



Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

JUNE 2019



Ministry as Life



Family Bible Church

Family Bible Church, located in Oak Harbor, WA was begun in 1974 through the efforts of NICE Church Planters, Vince and Brenda

Ortiz and then NICE Executive Director, Roy and Elvia Sprague. The church was further served through the ministry of NICE Missionaries, Bob and Anita Ohlson. Now, 45 years later, the church is thriving; discipling the church body for ministry; reaching out to those in the community; sending missionaries from the church world-wide; and supporting multiple missionaries through their Global Partners ministry. The church continues to be grateful for the ministry of NICE and the part they have played in establishing Family Bible Church. At a recent Missions Conference, the church leadership interviewed the Spragues and honored them with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Pastor Ron Lawler commented, *"From the first time I met Roy and Elvia, I was struck with their genuine love for our Lord and His people. I saw them as a living example of what I aspire to be in ministry. I saw two very steady, faithful people who did not serve for attention, but who served to please our Lord Jesus and to help others to do the same. Sadly, we do not have to look far to find people who treat ministry only as a career. Roy and Elvia model **ministry as life**. A lifetime of effective ministry and service should be honored. In honoring them, we honor the Master. Faithful servants demonstrate the greatness of their Master by their genuine service."*

As the Lifetime Achievement Award was presented, Pastor Lawler concluded, *"Now, consistent with the theme of our Conference this year, we here at Family Bible Church wish to honor Roy & Elvia as 'their light continues to shine', with a Lifetime Achievement Award for their work in helping start and nurture, not only Family Bible Church back in 1974, but all the many churches affiliated with NICE throughout the NW."*



Roy & Elvia Sprague

NICE Missionaries serve faithfully in remote, out-of-the-way places, and often with little recognition. But like the Spragues, they minister as a way of life; seeking to please the Lord Jesus and further His kingdom. At Family Bible's Missions Conference, mention was made of Psalm 34:3, the life verse Roy and Elvia chose when they married in 1956: **"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together."** Indeed, that verse expresses the attitude and desire of all the NICE Leadership and Family! Let's work together to make His Name known! Please uphold NICE missionaries in prayer; they rely on your prayer support. And if you get a chance, let them know they are appreciated!



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