

## PLANTING SEEDS©

By Keith Z. Yezdanian

Just recently my two daughters had stayed with a friend of ours while my wife and I were out of town for my wife's health care. Our children are homeschooled and our friend was kind enough to continue with their education so my children could keep up with their schedule. Not only did our friend keep up with their exhausting amount of work, but she also added some additional classes or electives. One of these electives happened to be Melissa's Future Farmers of America (MFFA). I didn't realize that she had done this until I picked up my girls and noticed a 2x3 class schedule hanging on her wall with (MFFA) written on the bottom. I collected my kids and their belongings and headed home not thinking much of their two weeks of schooling, but more about the amount of time it would take me to get home.

After arriving home and after the hugs, kisses and tears we began to collectively discuss our time apart. As you can imagine our children had just a few questions about our time in the hospital and they were eager to share with us their school experience at Melissa's house. With my girls wide age range of seven years they surprisingly shared equal enthusiasm with baking and (MFFA). After making a mental list of the ingredients needed to make cupcakes, I inquired about what was written on the 2x3 board. As they excitedly ran down the list I squeezed in my question about (MFFA). My five year old informed me that it was the time they got to play in the dirt and my twelve year old explained that this time was spent learning how to make a garden and that (MFFA) stood for Melissa's Future Farmers of America. As I drifted off thinking about multi-colored sprinkles my five year old slipped in the question of making a garden here at home and I replied without much thought "sure we can".

Now as the days passed by I began to realize that I have no idea on how to make a garden. Here I am with no background in agriculture, anything I ever planted died and I don't even have the tools to begin with. My children were far too helpful with a list of tools that I needed to begin their garden. They told me I would need a tiller, metal rakes and so on. So here I am trying to avoid a five year old and twelve year olds daddies to do list.

The days turned into weeks and I thought they had forgotten about the garden, when on this sunny day my twelve year old daughter remembered she had seeds she bought from a book sale five years ago. Now I must act or my girls will always remember while buying tomatoes from the store the day daddy said no. So off we went to make a garden and plant some really old seeds that I have no faith in and seeds that my girls are sure will grow. With a shovel and a metal rake we picked a spot and tried to make the ground look like the fields we pass by every day. My five year old made little holes with her finger and dropped the seeds in and twice a day she goes out to water them. What I put off for weeks and had no faith in and also made excuses for only took minutes but sparked something in my children's hearts that keeps them smiling and longing to see something breaking through the ground...a new life.

Yesterday while driving I was taking notice of all the green trees and wild flowers sprouting up along the roadside and it made me think of planting the seeds with my children. My girls haven't talked much about the plants growing or about what they will produce instead, my girls just go and water the garden and are just happy they had the chance to plant the

seeds. I admit I check the garden and what I want to see is something green sticking out the ground and when I don't see anything I kind of get discouraged.

We as people can do all we can to insure that our garden grows, we can enhance the soil, we can water the ground and yet it is what the plant from the seed is searching for that causes it to bust through the ground and that is simply the light. Now as a Christian I often hear people talking about planting seeds or mostly saying they don't have the tools to work a garden or that someone they know is too old to change. Now the latter might be true in some circumstances but that is not for us to decide and Christ much like my children just asks that we just try and rely on Faith.

Christ doesn't ask us to go out and buy new equipment or formulate a plan, He just asks us to plant the seed in the ground that He has worked and He will water it and after a time the seeds planted will produce a plant and if that plant really wants to grow it will do all that it can to break through the depths of darkness and flourish into new life. We may get discouraged when we have planted seeds and haven't seen any growth, but we must remember that it may not grow over night and it may have a long way to travel through the depths to finally break through into a new life. We may not see the new growth, but we can just go on being happy that we just had an opportunity to plant the seeds.

*"Planting Seeds"* was written 14 April 2010

