining condos surround the meeting facility and golf course. Edgewater Resort offers studios at \$79 per night, one-bedroom units at \$95 to \$122; two-bedroom units at \$105 to \$145 and three-bedrooms units at \$125 to \$191.

Long Beach Resort, a mile away and managed by Edgewater Beach Resort, provides studios at \$72 per night, one-bedroom units at \$101, two-bedroom units at \$128 and three-bedroom units at \$155.

A luxurious property, also managed by Edgewater, is the Majestic Beach Towers, which will offer rates comparable to those at Edgewater Beach Resort. This is an oceanfront property just a half mile from the Edgewater Conference Center. Additional housing accommodations will also be available nearby, some oceanfront. Some of these properties offer efficiencies, and some have full kitchens.

The long-term success of this site depends on members only using the housing listed in our *Festival Planning Brochure*. The low price for the meeting facility saves the Church thousands of dollars each year and Edgewater Resort trusts the cooperation of our members to use the housing listed in our brochure. Some condos in the area may be less expensive, but the rates at Edgewater are comparable.

For more information, check out the resort's Web page at [www.edgewaterbeachresort.com](http://www.edgewaterbeachresort.com). A fragrance-controlled room will be available.

**Location of Services:** Edgewater Beach Resort, 11212 Front Beach Rd., Panama City Beach, Florida.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** 10.09 percent at Edgewater.

*Harold Rhodes*

### Snowshoe, West Virginia

High atop Cheat Mountain is a destination worth considering for your 2009 Feast site. If your vision of a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles includes staying in a beautiful condominium in a small mountain village, then Snowshoe is the place for you.

Snowshoe, West Virginia, has 11,000 spectacular acres of mountain wilderness and sits nearly one mile above sea level. Expect comfortable daytime temperatures (60s to 70s) accompanied by cool crisp evenings. Take in the beautiful fall colors during the day. Share one another's company around a gas fire pit in the evening.

Some of the many attractions include a lake with canoes and paddleboats, bungee jumping, ski lift rides, mountain biking, golf, an indoor water park, hiking and more. We are likely to provide opportunity for one or more scenic railroad tours. Nearby is the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and Green

Bank Science Center where tours are available.

Of course, we will have the traditional Feast activities, such as a family dance and/or variety show, seniors' luncheon, teen activity, Family Day activities and ample time to fellowship with one another throughout the village.

The nearest grocery store of any size is nearly 30 minutes away, so it would be wise to bring food in with you to stock your condo. There are several restaurants in the village as well.

The type of housing ranges from motel to four-bedroom condos. The Church has negotiated significant discounts for everyone. You can find information about Snowshoe village at [www.snowshoemtn.com](http://www.snowshoemtn.com).

Services will be held within walking distance of virtually all housing. A free shuttle will be available to pick up anyone in need at their front door and take them to the front door of the Expo center for services each day.

Take advantage of the opportunity to see an absolutely gorgeous part of the country, while enjoying the highlight of the year with members of your spiritual family. Because of the elevation, it is not a recommended site for those with breathing difficulties.

**Location of Services:** Expo Center in Snowshoe, West Virginia.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** Hotel tax rate is 12 percent.

*Mark Winner*

### Steamboat Springs, Colorado

This year is the next to the last in our contract with the Steamboat Grand Resort Hotel. It has not been determined if we will be coming back or going elsewhere. This will depend, in part, on rates relative to the quality of accommodations. For a Colorado mountain resort we have enjoyed excellent rates at Steamboat Springs.

The hotel has a variety of room types, including one-, two- and three-bedroom condominiums—even penthouses. Early housing for the three-bedroom condos at the Steamboat Grand will be available only for those with special needs such as a handicap and should be arranged with the Festival coordinator through your pastor. Other facilities have three- and four-bedroom condos.

We are expecting an attendance of 600 to 700. This is capacity. The meeting room is in the host hotel, which is very convenient for those staying there.

For additional housing we are listing some nice condominiums at similar rates within short walking distance. Lower cost housing is about a mile and a half away.

A definite plus at this site is the comparatively low elevation of 6,710 feet. A few may experience some side effects from this elevation, but not nearly so much as at some of the considerably higher sites used previously.

Dining opportunities are varied and include a few higher-end restaurants. There is little in the way of well-known chain restaurants. Most shops are downtown, with a few on the hill above the hotel. There will be a certain amount of construction on the hill over the next few years, but its impact on the Feast should be minimal.

Available activities include golfing, mountain biking, hiking, fishing (including guided fly-fishing), hot-air balloon-

ing, kayaking, rock climbing, bowling, ice-skating, miniature golf, ATV riding and horseback riding. The alpine slide, chair lifts and boat rentals are closed this late in the fall.

Some of the other attractions are Old Town Hot Springs, Fish Creek Falls (a short hike), museums, art galleries, three state parks (Stagecoach, Steamboat and Pearl, all with lakes), and 150 mineral springs in the vicinity of the town.

Steamboat Springs offers a free shuttle to and from most places in town. Yampa Valley Airport (25 minutes away) is serviced by commercial jets. Rental cars are available. For transportation from Denver International Airport call Alpine Taxi at (800) 343-7433 or go online at [www.alpinetaxi.com](http://www.alpinetaxi.com).

**Location of Services:** Priest Creek Ballroom, Steamboat Grand Resort Hotel, 2300 Mt. Werner Circle. Coming into town from the south on Hwy. 40, turn right onto Mt. Werner Rd., then left on Mt. Werner Circle.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes and Resort Fees:** Taxes and fees are 16.97 percent at the Steamboat Grand and 11.4 percent at other locations.

*Larry Neff*

### Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

Spectacular autumn colors, unique sandstone formations, enormous indoor water parks, go-kart racing, hiking, riding the famous amphibious "Ducks"—all this and more is what makes the Wisconsin Dells a great Festival site unique in its family atmosphere and accessibility.

Services will once again be held at the beautiful Crystal Grand Music Theater. This modern facility seats more than 1,900 people and is ideal for lingering conversations and fellowship. Parking is conveniently located next to the facility. Most accommodations are within a few minutes' drive of the Crystal Grand Music Theater as well as the dozens of attractions and quaint shops.

The Dells offers a large variety of housing including ultramodern theme resorts with elaborate indoor water parks and multifamily condominiums. There are also homes and cottages available for rent on the nearby lakes, rivers or in the woods. A large variety of condominiums are available in various price ranges. Traditional-style motels offer an exceptional value, with several facilities offering large indoor water parks and whirlpool suites, so ask about them when making reservations. All establishments require a housing deposit, and cancellation policies vary, so ask about that as well when making reservations.

The Madison, Wisconsin, airport is an hour away from the Dells; the Milwaukee airport is two hours away; and Chicago O'Hare is three hours away. The weather at Wisconsin Dells can vary from beautiful autumn weather to crisper temperatures.

Additional information can be found on the Web at [www.ucgwi.org](http://www.ucgwi.org).

**Location of Services:** Crystal Grand Music Theater, Rt. 23 (one-half mile east of I-90), Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.

**First Service:** Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** Hotel and sales tax total 11 percent.

*Dan Dowd*