

Garden Tomb Newsletter: October 2016

The Feast of Tabernacles started on 9th October, and on Monday morning we welcomed 1,600 visitors to the garden for what has become the biggest annual celebration at the Garden Tomb, next to the Easter Sunrise service. Many nations were represented including China, Indonesia, Singapore, USA; and countries from South America, Europe and Africa. The worship was vibrant and colourful; and the highlight was a communion service led by a Christian Palestinian Pastor and a Messianic Pastor.



Earlier in the month we were pleased to welcome local Israelis who visited the garden as part of the annual 'Open Homes' event. We led a number of Hebrew speaking groups around the garden, and then on Saturday evening the Garden Tomb musical team sang hymns and worship songs in English and Hebrew, which our Israeli visitors greatly enjoyed.

Over recent months we had a number of meetings with representatives from the 'East Jerusalem Development Unit' and the 'East Jerusalem Hotels Association'. Increasing numbers of local people, both Israeli's and Palestinian's, have been visiting the garden, and through our links with these local agencies we are hoping to see more local people, Jews, Christians and Muslims, visiting the Garden Tomb.

Garden Tomb Volunteers

We have a great international team of volunteers working alongside the local team. John + Ann Hooper, Stuart + Pru Bell, Paul + Jenn Weaver, and Mark + Nicola Aldridge are all from the UK. Representing the USA we have Ken Newbury and Joe Armstrong; and from Sweden Bertil + Gun Vik. Over the next two weeks they will be joined by Martin + Sue Hine from the UK, Henk + Nelly Dik from Holland, and Liang Fong + Sok Ching from Singapore.

Renovations and Development work:

- In the last few weeks work was completed on the Cottage apartment.
- Major renovation work is nearing completion on The Chapel meeting room
- We are re-roofing a number of apartments, and the Roof House and Lodge House are almost finished.

Prayer and Praise points:

- Please pray that the Municipality will follow through with their intension to clear the rubbish from the garden below skull hill viewing platform, and secure the site, so that we can re-establish the gardens before the winter
- Over the last weeks we have seen many people blessed as they visit the Garden Tomb, and a number of people have come to faith in Jesus for the first time. Pray that we continue to see people blessed as they visit the garden, and that even at this busy time of year our visitors will be able to find quiet spaces to pause and reflect on the death and resurrection of the Messiah
- We give thanks for the generosity of Garden Tomb visitors and friends who give to the ministry of the garden. Please pray that we continue to see God's blessing on our finances as we move ahead with significant improvements to gardens and infrastructure

Philippians 4: 4-6 "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God".

Blessings from Jerusalem!
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