



Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

NOVEMBER 2020



When Life Goes Sideways

"Have you ever seen a year like this one," stated a Pastor following a recent church service. Without question, many of the NICE Missionaries have faced unprecedented challenges in 2020; COVID, devastating fires, unrest. Yet through it all, God has been at work, using His servants to reach out with the love of Christ when life goes sideways! "Thanks be to God who blesses us by His grace, **so that** we in turn may be a blessing to others who need His grace and strength." (II Corinthians 1:3-4, Conybeare NT)

● **Stan and Virginia Poeschel** who serve the **Happy Camp (CA) Bible Church** where over 150 homes were lost to wildfires, exclaimed, "God has been so good to our church family, and last week 10 men came to our men's breakfast, including several who are homeless, one who lives under the bridge!"

● **Jesus and Maria Cordova**, who are ministering at **Iglesia Cristo Vive in Salem, OR** noted, "During the 'shut downs' we've seen how God has drawn us closer to Himself and to each other, with more concern, more prayer, and more caring for others, both in the congregation and in the community."



● **Chuck and Nancy Chapman and Matt and Judy Hallson** who serve at **River Valley Bible Church** in Lewiston, ID make weekly contacts with the church family, help shut-ins get to appointments, and have assisted one of the church couples begin a Gospel tract ministry in the community. Matt noted, "Just business as usual - God's business!"



● **Josh and Amy Miller**, NICE Missionaries at **Three Forks (MT) Bible Church** commented, "It's been wonderful to see our people meeting the needs of elderly folks who can't get out, bringing food, cleaning their homes, helping with Doctor's appointments; all with the love of Jesus Christ."



● **Dan and Donna Bong**, retired NICE Missionaries, are continuing to serve the Lord, even with health challenges. They've had several opportunities to share Christ with medical staff and care-givers. Dan expressed, "We thank God for joining us together 50 years ago, and despite the set-backs resulting from COVID-19, we rejoice in having God as our Savior and each other as husband and wife!"

● **Nate and Muriel Shinn**, NICE Board member and Pastor of **Ashland (OR) Bible Church**, stated, "There were over 600 homes destroyed in our area by the fires, including 5 of our church families, but oh how God has used this as a means of loving people to the Lord. Several churches - even one in Georgia and one in Africa -- have sent gifts to help us serve others - **we've been blessed so that we can be a blessing!**" While at a restaurant, Muriel asked their waitress how she was coping following the fires. She broke down in tears and told how she had lost all her possessions and home, and was struggling to find shelter and necessities for herself, her daughter and sister. The end result is that Ashland Bible Church "adopted" the family and is helping meet her needs with financial aid and gift cards.

● **Dennis & Susan Kreiss**, nominated NICE Board Member ministering at **Pine Grove Community Church** in Roseburg, OR told of the church staff going to the front lines of the Archie Creek Fire to be available to help meet needs. The church members opened their doors to house three families while they sought more permanent shelter. Dennis declared, "When the storms come, so do opportunities!"



Truly God is at work! He is always faithful, even when life goes sideways! We THANK YOU for partnering with these and many other NICE Missionaries through your prayers and support.

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