

# THE CROSS ROAD



From the Pastor:

## **Birds of a Feather**

I'd like to share a true story with you. As the above picture indicates; it involves a bird caught in a terrible trap, and what we are able to do to help. While on a vacation in Florida several years ago; my younger son, Jake and I were fishing from a dock. It was a really hot day, around lunch time. We decided that since the fish were not biting we were going to get some pizza. Just as we were packing up our equipment; we noticed a bird fly past us. We also noticed that hanging from its foot hung a fishing line and a lead shot. The bird was doing fine until it flew above some trees. That's when it happened: the bird became entangled with the top of the tree branches. The bird just hung there squawking every once in a while but with no luck of freeing itself. Between us and the bird was the inlet in which we had been fishing. It was about 50 yards wide. But it may as well have been 10 miles. How could we cross the waterway to

the island where the bird was? Let alone get it from the top of the tree? We felt badly, but left hoping that somehow the bird would escape. As soon as we returned from getting our pizza; we looked across to the island and the top of the tree. A few moments later we saw the bird jump and heard it do a small squawk. Still attached to the tree via the fishing line, we went to sleep that night, but not feeling very good about the situation. The next day, we awoke and were going to a nearby mall. As we walked out the door- you guessed it: the bird flapped its wings and squawked. We still went to the mall but felt worse than ever. What could we do? When we returned home from the mall- there it was! I didn't know how, but I had to try something. So, I inflated a small rubber raft, slung a saw over my shoulder, and began to paddle my way over to the island from the dock. It was then that something amazing happened: a boat came down the water way just as I was about 1/3 of the way there. The boat shouldn't have been there. It was right in the middle of the afternoon on a hot day. There were a couple of guys in the boat and they hauled me in and began to drive toward the island. Just as we started there, the bird fell from the tree. I netted it while the boat driver returned us to the shore. Just as I got out of the boat, seven or eight people came out of their condos. I realized that they too had been watching the bird wondering what to do. One of them took the bird from me and began to give it some water, and another person said they had called bird rescue to come and get

the bird. Everything happened so fast. Soon, the bird was taken away like on a rescue television show. But I did manage to get one thing: a feather. I still have that one feather today. Every time I see it; it reminds me that even when we know that we are not fully capable, or have doubts and fears; God will help us. It is up to us to be faithful to our call, and reach up as high as we can. After that, God will reach down to us and fill the gap.

Birds of a feather stick together!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Gary

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The Deacon **Committee assignments** are taking shape. Finance and property, worship and pulpit, Christian education, and membership and mission are the four areas of service.

There is a second Deacon's planning session scheduled for April 7.

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Thank you to Patrick Seward on piano and Mark Fournier on guitar for providing us with worship music!

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We welcome new members, Sandy Nelson and Robert Ray. They joined our Church family on Palm Sunday.

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The Genesis Bible study continues to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15 A.M. We have been using a video series: "Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis" as well as traditional Bible

study questions. All are welcome to attend.

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The Men's lunch will continue meeting Tuesday at 12:15 P.M. We will have a meeting to decide what we want to do after the Lent season. All men are welcome.

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Do you know what this picture is?

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Do you know?

According to Matthew, who are the first two disciples called by Jesus?

In Matthew 24, Jesus tells about the destruction of the Temple and the end of the age. From where did Jesus speak these words?

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What would be a good name for a newsletter?