

# Garden Tomb Newsletter: February 2016

## Gardens and Buildings:

In the last month we have seen a number of building projects completed. These include:

- **Replacing the underground water pipes:** both domestic and garden irrigation. The old cast iron pipes had corroded to the point of collapse. These have now been replaced throughout the whole site.
- **The Haven** renovation works have now been completed; and include a new kitchen and bathroom, double glazed windows, tiled floors in every room, and decorated throughout.
- **A Pergola** at the entrance to the garden. In time this will be covered in vines and flowering plants, providing colour and shade as people enter.

## February: Improvements to Gardens and Meeting Areas



February sees the continuation of improvements to a number of meeting areas. On Centre Platform and areas A and B we are replacing the old plastic benches with stone seating. Apart from making maintenance easier [those who have cleaned the benches in these areas will understand] this will increase seating capacity, providing enough seating for 350 – 400 people at the back of the garden. When this work is completed Centre Platform will rarely be used for meetings, but will be a place where visitors can enjoy 'The Olive Grove' - a quiet area at the heart of the garden.

## February volunteers:

Ron + Cindy Youde: arrived 26<sup>th</sup> December, and will be here until mid-March, Stan + Molly Doland: arrived on 17<sup>th</sup> January and are here for 2 months. **Arriving in February** - Paul + Dawn Doble on 6<sup>th</sup>, Boyd + Deb Huff on 8<sup>th</sup>, Anthony Keast and Bertil + Gun Wik on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Prayer points:

- **Update on 'The Wall'**: We are thankful that the monitoring system, in place since June 2015, has not detected any movement in the structure so far. Please keep praying that this remains so, and that we can rebuild good neighbourly relations with the Waqf.
- **Safety and Security**: The situation around us is still tense, with occasional outbreaks of violence. You may be aware of the knife attack and shooting at Damascus Gate a few days ago. As a result visitor numbers continue to fall generally, and we now get very few 'local' visitors other than security forces who visit us to use our 'facilities'. Please pray for protection for staff and visitors as they travel to and from the Garden Tomb.
- **Anne Berit**: We continue to pray that the Lord will bring strength and healing, along with freedom from pain and infections.
- **Witness and Worship**: Our primary focus is to see believers strengthened and blessed in their walk with God resulting in Praise and Worship; and to see those who do not know the 'Good News' coming to Faith and Salvation. We long to see these things happening on a daily basis. **Please join us in praying for this.**

## Partnership in Prayer

**Ephesians 6: 19** "Pray also for [us], that whenever [we] speak, words may be given [us] so that [we] will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel".

**Colossians 4: 3** "And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ"

**Romans 1: 16** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes"