

You make the call...positive or negative? El Mensajero G #32 February 1st ,2017

“Of course there are times of sorrow. Of course there are hours of concern and anxiety. We all worry. But the Lord has told us lift our hearts and rejoice. I see so many people ...who seem to never see the sunshine, but who constantly walk with storms under cloudy skies. Cultivate an attitude of happiness. Cultivate a spirit of optimism. Walk with faith, rejoicing in the beauties of nature, in the goodness of those you love, in the testimony which you carry in your heart concerning things divine.”
(Gordon B. Hinckley, “If Thou Art Faithful”, Ensign, November 1984)

I love this quote and reflect on it often. The words “cultivate” seem to be the key to this statement. I didn’t grow up on a farm and I’m not the most effective gardener out there, but I relate the word “cultivate” to something of planning and action. I know many who contemplate, pray and then sit back and wait for happiness and positive things to just find them. Pretty sure it doesn’t work this way.

Wanting to be positive and asking for happiness are great first steps, but to “cultivate” means to spend some time and effort seeking possible solutions, preparing the soil, planting the seed and then caring for it with great diligence in order to receive the result. With that effort expended, we appreciate the result and treasure what has come to us.

As a Mission, we find ourselves in an interesting time. It’s hot, the air is full of contaminants from fires south of us, and many are on vacations (either physically or mentally) this month. Yet as we have had interviews with many of you this past week, the majority are excited to have members to help and good people to teach.

Now may not be the perfect time, but it is a very important time, to cultivate an attitude of optimism. Think of your blessings and of the joy in your callings. Think of those praying for your success in meetings and temples around the world. Ponder the loving sacrifice of the Savior and reflect upon the changes you have seen as people come to this truth we teach!

If we cultivate in the hard times, the blessings of happiness we reap will make the better times even more wonderful.

Trust me, the weather will change, the attitudes will soften, the language will come and the Lord will bless all of your efforts. It is a rock solid guarantee!

Understand that happiness and optimism must be cultivated, not just waited on and certainly not just expected. Do your part along with your brothers and sisters here in the field (a field is where cultivation happens) and let’s harvest happiness for many.

He loves you personally and he knows your good works.

As do we!
President and Sister Gwilliam

This is a great mission where we cultivate happiness