



Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

MARCH 2022



Encourage, Connect, Support

"Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing."
I Thessalonians 5:11

Encourage. Connect. Support. These words state the goals of the NICE Field Directors since that role began in 1971. *Roy Sprague recalled, "I remember when we accepted the call to serve with NICE in 1970. The ministry was identified as 'Field Director'. We felt rather overwhelmed with the task of serving the churches and missionaries in all the Pacific Northwest states! Thus, in May 1971, the Board of Directors changed our status to 'Executive Director' and appointed 3 Field Directors as a means of more effectively fulfilling the purpose of NICE, and to assist the Executive Director."*

Those first three couples were Don and Carol Martin, Earl and Shirley Brubaker and Jerry and Lois James. In 1975, Garland and Robert Shinn, and Gene and Norma Greyn were also appointed, thus providing Field Directors for Idaho, Southern Oregon, Sierra Nevada and Montana. This was truly God's provision to expand the outreach of NICE and to see many new churches planted.

Recently, the current Field Directors met with Executive Director, Bob Rodgers and their wives for a planning retreat. While the purpose and goals for Field Directors has remained unchanged, some restructuring seemed needful. Bob highlighted the fact that the Mission's

Constitution stated that the general purpose of Field Directors is *"to constitute the leadership team of the Mission"*. Bob commented, *"This helps remind us that we work together even though we have differing areas of responsibility."* To better reflect this purpose, the designation and title for Field Directors will now be **"Director's Ministry Team"**.

Geographical areas of responsibility were also restructured to better suit the placement of the missionaries and Ministry Team members. The new areas are Pacific North (Bellingham, WA to Centralia, WA); Pacific Central (Longview, WA to Albany, OR); Pacific South (Albany, OR to Happy Camp, CA); Hispanic Field and Inland Northwest remained the same.

The new "Ministry Team" brainstormed on ideas to better encourage and care for the missionaries, as well as how to better support the Director. Bob stressed, *"When the Ministry Team consistently engage with those on the field; giving a listening ear, providing counsel, and encouraging the NICE Family, it helps support my load!"* Bob continued, *"The role of the Director's Ministry Team is vital! This is because when our Missionary Pastors are encouraged in their work, they feel that they are not alone in their ministries, and they are a part of a bigger group which is like a family. As a result, they are more likely to produce healthy churches and avoid burnout in ministry."*

We appreciate your partnership as you uphold the Director and his Ministry Team in prayer as they encourage, connect and support each other and the NICE Mission Family!



Bob & Judi ALLEN
Pacific North



Robert & Bethany ZINK
Pacific Central



Nate & Muriel SHINN (Temporary)
Pacific South



Roger & Emily HAYDEN
Inland Northwest



Jésus & Maria CORDOVA
Hispanic

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