



Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

MARCH 2023



AN INVESTMENT OF TIME AND WISDOM

When NICE began on March 18, 1958 in Roseburg, Oregon, 5 godly men were chosen to serve on the Board of Directors of this fledgling mission. Richard Schwab (the first Secretary) noted in the minutes of their first meeting that "we believe that Northwest Independent Church Extension was begun in the heart of God, and therefore we believe He would have us invest our time and wisdom to further the glorious task of planting, establishing and serving churches throughout the Pacific Northwest."

After 65 years, God has used almost 80 dedicated men, from 6 Northwest states to serve in the vital role of providing guidance, insight, focus, time and wisdom to the on-going ministry of the men and women who are church planters and missionaries of the mission. Each year, the men who serve on the Board of Directors meet at least 4 times, and often 8 or more times, to interview applicants, determine policies, disburse funds, and pray for the hand of God to direct every aspect of the Mission ministry. They serve, as well, as a source of encouragement, guidance and counsel to the current Executive Director. Bob Rodgers commented, "I highly value my time with the men who serve on the NICE Board of Directors. They are a wonderful support to both Katherine and myself in watching out for our spiritual and physical needs. I thank God regularly for their gracious spirit, sense of

humor, and unity, as well as love for one another and the Mission of Northwest Independent Church Extension. I cannot imagine this ministry apart from their knowledge, experience and input! Their wisdom and discernment regarding various situations within the Mission needing attention is invaluable. As the Director, I am especially grateful for our President's oversight and guidance with the Board, and the close working relationship we have in this ministry."

As a result of the Board's oversight, the vision of the Executive Directors, and the faithful service of the missionaries, NICE has been blessed of God to plant or serve 221 churches throughout the 6 Pacific Northwest states and Canada, and to assist another 135 churches in a variety of ministries. The reports received throughout the years indicate a multitude of precious souls having been won to the Savior!

Thank you for partnering in prayer and support of all the work of God through NICE! And especially THANK YOU for praying for these men who currently give of their time to serve on the Board of Directors for NICE:

- Robert Rodgers, Executive Director, Orting, WA
- Bryan Austring, President, Hillsboro, OR
- Max Snook, Vice-President, St. Helens, OR
- Charlie Olson, Secretary, Southwick, ID
- Matt Hallson, Treasurer, Deary, ID
- Nate Shinn, Phoenix, OR
- Dennis Kreiss, Roseburg, OR
- Gary Taylor, Vernonia, OR
- Roy Sprague, Honorary Member, Federal Way, WA.



The most recent NICE Annual Board Meeting took place over two days in January 2023. The men on the Board of Directors are pictured.

Left to right:
Dennis Kreiss, Matt Hallson, Gary Taylor, Roy Sprague, Max Snook, Bryan Austring, Charlie Olsen

Not pictured:
Bob Rodgers, Nate Shinn

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