

Garden Tomb Newsletter: May 2016

Temperatures go up, along with visitor numbers, as we head into May.

After a relatively quiet April we are expecting visitor numbers to increase throughout the next few weeks. As well as tourists and pilgrims we look forward to welcoming local people to the Garden. From the 5th to the 7th of May local hotels and institutions have organised a series of events to highlight 'places of interest' along Nablus Road, from Damascus Gate to the American Colony Hotel. St George's Cathedral, St. Stephen's Basilica (École Biblique), and the Jerusalem Prayer Center are some of the sites that will be open for local people to visit, along with the Garden Tomb. The Garden will be open until 8pm on these days, offering information and tours in Arabic to locals from East Jerusalem. Please pray that the beauty of the garden and the warm welcome from our staff and volunteers causes many local people to feel drawn to the 'Good News' of King Jesus.



The new entrance Pergola presents an attractive and shaded welcome from the business of Nablus Road to the quiet beauty of the Garden Tomb.



As mentioned in the April newsletter we are seeing increasing numbers of visitors from China and South East Asia. In light of this I will be visiting **Singapore and Jakarta from the 6th to the 16th of May** to establish partnerships with local churches who will work with us in recruiting and sending volunteers fluent in Mandarin and Indonesian. I will also be presenting the new 24/7 Prayer Partnership Initiative which we hope to launch in mid-May. We pray that the Lord will draw more volunteers from these countries to serve at the Garden, so that more people will be able to hear the good news of the Risen King in their own language.

Comings and goings: our May volunteer team:

Andrew + Chris Haines, John + Ann Hooper and Ken Newbury will be at the Garden all through May; while **Bob + Jenny Lillyman** are with us until the 23rd. We have a good number of first time volunteers coming in May including **Roy + Evelyn Turkington** here until the 6th; and then arriving throughout May as follows: **Andrew and Katie Shott** on the 2nd, **Matthew Wrathal** on the 15th, **Peter + Yvonne Attwood** on the 18th, and **Mark + Nicola Aldridge** on the 23rd. Finally, **Omer and Debora** return to the garden on 24th May. Please pray for our wonderful Garden Tomb team of local staff and overseas volunteers!



Eastern Pascha (Easter) celebration at the Garden Tomb:

About 300 local believers from Israel and the West Bank attended the Arabic Evangelical Easter service at the Garden Tomb on Saturday 30th April. The service was translated into Hebrew and English and dozens of Israeli Messianic Jews joined their Arab brothers and sisters to celebrate the Messiah's Resurrection together.



Points for Prayer:

- **The 24 / 7 Prayer Partnership Initiative**, which we hope will lead to continuous 'around the clock' prayer for the ministry of the Garden Tomb. We will send out an additional bulletin when we 'go live', along with information on how you can sign up and be part of this new prayer initiative. [This will not replace the monthly prayer letter!]
- Steve's trip to **Singapore and Jakarta**: pray for good contacts to be made, and partnerships established with Mandarin, Indonesian, and English speaking churches.
- Pray particularly for the **volunteers** coming for the first time this month.
- The **Nablus Road 'Open Days'**: pray that many local people will visit, maybe for the first time; and that they respond positively to the tours and information as we present the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection.

1 Tim 2:1-6 "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth".

Blessings from Jerusalem!
Stephen and Sue Bridge

www.gardentomb.com
stephen@gardentomb.com