

Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

MAY 2023



Making a Difference for the Kingdom!

Making a difference for God's kingdom. That is the heart's desire of any biblical church, whether it is large or small. Pastors and churches toil faithfully in their communities, praying they will have an impact for God. Along the banks of



The former Trojan Nuclear Plant

the Columbia River is the small town of St. Helens, Oregon, so named because it is within sight of Mt. St. Helens in Washington. In the early 1980's, Max Snook was working at the nearby Trojan Nuclear Plant. He and a friend had been leading a lunch-time Bible Study, discipling their co-workers. That study was the beginning of St. Helens Community Bible Church. As Max and his wife, Donna ministered to the church family and community, their goal was not necessarily to "make a difference", but more to be faithful to the Word of God and serve people. In the process, they made a difference!

Two men mentored by Max through the Trojan Bible studies were NICE Missionaries, Jerry Conklin and Jeff Mullins. Jerry and Laura Conklin were young in the faith when they first became acquainted with Max and Donna. Jerry said, "I learned from Max a devotion to the Word. Always looking to the Word in all matters pertaining to what we believe and how we behave was always the nature of his ministry." After working at Trojan, Jeff and Mary Mullins went to Bible School and into ministry.



Left to right:
Mary and Jeff Mullins,
Laura and Jerry Conklin,
Donna and Max Snook

They later returned to St. Helens and served under Max, leading a Bible Study in a nearby town. This study became the seeds for Rainier Bible Fellowship. Jeff commented, "The faithful handling of God's Word and the commitment to expository preaching at SHCB has been the model that I have continued to follow."

Both Jerry and Jeff also feel they learned what it means to serve others from their time at St. Helens Community Bible Church. Jerry said, "Max worked to actively serve others in sacrificial and tangible ways." Jeff added that he and Mary personally were served by the church family, and in turn embraced opportunities to serve others.

Since ministering in their own pastorates, both Jerry and Jeff have faithfully preached the Word, and served their communities. God has been pleased to spread the "Kingdom difference" world-wide through them. Both men have written books used to train and disciple others. They have also taught in Africa, Russia and elsewhere, mentoring local pastors.

In the early 1980's, when Max Snook was teaching the Bible to his co-workers at the nuclear plant, he was being faithful to the Word and serving. God used that in a ripple effect to place other men in ministry with the Northwest Independent Church Extension, and have a "Kingdom difference" around the world!

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