

“NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH COMMUNITY GARDEN STARTED AMID COVID-19” (May 27, 2020)

New Beginnings Church (NBC), located near Blanchard, Oklahoma created a new Community Garden during the COVID-19 shutdown. Church member volunteers began plowing and planting the garden in early May 2020. Seeds for the garden were donated by the Pastor and his family and various members of the church. The garden is intended for church members, neighbors of the church, or whoever is in need. The church and the garden are actually located in Naples, Oklahoma, an old township district with a very small population. This area is located between several small Oklahoma communities: Blanchard, Dibble, Middleburg, Alex, and others. The congregation is made up of people from all these communities and other cities and communities. The church has approximately 250 members with an average Sunday morning attendance of 110 or more before the Covid-19 scare.

The land where the garden is located was donated to the church by an oilfield company about 4 years ago (2016). It will be the site of a new church building when sufficient funds have been accumulated. The current church building is across the highway from the garden and the new land. The existing church building is too small for the growing congregation. In addition to the current building, NBC also has the use of another church building (Tabler Gospel Tabernacle) one mile west of the site is also being used for some services.



Planting the NBC COVID-19 Community Garden 1 – May 2020

These photos depict some of the Church Member volunteers who helped to layout and plant the new community garden. It was a nice day and it gave some of the families an “outing” during the pandemic. Except for family members, most of those present attempted to maintain appropriate social distancing. With the talk about food shortages and crops being plowed under, many in the church were concerned that people would not have fruits and vegetables available. Canned foods are limited in some areas and fresh produce is not always

available. So this project was developed to not only help church members, but also help our neighbors in a time of need due to the pandemic or due to financial problems.



Planting the NBC COVID-19 Community Garden 2 – May 2020

The garden is now planted with corn, okra, tomatoes, beans, onions, and many other things. And since these photos were taken, most of the seeds are beginning to sprout and the plants are beginning to grow. All the Community Garden needs now is an occasional rain, some sunshine, a few volunteers with hoes, and God's good grace upon it.

Photos courtesy of "New Beginnings Church – Blanchard" Facebook Site:

<https://www.facebook.com/Newbeginningsblanchard/>

Photos Posted May 8, 2020

Sharon Annesley

Member – Blanchard New Beginnings Church

Blanchard, Oklahoma