

"rrrrring rrrring"
"Hello"
"hi Uncle"

NAIM

In my years of ministry in the First Nations community, if the phone rings and the person on the other end says, "hi Uncle" or "hi Grampa" then I am needed for anything from fixing a dryer to intervening in a crisis or someone has passed away. But that is our life here. That is what ministering and 'living' in community is. It is the very place where Christ wants us to be.

Kristy and I are blessed to be ministering among the same people group that we started in 33 years ago. We are now considered 'elders' among the Nuuchah Nulth people. That position comes with privilege and responsibilities and brings joy- like fresh sockeye salmon delivered to us; and heart ache like intervening in a crisis that has no happy ending for those involved.

The other day, visiting with an elder at her home I was struck by the awareness that this - these relationships are exactly why the Lord called us here, and why He has kept us here. I had come to replace her old door lock. Afterwards we sat over a coffee and talked about what the Lord was doing in our lives and in our community. I asked if we could pray about our concerns and she gladly agreed. It was beautiful. As I was driving home my heart was light and full. These relationships, these 'God moments'... this was exactly what the Lord has gifted me to do.

On the weekend when Kristy and I were out driving on logging roads I found some good stands of cedar and was able to harvest some bark for the elder that I had visited with. Each year I bring her a new supply of cedar for baskets she weaves for gifts and to sell. We were actually just given one of her beautiful creations - basket weaving around a large abalone shell - at a recent potlatch.

Our children are doing well. Our oldest daughter Anna and her husband Jesse have finished going through the lengthy process of qualifying to be adoptive parents. Because we are all Kyuquot band members, they qualify to adopt a First Nations child. This



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was one of those 'God moments' when we realized that because of our place and relationship in the community - Anna and Jesse are able to meet a need that is great. Their kids Eli and Vienna are very excited at the opportunity to have a younger brother or sister.

Brian, Ricci and Emma are all well. Emma is 5 and is becoming a wonderful little traditional dancer. At the family potlatch this fall, she did a wonderful job dancing and takes practices very seriously. She says that when she is older she wants to be a mask dancer like her Daddy. Beth is going to the local college and is enjoying working on her office administration certification. Jed is in daycare and loves 'going to school' and playing with the other kids. Kristy's parents are in a challenging phase of life and health and we are thankful that they live close so we are able to assist as needed. Life is full, but it is good.

We love the property that the Lord enabled us to live on. It has been a challenge balancing ministry, family, planting and construction but we are settling in and loving it. We are keeping a section of the property for family camping and hosting of events. Our Native family is thrilled, and so are we. The rest we are planting with berries. Right now we are the favourite place for most of the deer in our area. So we are looking forward to hunting season! Ha ha ha.

As the years go by, we are altered by life. In this community where we have been for so long, it is good to re evaluate what my role should be. As we think and pray through this, our support comes into play as well. There are so many supporters that have been so faithful and we are so thankful, but we are also losing financial support due to the age of many of our supporters. Our financial support needs to increase. We would appreciate your prayers as we step ahead.

In His Care,
Jim and Kristy

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