

Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

OCTOBER 2020



Faithful Through The Years



Nate & Muriel
Shinn

"There have been 5 of our families who lost their homes because of the wildfires, yet even in this we've seen God's faithfulness – and you know, that's been true for the Church through all the 50 years," declared Nate Shinn, Pastor of Ashland Bible Church, Oregon.

The church leaders also recognize God's hand at work in Ashland Bible Church since its beginning in 1970. Merlin Nuss, a founding elder, commented, *"God has been so good to us; we've seen His handiwork in both good times and hard times."* Another church elder, Richard Kirby stated, *"The truths of God's Word have always been emphasized, and that's why we're here."*

Looking for needs around them, and then stepping up to help has been a hallmark of the church and pastoral staff. Previously, when a school board position presented itself, Pastor Nate stepped in to serve the local community in that capacity. Over the years, Ashland Bible has developed a key ministry serving individuals with disabilities and their families. With wildfires destroying homes all around them, the church opened its doors to give temporary housing. Good times, bad times, the ups and downs of life. In every aspect of life, God is at work, using His people to share Christ. Another church leader, Kent Harris added, *"Ashland Bible is such a*



Church family member with Pastor Nate, and her home after the fire.



welcoming and friendly church, and is committed to the Word of God. Oh my, how God has provided for the ministry here, again and again! And now, with so many people in our area having lost everything because of the fires – it's an opportunity for us to reach out with help and the love of Jesus. We have seen that happen already this past week."



NICE personnel have served Ashland Bible Church throughout its 50 years in many ways – counsel, conferences, encouragement, pulpit supply and pastoral placement. The Pastoral ministry of Garland and Roberta Shinn (1989-1996) and Nate and Muriel Shinn (1996-present) have been greatly used to bring both growth and outreach ministries to the church. Both Garland and Nate have served on the Board of Directors of NICE as well, providing valuable leadership to the Mission.



Garland & Roberta Shinn

God is building His church, and He's building it with servants of the Cross who invest their lives – all for the glory of God! The Ashland Bible Church has been blessed these past 50 years with souls being saved, lives changed, godly homes established, and ministry being provided throughout the community and the world. All by simply looking for needs to meet and opportunities to share Christ. And YOU have partnered in this ministry through your prayers and support. THANK YOU for being part of the NICE team!

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