



Northwest *FOCUS*

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

SEPTEMBER 2019



More Alive Than Ever!

On Sunday August 11, 2019, NICE Retired Missionary Robert (Bob) Archer was called into the presence of his Lord and Savior. Yet, as Pastor Jeff Coulter stated at the Memorial Service on Sunday September 1, 2019, **"Bob is more alive than he's ever been!"** This fact is wonderfully true, based on God's Word (2 Corinthians 5:8) and expressed in the poem by Grace Wolgemuth:

*"O how precious is the promise,
When our spirit is set free,
To be absent from the body,
Means to live, O Lord, with Thee."*

Bob and Dawn Archer served in Colombia, S.A. with TEAM for 33 years, tirelessly reaching out to rural towns and hiking to remote jungle areas with the Gospel. It was stated by Bob's son Ron at the Memorial Service, *"Dad's technique was not complicated – he'd ask people wherever he was, 'Are you sure you're going to Heaven?' And then he'd say, 'I am, and this is how I know.' Dad probably used this method of sharing the Gospel with thousands of people."* As a result, the Archers were used of God to plant numerous churches – 3 in their last 5 years in the major urban center of Bucaramanga.



Following retirement from service with TEAM in Colombia, the Archers were accepted to serve with Northwest Independent Church Extension in 1998 as Hispanic missionaries in the

Auburn Valley of Washington. Just as he'd done in South America, so he continued to do here: talk with folks, get involved in people's lives, share the Gospel wherever he happened to be. In fact, just week's before he was called to glory, and in spite of a battle with dementia, he excitedly told the Care Group he was meeting with that he had led a lady in the Assisted Living Center to the Savior.



Former NICE Executive Director, Earl Brubaker recalled, *"My most prominent impression about Bob was his perseverance: raising support was difficult, but he persevered; church planting in Colombia was difficult and dangerous, but he continued; retirement did not put an end to his ministry—it just changed its location; dementia did not deter him from proclaiming the gospel."*

Dave Allen, who led the Care Group Bob and Dawn attended reminisced, *"Bob loved the Lord and loved to tell people about Him. He was a man that always looked to serve, but never looked for the spotlight."*

At the Memorial Service, Pastor Coulter brought a challenging message from Psalm 71. He urged those present to be like Bob Archer, obedient to verses 17 and 18. *"Since my youth, O God, You have taught me, and to this day I declare Your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray headed, do not forsake me, my God, until I declare Your power to the next generation, and Your mighty acts to all who are to come."* Indeed, Bob never lost his enthusiasm for serving his Savior; dementia never crushed his spirit. He was a faithful servant of the Lord.

THANK YOU for your prayers and support of NICE; they are a most vital part of the ongoing work of reaching people for Christ and planting and establishing churches!

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