

Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

NOVEMBER 2021



Recount His Wonderful Deeds!

Psalms 9:1 declares, *"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of Your wonderful deeds."* As we begin November, the month that focuses on thankfulness, the Mission leadership have taken a look back to remember and recognize what God has done for Northwest Independent Church Extension through all the years. **Rejoice with us as we recount His wonderful deeds!**

GOD PROVIDES!

Former Executive Director, Roy Sprague looked no further than the NICE Headquarters Building as an illustration of God's provision. God moved in the hearts of His people to build a place out of which NICE could minister. Sunset Bible Church gave a parcel of land, and work began in 1980. Donations of materials, expertise, money and time flooded in. Roy said, *"As a result, the 4,300 square foot headquarters building was constructed without a penny of indebtedness!"* Roy recalled when trusses were to be delivered at 9:00 a.m., and no one had skill in installing them. A crew of men from Country Bible Church, Enumclaw, WA showed up unexpectedly at 8:30 a.m. asking if there was anything they could help with ... these men regularly installed trusses!

Earl Brubaker, Executive Director from 2000 through 2010 recounts, *"The Mission car had about 200,000 miles on the odometer, and we had limped home in second gear from a ministry trip. It was obvious that it needed to be replaced, but no funds were available."* Earl still searched for an adequate replacement, trusting God to lead. He found a suitable vehicle, and recalls, *"The very next day an unexpected contribution equal to the cost of the replacement arrived in the mail and we were able to purchase the car in time for the next ministry trip!"*

Notable for Bob Rodgers, current Executive Director, was the time when the mission was struggling financially, and needed to find a less expensive place for the office. Knowing the need,

Edgewood Bible Church, WA offered office space, only asking help with utility costs! Again, God providing exactly what was needed at the time!

GOD BLESSES!

The Directors have witnessed God's hand at work among the missionaries, causing their hearts to overflow with praise and thanks. Earl remembers when former NICE missionary, Jim Miller was working with believers who had been driving to neighboring towns for church. God blessed with the planting of Three Forks Bible Church, MT. They were able to purchase the historic Ruby Theater and remodeled it into a church facility. Jim's son, Josh, is now the pastor.

Bob praises the Lord for His blessing toward NICE Missionaries Caleb and Krista Hilbert. He said, *"The Hilberts had a great need for a reliable vehicle. After prayer and waiting on the Lord, a church in Idaho heard of their need and provided a nice SUV, and drove it up to their home in Astoria. Praise the Lord!"* Krista commented, *"It's amazing to see the body of Christ be there for each other! All the praise goes to Him!"*

Roy recalls how God went beforehand and prepared the way for former NICE Missionaries, Vince and Brenda Ortiz. They moved to Oak Harbor, WA in 1974 not knowing anyone in town. They began to make contacts, and their first convert was a seven year old neighbor girl! They met with the mayor, chief of police and superintendent of schools. A school was rented to begin services, with six people the first Sunday and thirteen the following Sunday. Today, Family Bible Church is a dynamic body of hundreds with a heart for worldwide outreach. Roy commented, *"The church has ventured to reach the military personnel in the area, to train them, and then allow the government to send them around the world as lay missionaries!"*

Praise the Lord for His wonderful provision and blessing for NICE! Join with us this month, as we echo Psalm 22:22: **"I will proclaim Your name to my brothers; in the midst of the assembly I will praise You."**

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