



## Gardening for Good

As La Loma Grace Brethren Church (Modesto, Calif.) brainstormed new outreach ministries, team leaders suggested planting a community garden. A 50-by-80 foot plot of fallow ground in a nearby neighborhood served the church's purpose, and soon the garden saw friendship, fellowship, and food blossom.

"The goal," said Pastor Joel Richards, "was to put Christians with community people." More than 100 volunteers—made up of both church and community members—cared for the garden.

"The garden breaks down all kinds of barriers," said Richards. "The guy right across the street from the garden donated water for us to use. My son worked side-by-side with a man covered in tattoos and earrings. I was hardly ever there that someone didn't stop by and ask about what we [were] doing or offer to help in some way."

To add to the blessings this garden provided, volunteers harvested the fruits of their labor free of charge.

*This story was first published at [graceconnect.us/gardening-for-good/](http://graceconnect.us/gardening-for-good/). Go to [graceconnect.us](http://graceconnect.us) to subscribe to the weekly e-newsletter that includes stories about people and churches in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.*

GRACE  
CONNECT.US



## Gardening for Good

As La Loma Grace Brethren Church (Modesto, Calif.) brainstormed new outreach ministries, team leaders suggested planting a community garden. A 50-by-80 foot plot of fallow ground in a nearby neighborhood served the church's purpose, and soon the garden saw friendship, fellowship, and food blossom.

"The goal," said Pastor Joel Richards, "was to put Christians with community people." More than 100 volunteers—made up of both church and community members—cared for the garden.

"The garden breaks down all kinds of barriers," said Richards. "The guy right across the street from the garden donated water for us to use. My son worked side-by-side with a man covered in tattoos and earrings. I was hardly ever there that someone didn't stop by and ask about what we [were] doing or offer to help in some way."

To add to the blessings this garden provided, volunteers harvested the fruits of their labor free of charge.

*This story was first published at [graceconnect.us/gardening-for-good/](http://graceconnect.us/gardening-for-good/). Go to [graceconnect.us](http://graceconnect.us) to subscribe to the weekly e-newsletter that includes stories about people and churches in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.*

GRACE  
CONNECT.US

