

Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

MARCH 2018



A Rich Heritage!

With a firm belief in the necessity of Church planting, the men of the Pacific Northwest IFCA Spring Regional, held March 17 and 18, 1958 at the Melrose Community Church, Roseburg, Oregon, took action to begin the Northwest Independent Church Extension. The minutes of that meeting state: *"President Wendt stated that it is the solemn duty of the Regional to set up necessary machinery for local church extension. A motion was made by Ray Gustafson, supported by Richard Schwab that the Executive Committee be empowered to draw up a proposed Constitution, preliminary plans, and recommended procedure to carry out practical and necessary church extension in the Pacific Northwest. The motion carried and Elmer Wilder led in prayer, asking for God's direction and blessing."*



Lyman, Harrah, Olsen, Schwab

The Executive Committee began to plan! On April 8, 1958 they met at Highlands Community Church, Renton, Washington and took the following action:

- That a Church Extension organization be incorporated for the Pacific Northwest;
- That the name be Northwest Independent Church Extension, using the acronym NICE;
- That a Constitution be formed within the next two months;
- That Rev. Henry Boyd be appointed as the Director;
- That all the churches be urged to get behind this program immediately in prayer and financial support.

The ministry of the Northwest Independent Church Extension began in the heart of God Who said, **"I will build My Church."** These men were available servants, ready to venture for His glory, trusting Him to be sufficient in all things. Just before his call to glory, Charles Lyman stated, *"I don't believe any of us envisioned NICE as we now see it. The mission's out-*

reach and influence has literally covered the Northwest!"

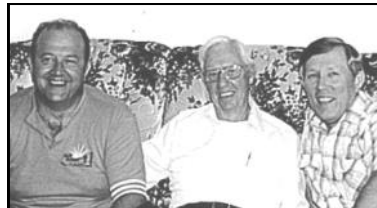
Through the years God has used men of vision and faith to serve on the Mission's Board of Directors. No one has exemplified this commitment more than Noel Olsen who was the Mission's first President and served on the Board a total of 46 years!

The leadership of NICE has been provided by men uniquely equipped and used of God as the Executive Directors of the Mission:

- Henry Boyd 1958-1962
- Don Strunk 1962-1970
- Roy Sprague 1970-2000
- Earl Brubaker 2000-2010
- Bob Rodgers 2010-present

The very heart and soul of NICE ministry has been its Missionaries – a wonderful, dedicated group of men and women committed to the work of the Gospel!

Thrilling accounts could be told of individuals being led to Christ; of lives being changed; of marriages being restored; of people growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord; of those who followed God's call into Christian service; and of communities being impacted spiritually through the churches and the faithful ministry of the missionaries who served them.



Strunk, Boyd, Sprague

The ultimate review is yet to be, when we stand before the Throne of God and see *"a great multitude ... saying salvation to our God who sits upon the Throne and to the Lamb."* (Revelation 7:9-10). What a day that will be! Thank God that many will be before His Throne because of the ministry of Northwest Independent Church Extension. You have been a vital part of this work through your prayers and support. **"To God be the glory, great things He has done!"**

(Excerpted from the soon-to-be-published book, *"All the Churches"*, which chronicles NICE's ministry in over 200 churches.)

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