



Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

OCTOBER 2019



For Such a Time as This

God's sovereignty demands our praise as He puts the right person in the right place at the right time! That truth was played out in the life of Queen Esther. Her uncle, Mordecai tells her in Esther 4:14, *"And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"* Northwest Independent Church Extension has borne witness to God using His people to meet changing leadership needs in NICE's growth. One of the founders of NICE, Noel Olsen commented, *"God provided every one of the Mission's Directors with the strengths needed for that time! Henry had great vision and burden for souls; Don had captivating enthusiasm for the work; Roy had the ability to encourage and challenge pastors to get involved; Earl was a keen administrator who developed needed structure; and Bob spreads concern and compassion throughout the fields of ministry!"*

Henry Boyd, the first Executive Director for NICE, served from 1958 to 1962. His ministry verse was Proverbs 29:18, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* And vision was needed for this "baby" mission! Board Member, Dick Schwab commented, *"None of us envisioned NICE as we now see it! Henry's vision of faith has resulted in many ventures for God's glory."*

Don Strunk gave guidance from 1962 through 1970 when NICE needed the local churches to take "ownership". Don Strunk took Psalm 100:2, *"Serve the Lord with gladness"* as his key verse. He said that his goal was *"that all the churches and pastors of the Regional accept the challenge and vision of NICE to respond to the opportunities in both rural and metropolitan areas."*

Roy Sprague took up that challenge under his leadership from 1970 to



Top to bottom:
Henry & Margaret Boyd,
Don & Joanne Strunk,
Roy & Elvia Sprague,
Earl & Shirley Brubaker,
Bob & Katherine Rodgers

2000, bringing NICE to the attention of churches throughout the Northwest, expanding the ministry to six states. His strengths of vision, promotion and fund-raising were key in those years of growth, getting others excited about what could be done for the Lord through the ministry of NICE.

With growth numerically and geographically that came under Roy, there was a need for fine-tuning. **Earl Brubaker** was the man of God's choosing from 2000 to 2010. His giftedness in administration and organization not only met the need in the NICE Office, but also translated into ministry, for example, appointing and using Field Directors. Earl could see the small details as well as the big picture in dealing with churches and individuals. Roy Sprague recently reflected, *"Earl and Shirley Brubaker have the ability to see what is needed, and then to take the steps necessary to meet that need. This has been true, not only within NICE, but also as they've served troubled churches in several Northwest states."*

And now God is using **Bob Rodgers**, with his gifts of one-on-one connections and hands-on care of the NICE Missionaries. David Erickson, NICE Board member, recently stated, *"I appreciate the leadership of Bob Rodgers so much, as he and his wife Katherine are constantly 'on the road' to visit churches and missionaries, seeking to help, encourage, counsel and fellowship with them. This is valuable to the effective ministry of the Mission."* As David stated, the Rodgers minister in tandem; as have all of the Directors and their wives. The "First Ladies" of NICE have worked shoulder to shoulder with their husbands in individual ways: in the office, on the road, speaking, counseling ... however they were gifted by God for service.

You, too have been placed in your relationship with NICE *"for such a time as this!"* God piqued your interest and gave a burden for church-planting ministry. We thank God for your faithful prayer and financial support *"for such a time as this!"*

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