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Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

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Passing the Baton!

Many eyes are on Paris, France right now as the 2024 Summer Olympics are taking place. NICE Executive Director, Bob Rodgers enjoys watching the relay races and commented, *"The effectiveness of the relay relies heavily upon being able to pass the baton at the right time and with exact and specific precision."* That strategy has come into play within the Mission in the last few years, as the Board of Directors have been praying and seeking the Lord's direction regarding the next Executive Director.

As early as 2022, the Board began praying in this regard. The current Board President, Charlie Olson shared, *"At the 2022 annual meeting, the Board began having discussions about the various skills and gifts of previous directors, and what specific ones might be most desirable in the next director."* Bob Rodgers added, *"To assist in the process, we sought out Dave Deets, Vice President with Institute for Biblical Leadership, for guidance regarding the transition period. This gave us a direction in which to move forward and currently is what we are still using."*

After much discussion, conversations, prayer and interviews, in April of this year, a call was extended to Robert and Bethany Zink, who readily accepted. At the beginning of the search process, the Board President was Bryan Austring, who reflected, *"From the initial stages of our search, it has become increasingly clear that Robert is well equipped and uniquely gifted to serve on our staff, and to serve as our next Executive Director!"* Charlie added, *"In asking 'why Robert?', it was noted that he is recognized widely as a leader with organizational skills, he has broad contacts and a knowledge of the ministry of NICE. He has both missions and pastoral experience, and he is very inquisitive, always wanting to learn and grow."*

This month, Robert will assume the role of Assistant Director, transitioning to Director Designate in the spring of 2025, and assuming the position of Executive Director in January 2026, when Bob will step down.

Robert and Bethany served as church planters in Argentina for 11 years with their local church and later with Biblical Ministries Worldwide. During the time of raising support and returning stateside for furlough, they became well acquainted with IFCA International, the Pacific Northwest Regional, and Bob and Katherine Rodgers. When the Lord led them back to the United States, they began considering a formal relationship with NICE, and joined the NICE family in January 2021. Robert commented, *"Bethany and I view NICE as a quiet organization, going about its work in an unassuming way. Yet, upon knowing it personally, one will find that it is an organization comprised of some of the most gifted, wise, and godly individuals. That's why we wanted to sit under the leadership of NICE!"*



Back: Robert, Bethany, Evalyn
Front: Thomas, Elijah, Naomi

Robert, Bethany and their four children live in southern Washington and are involved in their church, homeschooling community and sports activities. Robert's passion for good coffee has made him an expert on the best local coffee shops! On a serious note, he recently stated that their *"desire and passion is to see the impact of the church elevated by developing healthy churches and healthy pastors who influence the Northwest in order to influence the world."* This vision ties in closely with the motivation found in their key verse in Colossians 1:28, *"Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ"* ESV.

Please be in prayer for NICE and the period of transition. Bob, the Board and Robert desire to pass the baton with effective precision!

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