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# Newsletter—February 2025

## Thy Will Be Done



I've been looking for themes God may be trying to show me about what He wants to work on in me. I thought a quick review of the verses in my journal over the last several days would surface not only a theme, but something to write about. This morning these words caught my attention, "Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; <sup>44</sup>for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on." (Mark 12:43-44, NASB95).

This is one of those truths we don't like as Americans living in a prosperous place where our basic needs are relatively easy to meet. Pointing to that widow, Jesus told His disciples *God measures by sacrifice not size*. Our struggle isn't in giving out of our surplus, but in what we want to hold back (See Ananias & Sapphira, Acts 5).

This is very much in line with what Mark has been recording from the life and teachings of Jesus. For example, Jesus answered the question of the scribe concerning the most important commandment in this way, "Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; <sup>30</sup> and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31). To love God and others like that requires some significant sacrifice!

Jesus warned His disciples about the "leaven" of Herod (materialism) and of the Pharisees (hypocrisy) in Mark 8:15-17. Then He clarified what it means to be a follower of His, "And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. <sup>35</sup> "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it." (Mark 8:34-35 (NASB95). Jesus laid it out, if you wish to follow Me, you have to sacrifice your desires for Mine. Jesus taught sacrifice in terms of humility (receiving children, Mark 9:37), wealth, (how hard it is for the wealthy to enter the kingdom of God, Mark 10:23-25), and priorities ("Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." (Mark 12:17).


What was the widow thinking, and what was her motive for sacrificing, "all she had to live on"? Was it her love for God, her desire to express her worship of Him, how much He meant to her, or her trust in Him? Perhaps it was all of these, we can only speculate. What would Jesus want us to sacrifice? I'm sure more than money. The bigger issue is more a question of why, than what, we would sacrifice. All of this can be overwhelming.

However, it should point us to the gospel of Christ. Jesus broke the power of desires for the things that separate us from fellowship with God on the cross. There He set us free to love God more than all other things. It isn't mustering up enough self-discipline on our own but turning to Christ in faith that we find our way. It's keeping our faith focused on Christ and what He accomplished for us. Consider the desperate father, "And Jesus said to him, 'If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes.'" (Mark 9:23). And Jesus' words to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you. (Mark 11:24). Of course, the qualifier is God's will, which takes us to where the sacrifice battle rages – His will or mine.

Grateful for Christ,  
Pastor Dan



# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>MBC Office Hours:</b>  <b>Monday—Thursday 8 AM—4 PM</b>  <b>&amp; Fridays 8 AM—Noon</b></p>						<p>1                      Men's No Regrets Conference, 8 am—1:30 pm, Hope Church</p>
<p>2                      Worship Services:                      The Gathering 9 am &amp; Café 10:30 am                      Sunday School &amp; Pipeline—9 am                      Next Steps-Step 2 (s.2)—9 am, Library                      Biblical Leadership Class—12:30-2:30 pm, NC                      Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S                      Ignite—4-6pm, NC                      Fusion—6-8pm, NC</p>	<p>3                      Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102                      Iglesia Biblica Men's Grp.—7 pm, NC</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5                      No Sr. Growth Group                      Awana:                      Trek/Journey—5:15 pm                      Cubbies-T&amp;T—6:15 pm                      Women's Study—6:15 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>6                      Missions Meeting—5 pm, LL #106                      Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC                      MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8                      Ice Fishing &amp; Broomball—9 &amp; 11 am, Elgin's Pond</p>
<p>9                      Lord's Table                      Worship Services:                      The Gathering 9 am &amp; Café 10:30 am                      Sunday School &amp; Pipeline—9 am                      Next Steps-Step 3—9 am, Library                      Mission Trip Info. Meeting—10:15 am, LL #106                      Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S                      Family Super Bowl Party—4:30pm, NC/K                      No Ignite/Fusion</p>	<p>10                      Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102                      Elder Meeting—6 pm, LL #106                      Deacon Meeting—6 pm, NC</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12                      No Sr. Growth Group                      Awana:                      Trek/Journey—5:15 pm                      Cubbies-T&amp;T—6:15 pm                      Women's Study—6:15 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>13                        Red Cross Blood Drive, Noon-6 pm, NC                      Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #101                      MBC Worship Practice—6:30pm, S</p>	<p>14                      Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am–3:30 pm, all church                      Homeschool Co-op Science Fair—5 -7 pm, NC/K                      Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S                      Iglesia Biblica Women's Study—6-8 pm, LL# 101/102</p>	<p>15                      Women's Valentines Cookie Exchange—1-4pm, NC/K/S</p>
<p>16                      Worship Services:                      The Gathering 9 am &amp; Café 10:30 am                      Sunday School &amp; Pipeline—9 am                      Mission Trip Info. Meeting—Noon, NC                      Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S                      Ignite—4-6pm, NC                      Fusion—6-8pm, NC</p>	<p>17                      Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102                      Iglesia Biblica Men's Grp.—7 pm, NC</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19                      No Sr. Growth Group                      Awana:                      Trek/Journey—5:15 pm                      Cubbies-T&amp;T—6:15 pm                      Women's Study—6:15 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>20                      Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC                      MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S</p>	<p>21                      Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am–3:30 pm, all church                      Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p>	<p>22                      Iglesia Biblica Marriage Seminar—3-9 pm, NC/K/S</p>
<p>23                      Worship Services:                      The Gathering 9 am &amp; Café 10:30 am                      Sunday School &amp; Pipeline—9 am                      Mission Trip Info. Meeting—10:15 am, LL #106                      Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S                      No Ignite/Fusion - Returning from Retreat</p>	<p>24                      Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26                      No Sr. Growth Group                      Awana:                      Trek/Journey—5:15 pm                      Cubbies-T&amp;T—6:15 pm                      Women's Study—6:15 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>27                      Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC                      MBC Worship Practice—6:30pm, S</p>	<p>28                      Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am–3:30 pm, all church                      Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30pm, S                      Iglesia Biblica Women's Study—6-8 pm, LL# 101/102</p>	

**T & T Girls Event**  
**5 pm—11 am**  
**All church in use**

**Fusion Youth Winter Retreat**  
**Westby, WI.**



# Newsletter—February 2025

HAPPY  
*Birth*day 

 HAPPY  
*Anniversary*

- 10 Richard & Mary Kubly
- 12 Dale & Lynn Klitzke
- 13 Roger & Kathy Krauss

- 2 Aaron Holverson  
Tabitha Thostenson
- 6 Julie Paske
- 7 Nate Bloom  
Tasha Erdmann
- 8 Luca Petersen  
Justin Rhoe
- 10 Liam Erdmann
- 11 Al Ostenson
- 12 Timothy Kramer  
Anita Peach  
Braden Williams

- 13 Debra Hurlbert
- 14 Josiah Hauri  
Jake Watson
- 15 Jaclyn Miller
- 16 Felicity Eddy  
Liz Garchie  
Devan Schulte
- 17 Steve Crail  
Marie Wunschel
- 19 Brigham Holverson  
Lynne Rhoe
- 20 Randy Whyte

- 20 Darlene Bartelt  
Emmalynn Brunner  
Jim Hurlbert  
Sarah Olmstead
- 23 Jo Figi  
Scott Larson
- 24 Paxton Hartwig
- 26 Betty Anderson
- 27 Beth Figi  
Gloria Huffman
- 28 Aleta Crail  
Kathy Markham  
Deb Westphal

## *With Our Sympathy*

*We offer our sympathy to Dan & Celia Keen & their family. Celia's sister, Susanne Barneko, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. May God comfort you with His peace.*



## February Pipeline - Marriage Ministry Series

National Marriage Week USA is celebrated annually during the week of February 7<sup>th</sup> through Valentine's Day, February 14<sup>th</sup>. This year, couples who serve in the Marriage Ministry will be leading us through Les & Leslie Parrott's 5-week video series entitled, "Love Talk." Through their teaching we will be learning about and discussing these 5 relationship builders: 1. Communication 2. How You Say The Things You Do 3. The Secret to Emotional Connection 4. When Not to Talk 5. Let's Talk Love

Over the years, when we've asked couples for input on what topics they would like to study in the Pipeline sessions, "Communication" is always one of the top requests. So, if you are married, engaged, dating, or considering dating, mark your calendars now and join us at 9:00 AM on February 2<sup>nd</sup> - March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We look forward to having you join us in growing and strengthening our relationships.

Jeff & Marie Wunschel,  
Marriage Ministry Leaders



## Do You Know How to Access Our MBC Directory?

*\*Your email address must be listed in our directory in order for you to access the directory.* You can access the church directory from your computer or download the app to your smartphone and create your own private login.

1. Access the directory on your **Computer** at: <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> or by **Downloading the Instant Church Directory App** on your smartphone.
2. **Create your Log In:** Your login will be the email address you turned in with your directory information. If you need to add an email address, contact the office.
3. **Create a Password.**
4. **Verify:** a confirmation email will be sent, click on the link to verify.
5. **That's it!** Sign in through the app or computer website to access our directory.



## Newsletter—February 2025



### Marriage Ministry Mentor Couple of the Month Loren & Kristi Bruehlman

We married on July 23, 1994, and have three adult children, a son and two daughters. We met in the barn while Kristi was a livestock nutritionist and Loren a dairy farmer. We raised our kids while working on the farm, then sold the cows in 2019 due to financial hardship in agriculture.

Both of us work full-time, Loren at Aeromotors in Browntown as an airplane parts repair technician and inspector, and Kristi at Monroe Bible Church as the Office Administrator.

We understand the struggles and rewards of owning your own business, the uncertainties of financial hardship, fears in making career changes, the rewards of raising children and seeing your family grow, feeling the loss of family and close friends through cancer and suicide, and facing the realities life has as it impacts a marriage. Hardships and trials test a marriage and can either destroy or, through love and commitment, challenge us to overcome and grow that marriage.

We both love to read, study, hike, bike, and spend time with each other and family. If you would like to talk with us, we welcome the opportunity to spend time with you and share together.

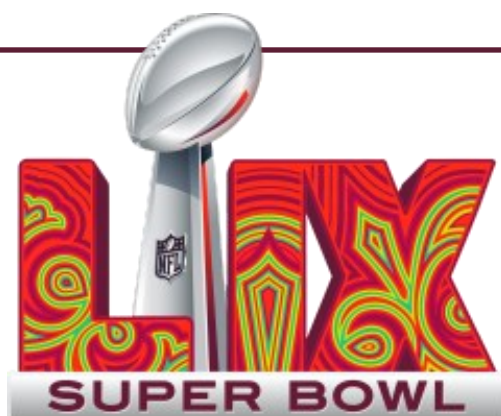


We're in a new year. What are your spiritual goals for 2025? As I write this it is very cold outside. I got in my truck this morning and it wouldn't start. The battery failed. No power. Our lives can be like that if we don't pray daily and read God's Word daily. We won't have any spiritual power.

On Monday evenings at prayer meeting, we're discussing a book called "A Journey to Victorious Praying". The believer gains spiritual strength through prayer, Bible reading, and study. The Holy Spirit is a great help to the believer when we don't know what to pray for in a certain situation. We also need prayer partners. It may be your spouse if you are married and also your close friends. We must hold each other up in prayer. It's the "cement" that holds the "Body of Christ" together. Praying for a fellow believer develops Godly love for that person. It will encourage you and the person you are praying for.

Make a goal for 2025 to have prayer, reading, and studying God's Word a priority in your life.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader



## **FAMILY SUPER BOWL PARTY!**

**Sunday, February 9, 4:30 pm  
until the game ends!**



**Ping-Pong table,  
Bean Bag toss, &  
Lemonade provided.**

**In the Monroe Bible Church  
Nehemiah Center.**



## Newsletter—February 2025

### **Book Study Coming Soon!**

understanding the  
wounded heart  
second edition

MARCUS WARNER

Dr. Marcus Warner's book, *Understanding the Wounded Heart* is a biblically balanced practical guide understanding how our hearts get wounded, and how to see them made whole again.

Jim Kampa will be leading a 10-week "deeper dive" into the inner workings of the book. This class is open to anyone, but it is specifically designed for people who: want to grow in their understanding of emotional healing, are looking for more tools to help others deal with root-level issues in their lives, are looking for ways to tear down strongholds that hamper people's walk with the Lord (both ourselves and others), and enjoy interacting in a relational learning environment with other like-minded people.

By taking this course you can expect to: gain a stronger understanding of the core causes of emotional wounding, learn practical tools you can put to work in your own life and in those you minister to, gain freedom from wounds, get better at "tearing down strongholds" in your life and in the lives of others, be encouraged and strengthened as you apply what you are learning to your life.

**This study will meet on Friday evenings from March 7<sup>th</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm**  
**in the Nehemiah Center of MBC. (We will be off on Good Friday)**

We encourage you to purchase your book ahead of time and read Chapters 1 and 2 before the start of class. Please Contact Jim Kampa with questions, 920-757-9551.

**Sign up by Feb 26<sup>th</sup> at the Welcome Center, or email Jim at [jrkampa44@gmail.com](mailto:jrkampa44@gmail.com)**



**Thursday,  
February 13<sup>th</sup>  
Noon-6:00 pm**

### **AWANA**

#### **Girls' T & T Event**

Church lock-in, all church in use.

**Beginning Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**  
at 5:00 PM and  
**ending Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**  
at 11:00 AM.

Contact Tessa Hurlbert (608-473-2939)  
with questions.

**Permission slips are required!**



**Are you looking to be more involved?  
Would you like to be better  
equipped?**

Following the Next Steps at the Bible Church is not only a way to enable you to become more involved, but will also be valuable to your personal growth. Each session is 1-hour long and designed to be completed in order.

- Step 1: Our Mission & Vision
- Step 2: Our Core Beliefs
- Step 3: Our Commitments
- Step 4: Our Equipping
- Step 5: On Mission

#### Upcoming Sessions:

- Step 2: February 2
- Step 3: February 9
- Step 4: March 2 & March 9
- Step 5: April 6 & April 13 (required for mission trips)

Please sign up for all Next Steps classes at the Welcome Center, or on our website under Events.

Pick up a 2025 Next Steps brochure at the Welcome Center for a listing of all classes for the 2025 calendar year.

**Please Note:**  
**Steps 1, 2, & 3**  
are required for  
church membership.



## Newsletter—February 2025

# Missions Ministry

The missions ministry has a couple exciting things to mention this month. Many of you have asked about Viktor and Lena Schpits, our Slavic Gospel Association (SGA) missionaries in Kazakhstan, who were desperately in need of a different vehicle in order to continue effectively ministering to the villages around them. MBC sent a generous donation to them through SGA and we received a very grateful thank you from them in January along with a video of the family joyously picking up their new car. The short video will be shown during services on February 16<sup>th</sup>. An excerpt from their email reads, "We sincerely thank you for your help, for your intercession in collecting material resources, for all the donations of the brothers and sisters. May the Lord reward you many more times... This car is a great miracle for our church... Everyone is happy and thanks be to Christ!!! Glory to Him forever and ever.... We wish you joy in service, peace in your heart, love in your family. God's guidance and blessings to the fullest, in readiness for the Coming of the Lord." Thank you MBC for responding so generously to this need!

The second announcement regards the 2025 short-term mission trip which is planned for June 8<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> in the Dominican Republic. We are partnering with Kids Around The World this year which is a new mission experience. You may recall this is the same mission organization through which we funded a playground and hold One Meal Food Packing events. If you are feeling a calling to this year's trip, please plan now to attend one of the informational meetings. This is a requirement even if you have gone on previous mission trips. Things will be done a little differently this year, and we want you to have all the information you need. Dates and times for these meetings can be found on the church calendar and in the bulletin.

Lastly, the missions ministry is pleased to announce two new members. Tonya Reed and Annette Stormont join Bernadette Wong, Rich Peach, Bernie Roidt, and myself (Crystal Zimmerman). We are pleased to have fresh input and ideas as we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

**NO MEN'S  
REGRETS CONFERENCE**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2025**

**RESCUED**  
COLLOSSIANS 1:13-14

*Sign up at the Welcome Center!*

No Regrets is a livestream conference for men, designed to challenge each one in their relationship with the Lord, family & community. Join with other men, virtually and in person, on February 1 to see how we are RESCUED to a transformed life of purpose.

**8:00 am – 1:30 pm (registration opens at 7:30 am)**  
**Hope Church (2902 13th St, Monroe) Cost: \$20**  
**Continental Breakfast & Pizza Lunch provided!**



# Newsletter—February 2025

## Clarity House Update:

In May of last year, the Elders decided to use the services of Clarity House to guide us through an 8-month process of discernment about how we, as a church, can move forward as the disciple-making body we are called to be. This process is specifically around the areas of mission, vision and implementation. The team consists of Pastor Dan, Pastor Kevin, Loren Bruehlman, Amy Haworth, and Amanda Ohlrich. We are now halfway through the process, and here are some of the big discussions and take-aways:

As a church we need to rethink our disciple-making model. For a long time, the goal of many American churches has been Attend-Connect-Serve. Get people to attend, connect them to a small group, and get them to serve in ministry. This has been relatively successful in making churchgoers, but not disciples. To make disciples, we need to make a change. Our first step in this was to shift our thinking away from leaders being the ministry heroes, to leaders empowering the whole church to be in ministry.

Next, we looked at our church and community specifically to understand who and where we are unique and how God might be using us to make disciples. From this we formed the following statement:

*We exist to glorify God and make disciples by empowering a family-focused, Bible-anchored and authentically-caring congregation in a spiritually hard, performance-driven and ideologically divided community with a deep passion for reaching the lost, transforming lives and protecting the flock.*

With this we have been attempting to create a mission statement that is meaningful, memorable and mobilizing. This has proven more difficult than expected because they are pushing us away from “Christianese” language and really challenging us to be specific. Our current draft is:

*Sharing the hope of Christ in everything we do.*

Building on this, we are currently working on articulating our Dream Disciple, a tool that helps us clarify four roles that we want to help people grow into, so they can embody the mission of our church in their everyday places of life. This also gives us our mission measures and helps us know if we are successful in making disciples. Our current draft is as follows:

### **Devoted Follower**

Role: I desire to be, and therefore consistently am, with Jesus in prayer, Bible reading, and worship.

Question 1: How would you describe your walk with Christ today?

Question 2: What has God shown you about Himself recently?

### **Intentional Neighbor**

Role: I go out of my way to meet the needs of others.

Question 1: How have you served others within and outside your church recently?

Question 2: Who don't you want to be a neighbor to right now?

### **Joyful Servant**

Role: I delight in doing what God tells me to do through His Word and Spirit.

Question 1: What area of your life are you finding hardest to surrender control to God?

Question 2: How would you describe your current attitude toward obeying God?

### **Humble Multiplier**

Role: Seeing others as more important than myself, I seize opportunities to reproduce in them what God has done and is doing in me.

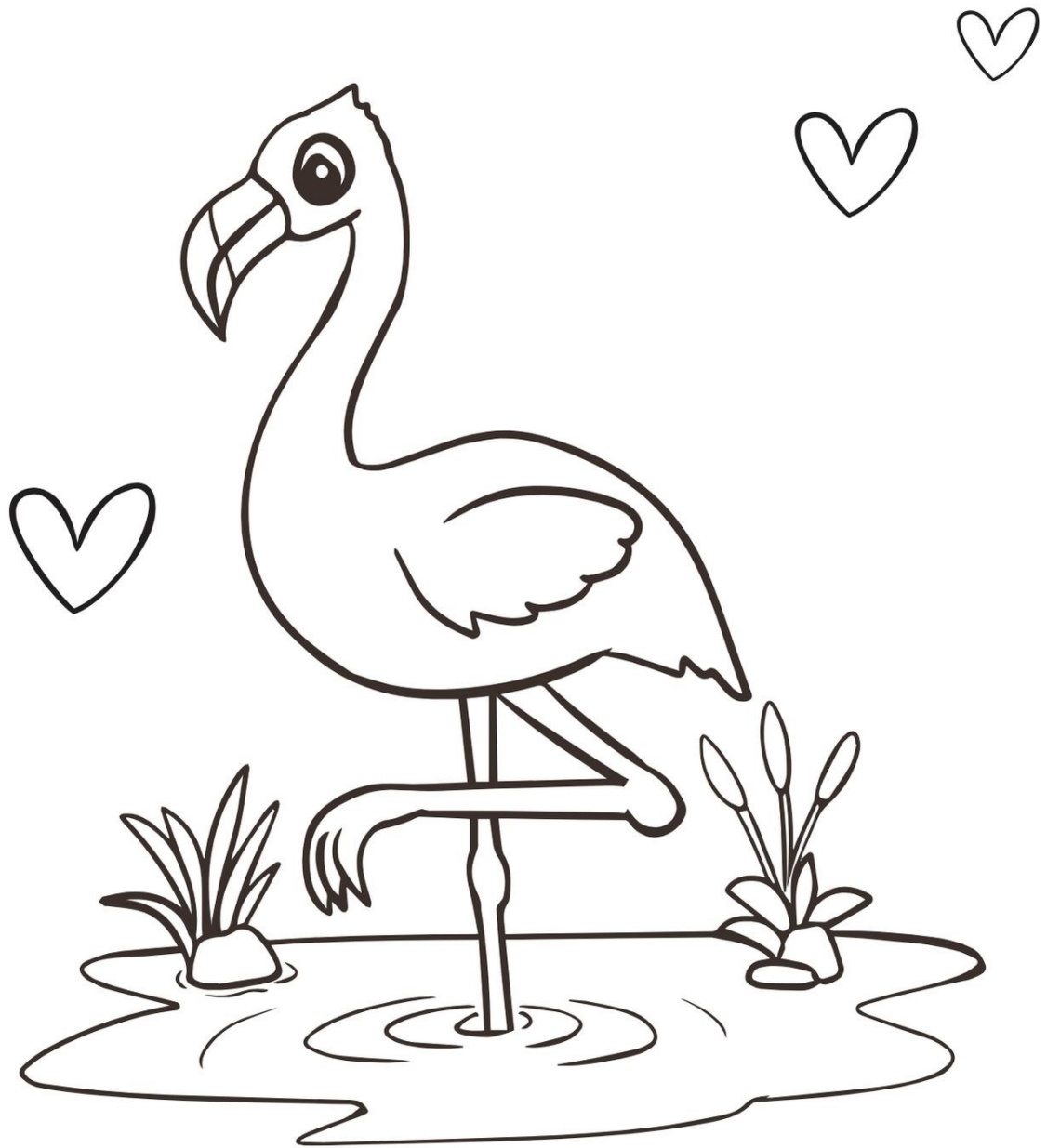
Question 1: How have you built up a fellow believer this week?

Question 2: Who are you currently building a relationship with in order to share the Gospel?

If you have any questions about the work we are doing with Clarity House, don't hesitate to reach out to any of the team members listed above.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kevin

# YOU ARE LOVED



We love because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19