

Garden Tomb Newsletter: January 2016

As I reflect on the past year at the Garden Tomb I realise and rejoice in the fact that we have much to be thankful for. God has blessed us in every way; through the faithful prayers of the Garden Tomb family, the generosity of visitors and supporters, the servant-hearted work of staff and volunteers, and most of all, through the working of the Holy Spirit bringing salvation and encouragement in Jesus' name to so many people from around the world.

Today, the first day of 2016, it is wet and windy; but still people come to the garden to remember and celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. Today lives will be changed as people encounter the Risen Christ.



New family members:

Early in December about 20 people, part of a group from China, responded to the gospel message and received Christ as their Saviour. Ben Tham, a volunteer from Singapore, left the remaining group members at the empty tomb whilst he led the new family members in a prayer of commitment.

December volunteers:

A sincere thank you to Ben Tham, who returned to Singapore just before Christmas; to Omer + Debora Tomassetti, Colin + Jane Peattie, Wilma Smith and Sabrina Liu, who gave up a comfortable Christmas at home to serve through the festive season at the Garden Tomb!

A special thank you also to Ron + Cindy Youde who spent Christmas Day en-route from the USA, arriving at the Garden Tomb on Boxing Day! They will be with us until mid-March.

January arrivals:

Stan + Molly Doland, from the USA, will be joining the team on 17th January; and then on 23rd January we are joined by Peter Simpson and Malcolm Williamson, first time volunteers from the UK, who are coming for 10 days to carry out urgent renovations on *The Haven* apartment.

Prayer points for 2016:

Safety: The security situation in the land, and more so in the countries around us, continues to be a concern (though the immediate area around the Garden Tomb is safe). Please pray for protection for staff and visitors as they travel to and from the Garden Tomb.

Salvation: As the testimony of the Chinese group demonstrates, God continues to touch lives with His Salvation. Please pray that many more people will encounter the Risen Lord. Pray that our team of staff and volunteers are empowered daily to make Jesus known.

Our Local Team: Phillip, Chin-Won, Anne Berit, Mirjam, Riki, Nellie, Peter, Yonina, Matilda, Shukry, Fadia, Sylva, Christen, George, John, Wiebeke, Christopher, Renee, Joao and Cesar – believers living in Israel and the West Bank. Pray that together we might 'live' the Good News of God, revealed in Jesus the Messiah.

Prayer and Blessing for 2016: I Corinthians 9:10-15 "Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. **Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**"

Sue and I praise the Lord for the privilege of serving at the Garden Tomb and ask that you remember us in your prayers as we lead the team in 2016.

New Year Blessings from Jerusalem!
Stephen and Sue Bridge

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