

## "LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



### PATTERNS OF LIFE

There it lay – no longer standing tall and proud but prostrate and slowly decaying. It had long lost its crown of emeralds, which had once sparkled with frosty dew drops. The colourful jewels marvelled at and photographed have faded, dried and no longer nourished the flocks of multi-coloured and orchestral-voiced friends who once built their homes in its welcoming arms. But that was not the end.

Through its long life, God had worked many changing patterns into the story of its life, patterns which only now could be seen.

Similarly, God works patterns into our lives that we may not have seen or understood then. Long, long ago, King David wrote, "My times are in Your hand; Save me from the hand of my enemies, And from those who bother and pick on me." **(Psalm 31:15)** That tree would have grown through many years of calm, sunny days and days with plenty of rain to stop its thirst. However, there would have been days of being battered by storms and years of rainless droughts. Through all those days and years of change, God used them all to create new patterns of strength.

We all face those same conditions: days or years of joy and happiness, days or years of a drought of joy and wonder. Then there are times when family strife, financial worries, relationship struggles, countless employment searches, and friendless loneliness are like gales battering, twisting and bending life, intent on destroying joy and peace. Those are the times to push your thought roots deep into and curl them around these words of promise and love from the God who loves you, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dishearted, for I am your God. I will make you strong and help you; I will hold you up with my honest and strong right hand." **(Isaiah 41:10)**

The "life patterns" of that old tree are still seen today long after it fell, telling the stories of its struggles and survivals and giving hope and comfort to whoever will stop and consider. Some spiders and bugs have built new homes in its cracks and old holes. Recognising and sharing how God and his love helped us through our times of trouble can also help others find strength and comfort. A friend of Jesus wrote these words from Jesus. "You are the light to the world" **(Matthew 5:14)** God wants to help and encourage you to shine his love into the lives of those you know and love.

May God always bless the patterns of your life.

Kevin.