



Northwest *FOCUS*

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

FEBRUARY 2020



"What God Has Wrought!"

On January 30, 1959 the Board of Directors of Northwest Independent Church Extension met at Highlands Community Church in Renton, WA to sign the Articles of Incorporation for the new mission called NICE. Every year since that time, now 61 years ago, the men of God who serve on the Board of NICE meet together to provide oversight concerning the on-going work of planting and establishing churches throughout the Pacific Northwest.

In the years since then, there have been 58 men who have served on the NICE Board, each one trusting God for wisdom and direction during their term of service. They are nominated by the current Board members because of their expressed interest in and commitment to the ministry of NICE, and are then elected by their IFCA Regional members for a term of three years.

Thus it is the purpose of the Board of NICE to work with the Executive Director in setting the vision and strategies for the Mission, to establish policies and procedures, to interview and approve missionaries, to adopt a financial budget, and to give oversight and encouragement in all of the work of NICE. This awesome responsibility is bathed in continual prayer. Board President Bryan Austring recently stated, *"It's our prayer that we will faithfully administer the Mission in such a way that God will bring growth and blessing, and great glory will be given to Him."* Matt Hallson echoed, *"We've seen answers to prayer – for instance God's provision of new missionaries is such a blessing. We're so aware that if God's hand isn't in it, nothing will be accomplished."*

Katherine Rodgers commented, *"I'm so grateful that we have a group of godly*

men who provide wisdom and direction to the ministry of the Mission. This is a safeguard for the Director – he doesn't stand alone – that's so important!"

Board member Nate Shinn stated, *"I've been so blessed in my life and ministry through NICE – now I have the opportunity to give back by serving on NICE's Board."* Member Max Snook responded, *"Yes, it is a privilege to serve – what fellowship and unity there is – and practical grace; please pray that this continues always!"*

When we reflect on the fact that God has used NICE to plant over 90 churches and to serve another 128 churches in ministries of development and growth, we cannot help but echo the statement of one of the founding Board members, Richard Schwab who exclaimed, ***"I don't believe we had ever envisioned all that God has done – it's amazing what God has wrought!"***

And YOU also have a part in all that God is doing through Northwest Independent Church Extension. Your interest and support – and especially your prayers are the lifeline of this work of planting and establishing churches. Board member Gary Taylor urged, *"Please PRAY that God's wisdom would be given us in such a way that every decision made would bring the greatest glory to the Lord."*



Board of Directors of NICE. Not pictured: Roy Sprague

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