

Garden Tomb Newsletter: August 2017

The Garden Tomb News:

After a number of protests and riots in recent weeks the security situation in Jerusalem has stabilized, and as I write this newsletter there have been no serious incidents for a few days. The area around the Garden Tomb is well protected by the security forces, and the garden remains a haven of peace in East Jerusalem

Meanwhile, visitors continue to come to the garden, and we have just had the busiest July on record. One visitor wrote: *"I recently was privileged to visit your site while on a trip with Passages Israel, and I was blessed beyond words while I was there. I remember thinking: 'if I lived in Jerusalem this is where I would spend the Sabbath'. Thank you for keeping such a beautiful site available to the world"*.

The summer months are relatively quiet, but we continue to see good numbers coming from South East Asia, China and South America. We also welcome more family groups and individuals during the holiday season.

Canon Andrew White [Vicar of Baghdad]



Summer visitors to the Garden Tomb.

In total we had about 13,500 visitors in July

A group from the UK view the tomb



The Shop Renovation: work is going well, and we look to reopen the shop during the first week of September.

Garden Tomb Volunteer Team:

With us at the moment we have **Roy + Evelyn Turkington, Kieran Ryan, Sharon Poon, Hersey Heng, David + Sybil Curry, Martin + Sue Hines, and Catarina Sherman.**

We give thanks for:

- People whose lives have been changed and enriched by their visit to the garden
- Our permanent local staff; and the volunteers who join us in serving for 2-3 months at a time.
- The wonderful team of tradesmen who are on-site every day carrying out renovation work to the bookshop

Please pray for:

- **The Peace of Jerusalem:** for all who live and work here, and for the thousands of visitors who come to Jerusalem every day from around the world.
- **Transformed lives:** that people will encounter the Risen Christ as they tour the Garden, view Skull Hill, and consider the Empty Tomb. Week by week we receive encouragement from visitors as they share their experience in the garden - we pray that this steady trickle of blessing will become a flood of transformation and redemption.
- **Local staff:** the Management team, Reception Admin and Finance staff, Shop staff, Gardeners, Housekeepers and Cleaners. Together we seek to serve all who visit, praying that they might encounter the Risen Christ in the Garden; and also through us as we welcome and serve them.
- **The Construction Workers:** they aim to complete the **Shop Renovation** by the end of August.
- **The Trustees,** as they continue to guide and oversee the Ministry of the Garden Tomb
- **Financial resources** to meet every need.

Philippians 4: 19-20: *"God who takes care of [us] will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen"*

Blessings from Jerusalem!
Stephen and Sue Bridge

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