



Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

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Walking with the Wise

Mentors. The Word of God bears many examples of training and encouraging someone younger in ministry: Moses and Joshua; Elijah and Elisha; certainly the Lord Jesus and His disciples; Barnabas and Mark; and Paul and Timothy to name a few. Daniel Allen, of Canturbury Communities described mentorship this way, *"Mentors can keep you in the game, help you avoid plateauing in your development, keep you listening to God and maintaining a learning posture. In short, they connect you with God-given resources that empower your personal and professional development."*

Proverbs 13:20 makes clear that *"Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise."* So through all its 61 years, the leadership of NICE have focused not only on planting and establishing churches, but also on mentoring and training its men and women for effective ministry.

How this "walking with the wise" plays out has changed over the years. The first Mission Director, Rev. Henry Boyd involved future NICE missionaries Don Martin, Don Strunk, Roy Rhodes and Marie Brown in short term summer ministries under the oversight of future NICE Missionary, Gordon Titus. Second NICE Director, Don Strunk paired new missionaries Earl and Shirley Brubaker with older missionaries Ernie and Donna Quaintance for encouragement and guidance. The Brubakers went on to pastor 5 churches; serve as Mission Director; and in their current role as Minister at Large have ministered as Interim Pastor in 7 churches.

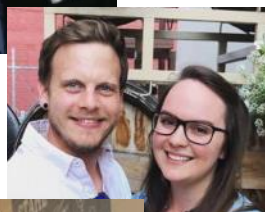
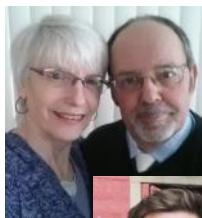
When Roy Sprague served as Director, this "walking with the wise" continued. NICE missionaries Frank and Wendy Emrich caught the importance of mentorship and had a part in training Sam and Joy Perkins, Tom and Donna

Schwartz, and Bill and Sharilyn Peters. Recently, the Peters retired after 30 years serving Goshen Community Church, WA. At their farewell service, Sharilyn commented, *"It was the example and encouragement of Wendy Emrich who mentored me at Valley Bible Church that helped me to realize that God could use me as a Pastor's wife."*

The following Director, Earl Brubaker, continued this emphasis. Tim and Brenda Atkins were mentored by Rick and Pat Gregory at Byron Center Bible Church, MI, before planting Faith Bible Church, in Puyallup, WA. NICE Hispanic Field Director, J3sus Cordova developed, and continues to offer an Hispanic School of Ministry to train young men for the ministry.

In recent years, under current Director Bob Rodgers, mentoring has become one of the highest priorities. Several couples have been mentored under various NICE Missionary pastors and NICE Board members. Nathan and Brittany Lundgren were mentored by both NICE missionaries, Steve and Celeste DeFord and the staff of Cornerstone Bible Institute.

Now NICE Mentoring has embraced the electronic age! Bob Rodgers uses skype, FaceTime, emails and texts to touch base with new missionary pastors for training and encouragement. NICE's *Bridge4Growth* program focuses on five essential objectives: Biblical Character, Ministry Skills, Spiritual Health, Purposeful Mentoring, and Engaged Outreach. Such mentoring has been provided to NICE Missionaries such as Matt and Annette Daniells, Josh and Rebecca Shetler, Brenton and Kelsey Sconce, Keith and Claudia Singer, Josh and Amy Miller and Andrew Eddy. Bob commented, *"Mentorship is the foundation to equipping NICE men and women. And equipped servants of the Lord will be more effective in planting and establishing churches for the glory of God. NICE desires to invest in God's Kingdom, and mentoring furthers that objective!"*



Sam & Joy Perkins,
Brenton & Kelsey Sconce,
Timothy & Brenda Atkins,
Josh & Rebecca Shetler

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