



The Garden Project

The Salvation Army Downtown Non-Traditional Corps

The Garden UPDATE

We are so thankful of the prayer and financial support we have received in this project. Learning how to garden has certainly been an interesting journey and has truly reflected God's metaphor for our spiritual lives.

The ultimate goal and vision for the project is to help, teach and guide the members of our community into responsibility and ownership. With that commitment, we would have healthy harvest to present to the greater St. Petersburg community. In some ways, we have achieved this in and in others we have had to re-work our goals with our transient culture. Needless to say, getting to the Saturday Morning Market with a healthy harvest has been a goal we have not yet achieved.

With the recent change in leadership of the project, we are now looking into ways that we could bring stability and health back to the garden.

This project we have committed to the Lord in prayer and guidance and we are excited

to see where He is taking us. Some peppers from our harvest are going to be used in our soup kitchen as well as given to those who did commit to tending the garden. We are eagerly, and expectantly looking forward to the direction the Jesus has for this project and still thank you very much for your prayers.

As we move forward in figuring out the path, we hope to learn and reflect on the simple gardening challenges we've encountered and what that teaches us about our spiritual lives.

Spiritually, we can see the truth of tending and nurturing the garden with commitment and diligence. As we watched some of our peppers fail due to over-watering and not enough nutrient, it caused us to challenge what that meant for our hearts. Jesus is the living water, and He cannot 'over-water' us, but to be without our spiritual nutrient and food, the Bible, we certainly grow weaker because we are not



reminded of His qualities, characteristics, His armor and His great love. As we care for and nurture these seedlings into mature plants we have learned to keep all things in balance and we are reminded of who truly grows the seed, God. In 1 Corinthians chapter three, Paul explains this picture beautifully about our mission in the world to plant and water seeds, that stand on good soul, for the kingdom of God, and that persevere through hardship to produce a healthy crop.

We hope to nurture our plants and reflect on what that means to the nurturing of our souls, and I have hope through prayer that our garden will persevere to produce a healthy harvest.

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Luke 8: 15



I was raised on a farm and did a lot of gardening by the age of eight. Over the course of my life, going through troubles and homelessness, thinking of childhood memories just wasn't something I've really been able to do. So it really is pretty amazing that now at 67 yrs old, I've been able to recall these childhood memories of growing up on the farm. I'm really thankful to The Garden Project for that. I also find the presence and peace of God in the garden, and it gives me time to walk with him. It is really refreshing to know I'm playing a part in giving life to something and helping and watching it grow. — Willie

The Garden Project has really given me the opportunity to just get away from all the negative distractions that can arise and be so suffocating. I also really enjoy having a new hobby to research and learn more about in gardening. The garden reminds me of Cain and Abel, and to continuously give my best over to God. It's also just nice to see so tangibly the principle that what you get out of something depends on how much you put into it. — Tim



I have really been able to work on instilling a sense of commitment and responsibility through my role as The Garden Project's stat keeper. I've been learning that if I'm not on top of taking care of my plants and helping others do the same then the plants will suffer. I have really been motivated to stay efficient about fulfilling my responsibilities with the Garden Project. I also really love being a part of something that can hopefully raise the awareness of the struggles of those within our community. Being a part of something I care about has also really rejuvenated my prayer life and the amount of time I spend talking to God —Norman