

Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

SEPTEMBER 2021



Treasured Friendships, Mutual Support, Common Challenges

"What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." II Timothy 2:2

When Bob Rodgers stepped into the role of Executive Director for Northwest Independent Church Extension, his desire was to focus on mentoring. It was out of this burden, that the Young Pastors Forum was begun (see the June 2021 Northwest Focus article on the NICE website). This year, in February, as a complement to the Young Pastor's Forum, Bob's wife, Katherine began the Ministry Wives Fellowship. Katherine explained, "My great desire was to provide a strength of friendship and support for the wives of the men in the Young Pastors Forum." She saw great importance in the young wives knowing that they are not alone in ministry. She went on, "I have formed valued and treasured friendships with NICE women since our very first days with the mission. Those friendships have served as a source of encouragement, counsel and prayer support over the years."



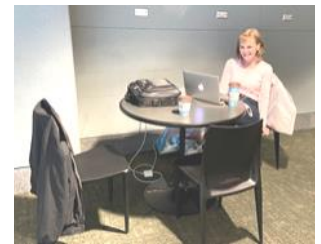
The Ministry Wives Fellowship meets twice a month via Zoom, and is made up of young NICE pastors' wives and some young Regional pastors' wives. Attendance varies depending on schedules, but as many as ten take part in the Fellowship. Katherine moderates the time together addressing topics such as parenting concerns, responsibilities in ministry, spiritual development and marriage.

Rebecca, one of the young wives said, "When I have been able to attend the Ministry Wives Fellowship, it has been refreshing and encouraging for me. We don't currently have any women's groups or Bible studies at our church, so it is nice to visit with a group of women in a similar state of life. Katherine brings a lot of understanding,

wisdom and encouragement from her time in ministry; I really value her perspective!"

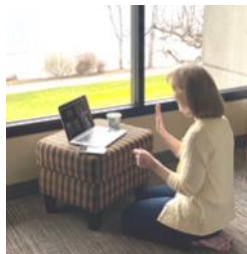
Another pastor's wife, Rachael, commented that she was encouraged to be her husband's supporter. She said, "The Ministry Wives Fellowship is a great opportunity to connect with other wives starting out in ministry, and to encourage and pray for one another. One of the gals said she always sits where her husband can see her smiling to encourage him while preaching. She also reminded me to pray for my husband when he can hear me doing it."

Kassie, also taking part in the Ministry Wives Fellowship stated, "It has been such an encouragement to be able to talk to other women about the unique things that we're dealing with as pastors' wives; and to realize that I'm not alone in many of the challenges I face."



Denver Airport lobby

Katherine commented, "It's been a delight to see these women reaching out to each other for support and encouragement on their own. Most recently, one who had just given birth following some pregnancy concerns touched base with another young wife who was in the middle of her own pregnancy."



Best Western, Hood River, OR

With the advent of Zoom technology, Katherine has been able to meet with the women even on the road. As long as she has her laptop, she is good to go; because ministry continues even when location changes! She has met with the Wives Fellowship in a hotel and even in an airport lobby! Her desire, as the rest of the NICE Leadership, is to meet the challenge found in I Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

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