



Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

JULY 2020



Ministry: Uncommon and Unusual

Many NICE Missionary Pastors must put aside the "established formulas" for church-planting and ministry, and adopt unexpected ways of meeting needs and sharing the gospel.

David and Nancy Martin recall, "Because our church was small and rural in Adin, CA, we encouraged each member to use their gift for the Lord. This meant that the 'normal' worship service of piano and organ was expanded to include a guitar, flute, mandolin, accordion and violin. The musicians weren't 'professional' but played from their heart for the Lord. At our next church in Manzanita, Oregon, we expanded it to include all members, young and old. The worship music was absolutely amazing for our rural church, and drew in many new people. Imagine what can happen if each member uses their gifts for the Lord!"



When **Don and Jody Wantland** came to Little Brown Chapel, Wickersham, WA to minister, they were met with a number of challenges. They recently reminisced, "Very few people were attending; the women were teaching the children and basically leading as no men attended. The church was old and needed a new foundation and roof, and the men in the community wanted to help with the manual labor. Don worked right alongside them from dawn until dark. After that, Don invited them to attend the Board Meetings, and they started attending church! Many of these men came to know the Lord after that and they have been a faithful witness in that valley to this day."



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Prentice and Louree Boyd, used a coffee shop to share the gospel. Prentice said, "When Louree and I first went to Mt. Angel, it was a predominantly Catholic town, with their church, as well as a monastery, Benedictine seminary, and convent. You couldn't start a ministry if you were a Protestant, so we started a Sunday morning Bible study in a building and used it as the Koffee Konnection, a coffee shop and deli through the week. We served the town as their community chaplains and were able to form relationships with the people in town." In an article in Our Town newsletter, 81 year old Laura Gooley-Zoliner remembered, "I would walk to the Koffee Konnection for breakfast for almost 15 years. This was my second home!"



Homer and Carrie Poland have seen the Lord open doors for ministry in countless unusual and unexpected ways. He shared just one memory from their time at Council Bible Church, Idaho. A woman had been attending services, though her husband didn't. When the Polands came to visit in their home, Homer remembered, "Her husband was a big man and a timber faller (I'm no timber man!). He gave us a cool reception. Somehow the subject got around to guns and hunting. When I mentioned that I reloaded ammunition, he sorta warmed up, and told me he was a reloader too. He took me to a room where he reloaded and showed me his guns and equipment. That opened a door to an on-going friendship and a chance to share the gospel!"



These are only a few examples of our NICE Missionaries using an unconventional approach!

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