

Garden Tomb Newsletter: May 2017



Easter at the Garden Tomb

We were delighted to welcome Roger Carswell as our Easter speaker. Roger spoke at the Good Friday service, and then at the two English language services on Easter Sunday morning.

On Easter Saturday we had an Arabic / Hebrew service, attended by local Israeli and West Bank believers who come together to celebrate the Messiah's death and resurrection.

The Garden Tomb is the perfect venue at which to celebrate the resurrection, and on Easter Sunday we had 1,700 at the 6:30am sunrise service, followed by 900 at 9:30am. Resurrection Sunday celebrations finished with a Scandinavian service at 11.00am and the speaker was Bertil Vik, a Garden Tomb volunteer.

You can still view the **Easter Sunrise Service** on-line via the Garden Tomb website - www.gardentomb.com. Click on the 'Easter' link and you will see this sentence: **'You can view the 2017 Sunrise Resurrection Service here'**. Click on [here](#) and you will be directed to the sunrise service.

Nablus Road Open Days:

From 4th to 6th May the Garden Tomb are participating in the '**Nablus Road Open Days**' event. Organised by the Palestine Hotels Association, the event will run for 3 days from 4pm to 8pm. Along with a number of other institutions in Nablus Road we are inviting local people to visit the garden. We will be giving tours in Arabic, and handing out Arabic language leaflets, explaining who Jesus is, why He died, and the good news of His resurrection. Last year was the first time that this event took place and we were overwhelmed by the response and interest of local people. Over the 3 days we welcomed more than 1,500 local people to the garden, and we are looking forward to welcoming large numbers again this year. We invite you to join us in praying that many people will hear and understand the good news of God's love revealed in Jesus

Visitor numbers continue to increase significantly compared with last year, with about 30,000 visitors in April alone. May is already looking like it will be very busy, and we are likely to see a further 30,000 visitors over the next 4 weeks.

The Shop Renovation work started this week, and will continue through the summer. We plan to open the new shop at the beginning of September.

The GT Volunteer Team: on-site at the moment we have Omer and Debora Thomassetti, Bertil and Gun Vik, Gene and Phyllis Ulrich, Peter and Yvonne Attwood, Anthony Keast, Paul Doble, and Carol MacKinnon. They will be joined soon by Bob and Jenny Lillyman, Paul and Jenn Weaver, Joe Armstrong, Alison Laing, Andrew and Chris Haines; and Robert Maddox

Prayer Pointers:

- **Easter:** we praise the Lord for a wonderful Easter weekend at the Garden Tomb.
- **The Garden Tomb Shop Renovation** started this week, and will continue through the summer. We are excited at the prospect of improving a facility which is integral to the ministry of the garden. We will continue to offer our visitors a good selection of goods to buy, and will be opening a temporary shop in one of the meeting areas whilst the shop renovation is under way. Please pray for everyone involved in the planning and execution of this important project, and particularly for Simon Sa'ad and his wonderful team of tradesmen who will be on-site for the next 4 months.
- **Security:** following the tragic murder of Hannah Bladon in Jerusalem two weeks ago we ask you to join us in praying for the peace of the Jerusalem – its residents, and the many thousands of people who visit very day. The political situation remains tense, and there is always the danger of random attacks, so please pray for protection and peace.
- **The Garden Tomb Team.** Pray for our local staff, and the ever-changing volunteer team. Though we have many people applying to volunteer in the shop and as guides, we are particularly looking for people able to speak Mandarin, Indonesian/Malay, Spanish and Portuguese; in addition to English.

And finally: could I ask you to consider joining with us in praying for the ministry of the Garden Tomb. One of the ways you can do this is by going to the Garden Tomb website www.gardentomb.com and clicking on the **PRAYER** icon, which you will see on the right hand side of the web page, near the top of the page. Click this button and you will go to the **Prayer Page** where you can find more information about how to join our **24/7 Prayer Network**. You can sign up by following the instructions one step at a time. This should be straight forward, but please email me at stephen@gardentomb.com if you encounter any problems registering. Once registered, you will be able to choose one or more 15 minute prayer slots a week. Every week you will receive an email reminder of your prayer slot, along with an update on prayer needs and praise points.

Please join us in praying that the lives of many thousands of people will be transformed this year as they visit the Garden Tomb and hear the Good News of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen King.

Matt 7:7-8: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened".

Blessings from Jerusalem!
Stephen and Sue Bridge

stephen@gardentomb.com
www.gardentomb.com