

# Garden Tomb Newsletter: July 2016

**Ramadan is over and Nablus Road has returned to normal: that is to say busy noisy and hot! Meanwhile in the Garden the months of July and August will be quiet, with visitor number falling as the temperature rises.**

At the Garden Tomb our focus is to 'Declare the Victory of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus the Messiah to everyone who visits the Garden, wherever possible in their first language'. When we do not have a guide who speaks the visitors language we offer tours through translation; or for smaller groups and individuals we offer audio-guides in about 12 languages and leaflets in about 40.

**John Wesley is recorded as saying:** *"Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth. God does nothing but in answer to prayer"*

**This month's newsletter is focused on 2 aspects of the GT ministry: Volunteering and Prayer.**

**Volunteers:** the Garden Tomb is run by a wonderful team of permanent local staff, and an ever-changing team of volunteers from around the world. All of our volunteers speak English, but we are looking to recruit volunteers able to speak additional languages; particularly Spanish and Portuguese, but also Dutch and German. Now, with the increase in visitors from China and South East Asia, we are actively seeking volunteers able to speak Indonesian and Mandarin.

Below is a brief report written by one of our recent volunteers; may it inspire you to pray for more volunteers, or even to volunteer yourself!

## Special Moments in a Special Place

By Peter Attwood

I recently had the pleasure of serving as a guide at the Garden Tomb. Anyone who has done this will know the joy of unveiling the Garden to different groups from around the world.

I am registered blind with about two percent vision, which made me a rather unusual volunteer applicant. Yet, God had His hand on things from the very beginning, and as someone who refuses to stay home and feel sorry for myself; I've always been up for a challenge. As I guided, I was very blessed by how accepting the groups that I took round the Garden were. I had many affirming divine encounters, and I want to share two in particular.

The very first tour I provided was for a small group of Charismatic South African pastors. We quickly established a bond and they were encouraging toward me. They thought it was wonderful that someone with a visual disability would volunteer and come all the way from England to serve in the Garden. They were eager to learn about the site and we had a very special time together. At the end of the tour, they prayed for me and I prayed for them. I am very grateful to the Lord for such a lovely start to my guiding experience.

Weeks later, towards the end of my last day of guiding, I was asked to lead another South African group. What no-one knew at the time was that there was a totally blind man in the group, accompanied by his wife. The South Africans were overjoyed when they learned that they were to be guided around the Garden by someone who was himself visually impaired. The burial chamber of the tomb is normally locked, but we make exceptions for blind people so they can feel the inside of the whole tomb. There is also a place where blind people can touch part of Skull Hill's rock face in the Garden itself. The whole group entered into this experience and we had a wonderful time together. There was much hugging and many tears of joy.

During my six weeks of guiding, I had never had a group with any blind people, and this was a real treat for me, and a fitting end to what has truly been a life changing experience.



If you want to know more about being a volunteer please contact me by emailing [stephen@gardentomb.com](mailto:stephen@gardentomb.com)

## Prayer:

There are some things that we must do, and other things only *God* can do. Prayer is one of the things we must do; and in praying we discover God moves to do His will in answer to the prayers of His people.

We are very conscious of our dependency on the power of the Holy Spirit working through us if we are to be faithful and effective in “Declaring the Victory of the Life Death and Resurrection of Jesus the Messiah” to all who visit the Garden. For this reason we invite you to join us in praying around the clock, all day every day for the ministry of the Garden Tomb.

Last month we launched the ‘**24/7 Prayer Partner Network**’ and we now have about 15% of the week covered in prayer with some 60 people signed up to pray at least once a week for 15 minutes. Here is a reminder about how you can sign up and join us in praying for the effective ministry of the Garden Tomb.

### The Garden Tomb 24/7 Prayer Partner Network

#### Prayer is an essential part of the ministry of the Garden Tomb.

Please join us as a Prayer Partner in praying for the ministry of the Garden Tomb as we seek to introduce people to Jesus the Messiah and His victory revealed in the cross and resurrection. Pray that we will be effective and faithful in declaring Christ crucified and risen.

**Our Goal** is to establish a worldwide 24/7 prayer support network for the ministry of the Garden Tomb.

- **Our Prayer** is that every visitor to the Garden Tomb will be touched and changed by their experience here in the garden.
- **The Method:** a website based prayer calendar to which people can sign up as Prayer Partners. We invite people to commit to praying weekly during one or more 15 minute prayer slots.
- **Information:** monthly updates will be sent to Prayer Partners, along with weekly reminders of the times in which they have committed to pray.

#### To register as a Prayer Partner:

- Go to the Garden Tomb website [www.gardentomb.com](http://www.gardentomb.com) and click on the ‘**Prayer**’ button [top right on the website].
- This takes you to a page titled **Pray for the Garden Tomb**, where you will see a lists of subjects for prayer; and a link which says **JOIN OUR 24/7 PRAYER NETWORK. FIND OUT MORE >>**
- Click on this link which will take you to a page titled **Prayer Network**; and a line which says **Register as a Prayer Partner**. Fill in the boxes titled **Name** and **Email Address**. The box entitled **Location** should already say the country where you are logged on. If the location is wrong you can change it.
- **Do Not** click on the **REGISTER** button yet!
- The box entitled **Time Zone** should already be set to the country where you are logged on. If the time zone is wrong you can change it from the drop-down list. Then pick at least one **day** and **time** when you commit to pray [i.e. Thursday 11:30am]
- **Now click on the REGISTER button.** You will receive an email asking you to **confirm the day and time** you have registered to pray. **Do not reply to the email** because this does not activate your registration. To activate our registration **click on the word ‘Confirm’** in the email you have received.
- You will receive a regular weekly email reminder, along with an up-to-date list of prayer points.

#### Our July and August Volunteer Team:

We are delighted to welcome **Cesar and Maria** back to the Garden following their time away on honeymoon! They join **Omer and Debora Thomassetti, Brian and Lynette Nibbe, Sharon Poon, Mandy Callf, Alison Laing and Vicky Alipio. Ben Tham and Bob and Jenny Lillyman** return to the Garden at the end of July, and will be with us through August.

#### Please remember to pray for:

- Our team of local staff, and volunteers
- The many thousands of visitors who will come to the Garden over the next few weeks
- The peace of Jerusalem, and the surrounding area
- The various building and gardening improvements that continue through the summer months
- For the provision of all the resources we need.

**Philippians 4:6:** “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God”.

Blessings from Jerusalem!  
Stephen and Sue Bridge

[www.gardentomb.com](http://www.gardentomb.com)  
[stephen@gardentomb.com](mailto:stephen@gardentomb.com)