

## ***Rooted in Jesus***

***Thought for the Week April 20, 2009:*** The road called us back into the motorhome and once again after 6 months in Casa Grande AZ we are traveling. Our first stop was south of Tucson to visit one of our favorite birding spots, Madera Canyon. As we walked down a trail, I spotted an amazing tree. A sycamore with its roots still embedded in the ground, was bent over at the base not broken, just bent at nearly a 90-degree angle. The leaves and branches still reached out to cross the creek that flowed next to the tree. This was amazing considering that the entire center of the trunk was missing! Yes, I said missing. The exterior of the trunk was only about 2/3rds of the way around the trunk. The top 1/3 of the trunk/bark was missing. Nothing there! I went over and literally stood in the empty tree trunk.

I looked at the miracle of this tree even being able to produce branches and leaves with so much of the tree missing. But the roots were still in place! I thought of people who struggle with cancer, with missing limbs, and many other debilitating injuries. With roots deeply imbedded in God, they survive despite whatever parts of their bodies have failed. They not only survive but they thrive no matter where God plants them.

Psalm 91:1-2 tells us, ***"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'"***

Just as that tree survives with much of its trunk missing, we can survive amazing difficulties when our roots are in Christ and when he is our refuge. We can still bear fruit for the Lord because of how he cares for us. Our lives can still have meaning regardless of what we think might be missing if we hold on to Jesus, our root system, our Savior, our Protector. How I praise God for showing me that tree this week. I love seeing God in the surroundings I find myself walking through. Where do you see God in your surroundings? Look for him, he is there.