

THE TREE

**The tree at the church next door to me
turned up its roots and died.**

**They had tried to brace its leaning,
but there it lay,
leaves in grass, matted roots in air,
like a loafer on a summer day.**

“How come?” I asked the gardener.

“Too much water.” he said.

**“This tree had it too good,
it never had to *hurt* for a drink.”**

**Sometimes on thirsty days,
my mind steps outside,
and goes back to the tree
at the church next door ...
that turned up its roots and died.**



For some reason, trees have always captured my attention and my heart. Years ago a friend pointed out to me how many trees I had used in decorating our home. Tree pictures, figures, wall hangings, etc were everywhere. At that time I began to question “why” ... then I noticed that they all showed their roots. I think that subconsciously I was drawn to the symbolism of growing deep roots in our faith, our family, and our Mary Kay business. When you build your business “deep” with a steady customer base, many strong personal recruits, and a loyal, Experienced Unit, the “tough times” will never cause you to fall!

An Air Force acquaintance gave me this poem when our family moved to Germany for a three year assignment (April 1979 - December 1981). My MK business had been “surviving” for the previous six years: seven moves, two babies, and a miscarriage in between. Tim and I made the decision to not allow a three-year assignment to end a six year dedication to my career. The girls and I lived in a condo in Columbus, OH and visited Tim in Bitburg, Germany for three years. We made 12 round trips during that three years, and Tim made several trips to us. When we began, Jessica was 5 yrs and Regan was 1 yr ... they were almost 8 and 4 when we moved on from that assignment. During that three years I earned a pink Buick Regal (Grand Prix now) and nine months later, a pink Cadillac! We were almost in our second Cadillac when Tim returned to the States. Was it “hard”? Yes. Was it worth it? Ask my family! We have enjoyed the “price of success”, not “paid the price” for excuses, procrastination, and giving up when the going got tough. If I can do it, YOU can too. It’s worth it!

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**Tim Danforth with uprooted tree in
Stanley Park ... Vancouver,
British Columbia, Canada**

Tim is over six feet tall, so you can see how wide this root base is. You can also see how shallow the root base is. The tree was over 100 feet tall and when the heavy winds came through the roots weren’t deep enough to support it.

Trees that grow in rainy climates “have it too good”. They never have to “hurt for a drink” and grow their roots deeper.

They have a very weak support system that doesn’t withstand troubled times.