

# Garden Tomb Newsletter: June 2016

May was a busy month at the Garden Tomb as we welcomed over 25,000 visitors; many of them from the UK and Europe. In June visitor numbers tend to drop as temperatures rise; but the area around the Garden Tomb remains busy as we enter the season of Ramadan. Tens of thousands of Muslims go into the city each day to pray, many entering through Damascus Gate. In the evening Nablus Road is busy with street traders and noisy, happy shoppers as people party into the early hours after a long hot day of fasting.

## Introducing the Garden Tomb 24/7 Prayer Partner Network

John Wesley once stated:

*"God does nothing on earth save in answer to believing prayer".*

The Prayer Partner Network was launched on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and we invite you to sign up as Garden Tomb Prayer Partners, via the Garden Tomb website.

- **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 the Witness and Worship they experience here in the garden.
- **The Method:** a website based prayer calendar to which Christian groups and individuals can sign up as Prayer Partners.  
The weekly prayer calendar is divided into 15 minute prayer slots. Through our website we invite people to commit to praying weekly during one or more 15 minute prayer slots. Every Prayer Partner will receive weekly reminders and updates by email. Contact details will remain confidential and anyone can cancel their prayer commitments at any time.
- **Feedback:** monthly updates will be sent to Prayer Partners, along with weekly reminders of the times in which they have committed to pray.

### 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.

### 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.
- On the day you have committed to pray you will receive a regular weekly email reminder, along with an up-to-date list of prayer points.

## The Nablus Road Open Days: 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of May

This was an unexpected and immensely encouraging event. Over the course of three afternoons we welcomed about 1,700 local people to the Garden; most were Muslims and had never been to the Garden Tomb before. Over three afternoons Fadi led several tours in Arabic, and welcomed hundreds more individuals and small groups, giving a brief explanation of the Garden Tomb along with a leaflet in Arabic. About 20 Arabic bibles were taken. Our observation is that there has been a noticeable increase in local Arabs visiting the Garden since the Open Days event. It would be difficult to overstate what an amazing opportunity this was.

**We pray that local people will return many times, and will find themselves drawn to Jesus.**

### Work continues on the garden:



A new all-weather meeting area



The new entrance to the shop



The vine at the garden gate

## Singapore and Jakarta:

I spent 8 days in Singapore and Jakarta establishing partnerships with Church leaders who will work with us in recruiting Mandarin and Indonesian speaking volunteers to work at the Garden Tomb. During my time there we were able to:

- Set up a 'volunteer interview team' who will help evaluate volunteer applications, and interview potential volunteers from Singapore and Indonesia. Ravi and Ben, both seasoned Garden Tomb volunteers, have agreed to take on this responsibility along with David Khoo.
- Meet with a number of Singapore church leaders, some of whom expressed an interest in helping us recruit Mandarin and Indonesian speaking volunteers.
- Meet with 25 or so pastors from Chinese speaking congregations in Singapore. Ben Tham will be maintaining this link for us.
- Meet with Christian tour agencies and Church leaders in Jakarta with a view towards recruiting volunteers from Indonesia.

**A big 'thank you!' to the Garden Tomb Singapore Team for making my time in Singapore and Indonesia such a success!**



Ravi and Carol

Grace and David

Ben and Ker Teng

## Comings and goings: our June volunteer team:

**Andrew and Chris Haines** and **Matthew Wrathal** return to the UK on 10<sup>th</sup> June, while **John and Ann Hooper** are at the Garden until the 20<sup>th</sup> and **Peter and Yvonne Attwood** until the 24<sup>th</sup>. **Andrew and Katie Shott** leave the Garden on June 30<sup>th</sup>. **Omer and Debora** arrived on May 24<sup>th</sup> and will be here until the end of July. **Brian and Lynette Nibbe** return to the Garden on June 18<sup>th</sup> and are here until August 18<sup>th</sup>. This month we have 3 new volunteers joining us; **Sharon Poon** on June 12<sup>th</sup>, then **Mandy Callf** and **Alison Laing** on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Points for Prayer:

- **The 24/7 Prayer Partnership Network**, which we hope will lead to continuous 'around the clock' prayer for the ministry of the Garden Tomb. [This will not replace the monthly prayer letter, which we will continue to send by email]
- **Ramadan**: starts on June 6<sup>th</sup>. During this time many Muslims fast for a month from sunrise to sunset. We pray that those who seek Him will have an encounter with the God who loves them and has revealed Himself as Father in Jesus His Son.
- **Volunteers**: pray for all the volunteers, particularly those who are here for the first time.

Blessings from Jerusalem!  
Stephen and Sue Bridge

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