

# ROOTED

Near our front door is a little alcove. Not long ago we noticed a little arborvitae seedling had started growing. We supposed that a bird had deposited the seedling. Curious, we left the little plant to grow. Months went by, then a year. The seedling developed so nicely. It turned into a nice little tree right there beside the entrance. Nice!

This spring we noticed the tree was now six feet tall and perfectly shaped. In the alcove without full sun, and sheltered from rain, the tree was somehow thriving. Amazing! By this fall we realized the top of the tree had reached the soffit extending overhead. The little 'volunteer' tree, now a beautiful mature tree, sadly, would have to be removed.

A friend who helps us with yard work in the spring and fall said he would love to take the tree and replant it. So ... he dug around it to begin to take it out. The first thing we noticed was that the soil in that little alcove was terrible. It was full of rocks and pieces of slate. When the original builder backfilled that area, he was not too concerned about soil quality. Finally, after much digging, grunting, pulling, and even some winching, we discovered that the root of the original little seedling had gone down until it found a large piece of slate, then found a crack in the slate, and then, pushing through that crack, continued going down. Now as a mature tree, the large tap root had grown through and around the slate!

We finally got it out, but I am curious to see if the replanted tree can survive. We are rooting (no pun intended!) for it to thrive in its new location!

Our tree was made. Think of the Apostle Paul's words to the Colossians.

**“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.”** Colossians 2:6-8 NIV

When CBC was formed in 2020, or shall we say 'rebirthed' from Brethren beginnings of 1708, the commitment was for the church to be rooted in Christ and His unchanging Word, the Bible. The world will always try to redirect, refocus, and relocate us to views and directions instead of the Word. Sometimes we will run into problems like slate that stymie us. Even problems that seem overwhelming. But when we stay rooted in Christ and His Word, we will be surprised at how the Lord will see us through the issues and help us overcome and thrive!

Stay rooted in Christ dear Brothers and Sisters!

**Larry Dentler, CBC Executive Board**

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## **Weekly Prayer Points**

The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14. (NIV)

Jesus left all the glory of Heaven to live among us. Word became Flesh! Incarnation! Can you imagine all He gave up being with us as our Savior? Do you think He missed the Father and Glory? The beauty and special nature of Christmas can cause pain to be difficult for those who are separated from loved ones at Christmas. Missionaries? Service men & women? Those separated by distance. Those who are ill? Are those living through the first Christmas since the loss of a loved one? Those with a broken relationship in their family? Pray for the separated in the grief of the separation. Pray for God’s Presence to be very real to them! Is there someone you could reach out to be a blessing?”

SING: “Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the Virgin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity, pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.”

### **Please pray for these congregations and pastors:**

- Nakaseke Kapeeka congregation in Uganda, Africa and pastor Alexis Sempi
- New Beginnings congregation in Jefferson, MD and pastor Karen Grossnickle

### **CBC Prayer Committee**