

Garden Tomb Newsletter: April 2017

March is over, Easter is coming, and a new season has arrived!



We welcomed over 36,000 visitors to the Garden Tomb in March, an increase of 28% when compared with the same period last year. This is a cause for praise and thanksgiving; but it is also a challenge to welcome and serve ever increasing numbers of people from many different cultures and religious traditions, whilst maintaining the garden as a 'Quiet Place' in which they can hear, maybe for the first time, the gospel of the risen Messiah.

At the same time we are pushing ahead with new planting and landscaping in the garden, as well as preparing for the start of the long-awaited shop renovation work which will start immediately after the Easter weekend.

Easter at the Garden Tomb:

Our Easter speaker this year is Roger Carswell. Roger will be speaking at the Good Friday morning service at 9am, and then twice on Easter Sunday - first at 6:30am and then again at 9:30am. The third meeting on Easter Sunday is the Scandinavian service which will be led by Bertil Vik, a Garden Tomb volunteer from Sweden. We also have an Arabic / Hebrew service on Saturday, attended by local Israeli and West Bank believers who come together every year to celebrate the Messiah's death and resurrection.

The Easter weekend is a very special time at the Garden Tomb, and we expect over 1,500 to join us for the 6:30am sunrise service as we celebrate the Resurrection of the Son of God – his victory over death and hell. Please join us if you are in Jerusalem, or you can see the service live on-line via the Garden Tomb website. To view the service live, or at a later time, go to www.gardentomb.com, click on the 'Easter' link. From Easter Sunday you will see this sentence: 'You can view the 2017 Sunrise Resurrection Service [here](#)'. Click on [here](#) and you will be directed to the sunrise service, which you can view from 6:15am Israel time [4:15am UK time]. Before the Easter weekend you will still be able to see last year's Easter Sunrise Service via the link on the Garden tomb website.

The Volunteer Team: on-site at the moment we have **Colin and Jane Peattie, John and Ann Hooper, Inkeri Tahvanainen, Maureen Hodges, Omer and Debora Thomasseti, Bertil and Gun Vik, and Gene and Phyllis Ulrich.** Over the next 3 weeks we will be joining by Peter and Yvonne Attwood, Anthony Keast, Paul Doble, and Carol MacKinnon.

Prayer Pointers:

- **The Easter Weekend.** Please pray for the Good Friday morning service, which is followed by a 'Quiet Day' in the garden – there will be no tours, but we will be open for visitors to spend time in quiet reflection. On Easter Saturday we have a busy day of tours, followed by an Arabic / Hebrew service attended by believers from Israel and the West Bank. On Easter Sunday we have three services. In all we expect about 3000 people to attend the 5 services.
- The long-awaited **Garden Tomb shop renovation** starts on 18th April and will continue through the summer! We are excited at the prospect of improving a facility which is integral to the ministry of the garden. We will continue to offer our visitors a good selection of goods to buy, and will be opening a temporary shop in one of the meeting areas whilst the shop renovation is under way. Pray for everyone involved in the planning and execution of this important project.
- **The Garden Tomb Team.** Pray for our local staff and the ever-changing volunteer team. We continue to look for volunteers able to speak Mandarin, Indonesian, Spanish and Portuguese; in addition to English.

And finally: could I ask you to consider joining with us in praying for the ministry of the Garden Tomb. One of the ways you can do this is by going to the Garden Tomb website (www.gardentomb.com) and clicking on the **PRAYER** icon, which you will see on the right hand side of the web page, near the top of the page. Click this button and you will go to the **Prayer Page** where you can find more information about how to join our **24/7 Prayer Network**. You can sign up by following the instructions one step at a time. This should be straight forward, but please email me at stephen@gardentomb.com if you encounter any problems registering. Once registered, you will be able to choose one or more 15 minute prayer slots a week. Every week you will then receive an email reminder of your prayer slot, along with an update on prayer needs and praise points.

Revelation 5:12-13: *In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!"*

Please join us in praying that the lives of many thousands of people will be transformed this year as they visit the Garden Tomb and hear the Good News of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen Messiah.

Blessings from Jerusalem!

Stephen and Sue Bridge

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