Dear friends,

A constant battle in our yard work is to stay ahead of the weeds. I have pulled many weeds in my day and know the secret of effective weeding is to get the roots. Yet there have been many times I have pulled up a dandelion, only to see it grow back because I have failed to get the roots.

Earlier this summer, I was working to clean up our cement patio and to address some cracks that had developed over the last couple of winters. It always amazes me to see how quickly weed seeds (especially dandelions) will fall into those cracks and spring up into plants. I worked hard to get them pulled out, roots and all. After I had pulled the weeds, these cracks got a thorough pressure washer treatment. To be sure, I mixed up some cement and filled those cracks.

A few weeks later, walking across the patio, I noticed that a dandelion was pushing through in the very place I had pulled one out. All that focus on those roots and the pressure washer treatment did not do the trick. I marveled to see the tenacity of this plant pushing through concrete and producing leaves. I have left this plant in the middle of our patio as a reminder of our theme this year, “rooted.”

"Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.” Col 2:6-7.

Firmly rooted, what a great inspiration this small dandelion is. Those roots took a terrible beating and yet they stayed firmly rooted in the soil beneath the concrete slab and rallied against all the challenges of my weeding efforts to spring to new life.

Our minds can quickly fill in a list of all the challenges we face at this time. We can make a long list of the big issues of our world and most of us can quickly pull together a similar list for personal challenges and difficulties in their immediate world.

In the midst of all of this, are you firmly rooted in Christ? Jan and I seek to purposely root our hearts and minds in Christ. We are purposed to seek His voice in prayer, the study of the Word, and fellowship. We want to not be tossed to and fro by all of these distractions and challenges, but rather seek to be built up in Christ, established in our faith, and overflowing with gratitude.

I always enjoy reading the Message translation of a particular verse that has inspired me.

"My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live Him. You're deeply rooted in Him. You're well-constructed upon Him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving." Col 2:6-7
Consider this challenge with me. We are to be deeply rooted in Him. From those roots, we are well constructed upon Him. As we do this, we know our way around the faith and are to be proactive to do what He has taught us. As we do this our living is to spill over with thanksgiving. These are great words of challenge and inspiration.

I ask that you pray for this process in our lives as I am praying it for your life as I write. We thank the Lord for your partnership and prayers. God is at work and we are seeking to be faithful to join Him in that work here through CVM.

Rooted,

Kit and Jan Flowers