

**SEED OF HOPE, HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, HOPE FOR P.E.O.
P.E.O. IN FULL BLOOM**

A flower is a beautiful thing to behold. To receive a gift of flowers or a flower is to receive an expression of affection. Did you ever notice that a flower does not struggle to say, I love you? Its beauty is a reflection of growth, cultivated by someone's care.

Often we forget about the plain simple seed that gave birth to that beautiful flower. The seed, though wrinkled and dry, is the life of the flower.

One single seed is offered to us that will reveal the beauty of God's love. The living seed of love is available that we might have faith to believe, courage to endure and a blossom of joy overflowing to share with others.

Our hope of becoming all we are to be depends on our planting and our Gardener. We are God's garden and our loving Father is our Gardener.

Jesus said, "You are the world's seasoning to make it tolerable. If you lose your flavor, what will happen to the world? And you yourselves will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. You are the world's light – a city on the hill, glowing in the night for all to see. Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5: 13-16)

The future and hope for P.E.O. and the world around us depends upon our seasoning or upon our seed. The question for all of us is, what kind of seed are we letting our gardener care for?

One can tell the kind of seed a person has planted from his or her reactions. Was there a seed of bitterness or rejection, anxiety or loneliness, selfishness or anger sown? Or was the seed of love that brings freedom and peace nurtured in their hearts?

Our world knows only one seed and that is a seed of self-seeking. Therefore, it is an unhappy world.

You and I are called to be the light of the world, a shining flower for all to see. All God asks us to do is to bloom where He plants us.

As we read His word, He nourishes our hearts and gives us growth where the seed of love was planted. Without daily reading or His daily feeding we cannot grow and become strong to bear fruit or weather the occasional storms that occur.

"He gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust too." (Matthew 5:45)

He pinches off our old buds and prunes away the non-essential growth. Sometimes it's painful and hard to let go of those old habits or ways of thinking. Yet all the time our Gardener is really thinking of us and what we are going to become.

Yes, it's true. Weeds grow next to the flowers. However, the weeds are pulled up and cast aside to die in a heap. The flowers are picked and given to share love with others. "In the world you have tribulation," Jesus said, "but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

God gave you the seed of Jesus to bring victory and hope to the world. Will you let God give that seed of love growth? If you will, your faith will blossom a flower of Hope and Love to your Sisterhood and to the world.

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