



Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

MAY 2022



Easter Celebration and Ministry!

Resurrection Weekend was not only cause for celebration and rejoicing among the churches served by NICE pastors, but also provided several opportunities for outreach and ministry.

Rob and Ruth Morris, NICE Missionaries at Hobart Community Church, WA took part in the joint Good Friday Service conducted by the Southeast King County Area Pastor Association. With over 500 in attendance, Rob opened in prayer and helped serve communion. He said, *"The service was especially poignant as a young Ukrainian pastor brought the gospel message. The war in his home country caused him to look more eagerly for our Lord's return."* In addition, a joint "Sonrise" service was held at a park on Sunday. Then Rob headed back to his own church to help cook an Easter breakfast, and host a community Egg Hunt with over 400 eggs, followed by the Resurrection Worship Service.

NICE Church Team Missionary, **Bob and Judi Allen** had a different ministry opportunity at Hobart Community Church that Sunday. Bob explained, *"I found myself in an odd place this Easter. I was sitting in Children's Church with a young man of 24, with Down's Syndrome. I was Dillon's buddy so that the teacher, (my wife) could teach both Dillon and her normal group of 3 to 10 year olds. While I normally teach adults in Sunday School, my role this Easter was not to be the teacher but to help Judi teach. Whether leading or helping someone else to lead, service for His kingdom is the goal!"*

Nehalem Valley Bible Church, Vernonia, Oregon where NICE Missionaries **Mark & Rachael Organ** serve, hosted their annual Passover Seder Meal and Potluck. Mark stated, *"NICE*



Board Member and Associate Pastor Gary Taylor and his wife Diana facilitated the Meal which is one of the highlights of our

year." There were about 30 church family and their guests in attendance. Mark added, *"Pastor Gary led the ceremony, emphasizing how Christ was the coming Passover Lamb - the symbolism is unmistakable!"*

"The Lamb of God" was also the focus of events at Cambridge Bible Church, Idaho. NICE Inland Northwest Region Field Director, **Roger and Emily Hayden**



planned a number of events. Roger explained, *"Following a community sunrise service, we had a wonderful time of fellowship with a brunch held at the church. The tables were piled high with great eating — some of which was even moderately healthy! We then celebrated the Risen Savior with a special, 90 minute Easter service full of special music, Bible readings, congregational singing and Biblical Perspectives on 'The Lamb of God'."*

An Easter Communion Service was a highlight at Wishkah Valley Community Church, Aberdeen, Washington where NICE Minister at Large, **Roy & Elvia Sprague** serve as Interim. Roy recalls his father, Harry Sprague commenting on the folded cloth in the empty tomb, and its evidence that Jesus rose from the dead and that His body was not stolen. Roy expounded, *"I remember hearing about the custom in Jewish homes, of casting the crumpled napkin aside if the person was finished with the meal, BUT if they needed to leave for a time and then return to the table they would neatly fold the napkin by their plate. This past Easter as we prepared for a special Easter Communion, I read the 1 Corinthians instruction of our worship at the Lord's Table: It's in remembrance, it's with confession, it's in worship, BUT ALSO it is with rejoicing because Jesus said 'This do in remembrance of Me UNTIL I COME!' He folded the napkin: He is COMING BACK!!!!" Praise the Lord for the privilege of both celebration and ministry this Easter!*

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