



Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

AUGUST 2020



2020 Faithful Servant Award

"Faithfulness, diligence, integrity and wisdom have characterized Earl." NICE Executive Director, Bob Rodgers made this observation on Wednesday, June 17 during the presentation of the IFCA International Faithful Servant Award to Earl Brubaker. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, the 2020 IFCA International Annual Convention was entirely online, so several individuals gathered at Faith Bible Church, Puyallup, WA, to witness the video-recording of the presentation. Watching remotely were several members of the Brubaker family in Tacoma, WA, Salem, OR and the island of Sakhalin, Russia.



After graduating from Prairie Bible Institute in 1965, Earl and Shirley Brubaker had planned to serve with TEAM in South Korea. In order to gain more ministry experience and training, they applied to NICE to serve while they prepared for the foreign mission field. After God clearly closed the door to overseas ministry, they felt led to continue ministry with NICE. Earl commented at the time, *"God closed the door to our doing Church Planting under TEAM in Korea, and we are now doing what we intended to do, just in a different place!"* During their years with NICE, the Brubakers have pastored five different churches in California, Oregon and Washington.

In 2000, Earl assumed the directorship of the Mission. Over the next ten years Earl guided NICE, contributing his skills in administration and counsel. When they retired from full-time ministry, Earl and Shirley were appointed by the NICE Board of Directors to serve as Minister at Large. In that capacity, they have given direction to seven different churches in an interim capacity. They are currently assisting Coal Creek Church in

Longview, WA. From the beginning, Earl and Shirley have ministered as a team, with



Shirley helping alongside Earl however needed. In addition, Earl has served in leadership with the Pacific Northwest Regional, and as President of IFCA International. Former IFCA International Executive Director, Les Lofquist, said, *"Earl has had an incredible influence. He served on the IFCA International Board of Directors four different terms, and always had such a significant impact. He had a wise and steadying influence in frequently turbulent waters and I learned to lean heavily on his wise counsel. In addition, his affect on IFCA church planting through the decades has been truly profound. Our fellowship of churches and Christian workers has been made better through the ministry of Earl Brubaker, this year's IFCA International Faithful Servant!"*

During the presentation, Pacific Northwest Regional President, Timothy Atkins commented that many men, women and churches *"have benefitted much from Earl and Shirley being in the Pacific Northwest and Inland Northwest Regionals."* The



video presentation was aired on Tuesday, June 30, and former NICE Executive Director, Roy Sprague added, *"I praise God that Earl has been recognized with this award! Truly, he has been always faithful, always wise, always committed to the Lord and His Word."*

Congratulations, Earl! We thank God for you!

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