



# Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

JANUARY 2020

## "Jesus May Come In 1958"

Following an evening of fun and games, food and fellowship, the people who had gathered for the New Year's Eve Party at **Happy Camp Bible Church** listened with rapt attention as the Pastor briefly shared portions of God's Word concerning the coming of Christ. He concluded by stating, *"We don't know when our Lord will come, but it could be today – in fact, Jesus may come in 1958!"* That was true back then; how much more true and timely it is today!

Most of the churches where NICE serves plan events around the New Year! These events focus on good fellowship, or lots of games, even all night parties, but all on taking spiritual inventory, worship, Gospel outreach and looking to what God might do in the coming year. **Mark and Melanie Edwards** at **Wishkah Valley Community Church** explained their New Year event's purpose, *"I was reflecting on what made a strong Church. Part of that conclusion was that they did things together, they had traditions they shared, they laughed together as well as studied and prayed; so that when the hard times hit, they had history and connection to help get them through. So events such as these provide that foundation."*

Not many churches still have an "all-nighter", rather they have their version of what **Sunset Bible Church, WA** does. The "East Coast New Year's Eve Celebration" runs from 6:00 to 9:00 PM (following East Coast time), with games, food, prayer and worship. Several of our NICE missionary pastors use New Year's Day as an occasion to get everyone together to watch football and share the Gospel.



Happy Camp Bible Church, CA



Mark & Melanie Edwards



Forest Glade Community Church, Snohomish, WA



Steve & Celeste DeFord

The **Forest Glade Community Church** where **Roy and Elvia Sprague** are temporarily ministering, gathers for a great time with pot-luck dinner followed by an old-fashioned Hymn sing, and concluding with worship at The Lord's Table.

The **First Baptist Church** of Ekalaka, MT, where **Steve & Celeste DeFord** have served for over 20 years, have met in the church, enjoying games and fellowship, followed by The Lord's Supper at midnight. Currently, the church family meets in several homes, encouraging one another, and enjoying getting to know each other better.

The **Wishkah Valley Community Church** also adds variety, meeting in the church some years and in homes at other times. Last year, the Edwards hosted the church in their home, and were thrilled when some husbands who don't attend church came with their wives, allowing them to make that contact. In fact, Melanie said, *"I really prefer doing it in our home. It has a much different atmosphere and I think it has created more connection, because people leave some of those Church masks behind."*

The ministry of NICE is committed to reaching people with the Gospel, teaching and preaching the Word, and challenging and encouraging believers to a life of obedience and service. They realize that, indeed, the Lord Jesus could come in 2020, and wish to use every opportunity to strengthen believers and reach those who don't know the Lord with the Gospel. YOU are a vital part of this on-going work of planting and establishing churches.

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