



Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

SEPTEMBER 2022

It's NICE To Serve You!

Since its inception in 1958, the ladies who have served the Mission in the Home Office have all frequently heard the phrase **"It's NICE To Serve You."** Even though it's a "play on words," this catch-phrase has captured the attitude and work ethic of these vital Office Missionaries.

Their important ministry includes making certain that news of the Mission is current through the preparation and distribution of "The Intercessors Alert," the "NICE Focus," and missionary Prayer Letters. Judi Allen, the present Office Manager, remembers, *"I worked briefly part-time in the office when Dad (Roy Sprague) was the Director. I can still picture him sticking his head around the corner of the door and asking, 'Why are we here?' And the answer was: 'We're here to serve!' I've tried to keep that same attitude now. My goal is to handle things in the office in such a way that it gives the Director greater freedom to fulfill his job of oversight of the Mission's ministry."* Elvia Sprague served as Office Manager for 30 years. She recalled, *"I always looked forward to connecting with our missionaries when they called the Office. In those days, prior to Email or texting, this was the usual way of communication with the Director or other mission leaders. I'd often have opportunities to lend a listening ear, give a word of encouragement, or pray with the NICE Missionaries. I enjoyed that so much! I really felt a part of the team!"*

The first NICE Secretary was Margaret Boyd (1958 -1961), followed by Joanne Strunk (1962-1969). These women worked from their homes in those early years of NICE ministry, with much joy and enthusiasm! Shirley Brubaker, serving as Office



L to R:
Margaret Boyd;
Joanne Strunk;
Elvia Sprague,
Shirley Brubaker

Manager from 2000 to 2010, loved working with NICE missionary, Linda Ott: *"There were lots of laughs in the office to help make the load seem lighter!"* She went on, *"I also appreciated doing things for the missionaries, doing their prayer letters, answering questions, and praying for their needs."*



Current staff:
Judi Allen and Karen Faires

NICE serves its missionaries as well as any mission organization I know of.
- Lowell Wendt

The ministry of the NICE Financial Officer involves the receipting, recording and then disbursing of funds donated to the Mission or individual missionaries. Karen Faires, the present Financial Officer, said, *"I enjoy having a front-seat view of the ways God uses individuals and churches to meet needs of the mission and our missionaries."* Elvia Sprague remembered, *"Our Board President, Dr. Lowell Wendt, once made the comment that 'NICE serves its missionaries as well as any mission organization I know of.' In fact, in the 1980s, our first Director, Henry Boyd, would arrive for a visit, always unannounced and unscheduled. Regardless of what was on our plate for that day, we'd gladly put it aside and head to the kitchen for coffee, conversation and then prayer. Though our To Do List might be full, we viewed those times, not as an interruption, but as an opportunity to practice our motto "It's NICE To Serve You."*

God has honored this commitment of the NICE Office personnel, as they have carried out this important part of planting and serving missionaries and churches. It is indeed NICE to serve you! THANK YOU also, for your vital part of serving NICE!



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