



Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

SEPTEMBER 2018



Of Earthquakes, Marijuana and Building the Kingdom

As NICE's 60th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration approaches, we continue with excerpts from the book, "All The Churches", chronicling what God has been pleased to do through the Mission throughout its sixty years.



Rob & Ruth Morris

In thinking back on the founding and growth of several churches in Washington State, we can't help but be struck at how God reaches hearts and changes lives in so many ways! **Rob Morris**, pastor of **Hobart Community Church**, recounts of one individual,

"I recall brother Dave, a rough looking mountain of a man, with a beard half-way down his chest, bib overalls, and an attitude towards government! He once said, 'I'll attend church when the earth moves!' When I heard this, I set up a time to visit him in his home. I showed up to an angry dog, and a skeptical, but polite host. While we were standing in the kitchen, drinking coffee, the Nisqually earthquake hit and the ground shook for over a minute. As the shaking stopped, everything was dead quiet until Dave said, 'Well, I guess I'll be seeing you in church on Sunday!' Last year I conducted his Memorial Service, and though he was always rough around the edges, his love for the Lord was evident to everyone throughout the community."



Hobart Community Church

Former NICE Director, **Roy Sprague** commented on the evident transforming power of the Gospel at **Onion Creek Community Church**. *"After graduating from the University, one family moved to Onion Creek for the purpose of 'easy money' by growing marijuana on their farm. As their girls grew older, they asked about attending the church, and Dad said, 'Well, I guess it'd be OK.' Several months later, the girls came home,*

and with excitement, stated they had trusted Jesus as their Savior. Dad decided he'd better find out what was going on at the church, so he and his wife began to attend the services. It wasn't long before they, too, had come to Christ for salvation! What a change! I had the privilege to enjoy a meal in their home, and hear their testimony of God's saving, transforming grace. Before long they sold their farm, and moved - to Prairie Bible Institute to prepare for Christian service! The last time I saw this family they had been accepted to serve with New Tribes Mission in Papua New Guinea. Amazing grace!"



Former Pastor, **Bob Ohlson** thought back on the beginnings of **Family Bible Church** in Oak Harbor. *"I especially praise God for the saints who believed that Jesus Christ is an extraordinary Savior who delights to use ordinary people in extraordinary ways. How else can you explain ... 1) A handful of people, meeting in rented facilities, growing to over 500, gathering to praise God in debt free buildings? 2) seeing a 92 year old woman respond to the gospel and live another 10 years to tell others about Jesus? 3) the sailor publicly baptized in Cranberry Lake, growing in Christ to become a church elder? 4) or seeing God call fellow members to serve Him in full time ministry in Europe, Nepal, Kenya, and various stateside ministries? Only heaven will reveal fully how Jesus Christ is using His faithful saints gathered at Family Bible Church in extraordinary ways to build His Kingdom for His Glory!"*



Bob Ohlson



Family Bible Church

Praise God for how He continues to use NICE in so many ways, touching lives for the furtherance of the Gospel!

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