

# Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

JANUARY 2018



## Why Be NICE?

Unique, unusual, varied, but certainly gifted! That would describe many of the Northwest Independent Church Extension missionaries who have served with NICE over the past 60 years! Recently, we asked a number of the NICE missionaries to reflect on their ministry with the mission.

The Mission strives to function as a family, caring for its members, recognizing their individual strengths and weaknesses, praying for each other, and just having fun and fellowship together. The friendships formed have given opportunities to share joys, sorrows, encouragement and challenge. Stan and Virginia Poeschel (Happy Camp Bible Church, CA) said that they have built *"lifelong friendships with other pastors and their wives, which enables us to share ministry and personal concerns with those who care. What more could a pastor and wife ask for?"* Earl and Shirley Brubaker (NICE Minister at Large) echoed that feeling when they said, *"When we feel the need of extra prayer support because of some present ministry circumstance, it is other NICE missionaries that we usually call."* Keith and Claudia Singer (Loomis Community Church, WA) commented, *"As a young pastor, it has been nice to hear of others' ideas and experiences. This helps me out on a personal level. Also, it is just great to be able to talk about things that I love to talk about with fellow servants of the Lord!"* Mark and Melanie Edwards (Wishkah Valley Community Church, Aberdeen WA) pointed out that NICE Personnel *"have had a listening ear to any difficulties I have faced and I knew it would be kept confidential; their counsel is very Godly and Biblical."*

It's intriguing to note that when asked what



Pictured, from the top:  
Stan & Virginia Poeschel;  
Earl & Shirley Brubaker;  
Keith, Claudia & Karina  
Singer; Mark & Melanie  
Edwards; Jésus & María  
Cordova.

these men regarded as a major strength of NICE in its ministry, the response was varied according to each person's ministry viewpoint and heart. Rob cited *"doctrinal integrity"*; Keith said, *"It seems that the hands-on/hands-off balance is appropriate. NICE leadership has stepped in when the circumstances required it, while still allowing the individual churches to serve the Lord in autonomy".* Earl valued the fact that NICE *"holds a strong doctrinal position and commitment to the local church while each of its members is allowed to develop their individual gifts and strengths of ministry rather than having a ministry template to which all must conform."* Stan's response was *"godly leadership that care about the pastor/wife and the congregation"*; while Jésus and María Cordova (Iglesia Cristo Vive, Salem, OR) appreciated the Mission *"keeping us updated of other missionaries and their prayer needs."*

Stan went on, *"I would be happy to encourage anyone who is interested in serving the Lord to consider NICE. I don't think a person could ask for a better organization to belong to!"*

Rob and Ruth Morris (Hobart Community Church, WA) echoed that sentiment, *"Anyone who desires to be a part of biblical church planting and church help should consider joining NICE. It is not the only ministry, but it is the best!"*

Mark expressed it this way, *"We have worked with three other mission organizations in our 32 years of ministry and would place NICE at the top of all of them in every category of communication and care for their missionaries."* Earl's comment was, *"If you value prayer, counsel, and encouragement to follow God's direction for your personal ministry, NICE is unsurpassed. And besides it's the NICEest group around!"* Keith and Jésus just said, *"Go for it!"*

Considering ministry in church planting in the Northwest? The Lord has been pleased to use NICE these past 60 years. **Why not be NICE?!**

***So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.*** I Corinthians 3:7