



Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

APRIL 2022



CONNECTED SINCE 1959!

In 1959, NICE was only a year old, and just beginning its ministry of planting and establishing churches. At that same time, Don and Joanne Strunk had just graduated from Multnomah School of the Bible, and were new candidates with the fledgling Mission. Their first assignment was as a Pastoral trainee at Carson, WA to help a struggling church. One of the young boys attending at the time was Larry Thayer, whose parents dropped him off for Sunday School each week. The same Larry Thayer who, with his wife Joann, were accepted as NICE Missionaries on March 1st this year, and are now currently serving as Pastor of the Carson Bible Church! The Thayers recently had the delight to reconnect with Joanne Strunk Mortensen at the Pacific Northwest Spring Regional Meetings of IFCA International. They had the joy of catching up with Joanne, and reminiscing about earlier days at Carson Bible Church.



Don & Joanne Strunk



Larry & Joann Thayer

Larry exclaimed, "I remember Don Strunk so well, with his love for the Lord and his kids — I was only about 6 years old at the time! He had such enthusiasm and made the Bible so interesting and told me about Jesus. It seems like I've known NICE and its leaders all my life, and now we're part of the NICE Family! Just think, here it is 60+ years later, and my wife and I now have the joy of pastoring that same church and telling people—including kids—about the love of Jesus; what a privilege!" "We really praise God," Joann added, "for His provision for the church to support a dozen missionaries on a regular basis. And God has given such unity to this body of believers — that's truly all of God!"

Carson Bible Church is located along the Columbia River in southwest Washington. The ministry of NICE Missionaries to the church has continued since 1959 with Chuck and Faye Butler, Lefty and Joan Ward, Ray and Marge Woolford, Bill and Florence West, Dave and Glenda West, and now Larry and Joann Thayer. PRAISE



Dave & Glenda West

GOD for each of these faithful servants of Christ! Dave West who served at Carson from 1993 until 2019 recently reflected, "I'm overwhelmed when I think about all that God has done to bring people to Christ at Carson Bible Church. I could mention so many men and women, and boys and girls, too, whose lives God has totally changed for His glory. And the ministry God has given us at the prison — that's been so amazing!"

The connection that NICE has had with Carson Bible Church over the years perfectly illustrates the Mission's purpose and goal. The Executive Director, Bob Rodgers explained, "Our purpose is to establish and serve independent, Bible-believing churches that spiritually reflect the glory of God, and seek to reach their communities with the Gospel of Christ, and to bring individuals to spiritual maturity."

THANK YOU for your prayers for NICE; they're the life-line for Missionaries like Larry and Joann Thayer, and all the NICE team! Do pray for Bob and Katherine Rodgers, as they are in several Bible colleges during these Spring months. Pray especially for several contacts being made by the Rodgers with potential



missionaries and Church planters. Remember that every new church planted is another source of world-wide missionary outreach! And YOU have a part in that!

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