



# Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

JANUARY 2019



## "I Will Build my Church"

NICE Missionaries, Nathan and Brittany Lundgren, have begun ministry in Kooskia, Idaho at Valley Bible Church. Nathan is a graduate of Cornerstone Bible Institute in North Dakota. He and Brittany applied and were accepted with NICE this past summer. Shortly afterwards, Valley Bible Church extended a call to the Lundgrens. They and their six children have settled



in and are getting to know their new church family and community.

Recently, Nathan was featured in an article in the local newspaper, The Clearwater Progress. In speaking to the church youth group, Nathan had literally used a hands-on approach to demonstrate the biblical principle of building your life on the Word of God. He used an object lesson the youth group won't easily forget! The newspaper article told how Nathan had built an 8-foot frame wall in the sanctuary to help illustrate the importance of a firm foundation. While standing on top of the wall, Nathan told the kids, "Psalm 127 says unless the Lord builds the house, they that build the house, build in vain." He explained to the newspaper reporter, "So what I want the kids to know is, if you want your life to stand for what God wants it to, you're gonna have to build it according to His instruction in His Word."

Using his physical skills in construction, and at the same time his spiritual skills in building a church, Nathan used this as an opportunity to share about Christ and Valley Bible Church to all the readers of The Clearwater Progress. The article began, "A fresh approach to sharing the Word of God has come to the Valley Bible Church in Kooskia; Pastor Nathan Lundgren brings his youth and enthusiasm to his congregation in a way few people have ever seen." The Lord Jesus Himself was both a physical carpenter and a spiritual carpenter! His earthly father, Joseph was a

carpenter, and Jesus was trained in that skill in His youth. Later in His ministry, some people said, "Is not this the carpenter?" (Mark 6:3). So when Jesus said, "I will build My Church" in Matthew 16:18, you're made to wonder if the analogy encompassed not just establishing His Church, but also the necessary principle of Himself as the Foundation, and the vital importance of the walls working together to support the entire structure. A lasting visual picture was given to the young people at Valley Bible Church of personally having Christ and His Word as their foundation for faith and life!



Photo of Nathan from the newspaper

The Apostle Paul states this principle in I Corinthians 9:22 when he writes, "I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." So it is that NICE Missionaries use a variety of avenues and skills to reach the people in their communities. Nathan was simply trying to reach his youth group; but God chose to widen the outreach by means of the newspaper article!

Will you join us in praying that God will mightily use the Lundgren family in Kooskia, and



all of the NICE Missionaries where they are serving? Yes, God IS building His Church! And sometimes He uses 8-foot frame walls!

Valley Bible Church, Kooskia, ID

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