



Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

JANUARY 2021



Partners With NICE For 62 Years

In March 1958, Ray Gustafson, Pastor of Evergreen Bible Church, Vancouver, WA, made a motion at the IFCA Conference in Roseburg, OR that a ministry of planting and establishing churches begin as soon as possible. This was the beginning of Northwest Independent Church Extension and the beginning of a partnership with Evergreen Bible that God has wonderfully blessed throughout the Mission's 62+ years of ministry.



Praise God ...

- For Evergreen's Pastors Strunk, Eggert, Scholl and Beck who have all served on the NICE Board of Directors.
- For Evergreen's faithful support of NICE with finances and prayer.
- For Evergreen's hosting and support of Iglesia Biblica Evergreen, a thriving Hispanic Church plant served by NICE Missionaries Jose and Ruth Alvarez.
- For Evergreen Elders who have, in times of need, ministered the Word at churches in Carson, Ridgefield, LaCamas, and Toutle. Longtime Elder, Lowell Lowry also served on the NICE Board.



The Alvarez'



The Daniells

- For Evergreen's mentoring of men and women from the NICE family, such as Lefty and Joan Ward, Ray and Marge Woolford, Terry and Lisa Strunk, and Matt and Annette Daniells for Pastoral ministry.

In 1980, God led Evergreen Bible Church members, Ray and Margaret Woolford to move to Carson, Washington to serve the Carson Bible Church as NICE Missionaries. At their Installation Service Ray stated, *"The priority of my life is to proclaim the good news that God has provided life for all who trust in Him. Oh, that the Church here in Carson will grow in Christ, and be used of God to serve others!"*

Ray and Marge ministered faithfully at Carson, starting Bible Studies and loving people to Christ. On one occasion when visiting the church, former NICE Director Roy Sprague observed their love for people; he noted, *"Pastor Ray challenged the church family to know and love the Savior, and in his message he used the words 'Dearly beloved' 8 times in addressing the congregation! He was truly a shepherd."*



The Woolfords

God called Ray Woolford into His presence unexpectedly in an automobile accident on a Sunday afternoon. But even then, that same week, Marge chose to teach her Ladies Bible Study. She continued to serve her Lord, moving to Cannon Beach, OR where she taught Bible classes for several years. She came back to Evergreen Bible Church and again proclaimed God's Word faithfully in weekly Ladies Bible classes almost until her call to glory.

Pastor Toby Beck shared, *"Marge was as fine a Bible teacher as you'll ever meet and she led the study at Hazel's house for many years. Many times in years past, after I would announce an upcoming sermon series, a small stack of excellent commentaries would suddenly appear on my desk along with a note from Marge on the ones she liked best. They remain some of the best Bible study tools I have. Marge has contributed greatly to my preaching and teaching."*



The Becks



On November 30, 2020 God called Marge into His presence. Her life of magnifying and serving the Lord touched so many lives for His glory! Praise God for NICE Missionaries such as Ray and Marge Woolford; praise God for Evergreen Bible Church and 62+ years of partnering with NICE for the furtherance of the Gospel!

The fact that YOU are a Partner with NICE is also a reason for praise to the Lord!

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