

THE ALSUMS

October 2025 Update

NAIM

Greetings!

Greetings from Gold River! From our family, we hope and pray you are doing well. As we transition from summer to Fall and start moving toward Thanksgiving, we are reminded of everything we have to be grateful for. Whether it be for celebrating six months in Gold River, our support team, or our mighty God from whom all blessings flow, we pause and give thanks.

In this letter, we share about our summer, our plans moving forward, and a financial update detailing our end of year support goal.

Chelsea — Ministry, Trips, and the Chaos of Summer

Friendly Cove: I (Chelsea) can't believe we haven't been able to give an update about Friendly Cove until this point. Thank you so much for all of your prayers surrounding this trip! So many times it looked like we wouldn't be able to get out there or that the whole trip might be canceled due to a tsunami warning, but God made a way.

It was an incredible opportunity for Jacob to reconnect with people he hasn't seen in years, and for me and the kids to make connections and gain some cultural understanding of the Mowachaht Muchalaht people. Friendly Cove is one of their historical lands. **While only one family lives out there now, many from the tribe consider it "home" and will spend anywhere from a week to most of the summer out there.** Because the main source of transportation (The MV Uchuck III) was broken, we had to rent a private boat on the way there and on the way home.

This ended up being the longest camping trip the kids had ever done!! It was seven days long. We are so proud of how well they did adapting to a new culture and being the minority. Judah got to fish with some of the boys and I learned how to gut and clean out a salmon. We all learned how to navigate some cultural challenges. We washed our hair and laundry in a nearby lake with other families camping, and met so many people.



Return Boat Ride from Friendly Cove

Speaking of washing laundry—while washing a sleeping bag in the nearby lake, I pulled a few of my vertebrae out of alignment. By the end of the trip, I was in an incredible amount of pain from the misalignment and inflammation. It was truly by the Lord's power I made it home. I am forever grateful for a friend from the reserve who gave me ibuprofen to take the edge off, and for Judah who held my hand and helped me walk down to the pier for our boat ride home.

The rented boat on the return trip was open and much, much smaller than our boat getting out had been. Each bump made me close my eyes as I tried not to cry out in pain. However, each time I closed my eyes, I pictured the younger two flying out of the boat. I wove my fingers

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Prayer Requests

- ♦ We thank God for helping us persevere and keeping us safe through the summer months.
- ♦ We pray for the families who have experienced loss in the community, that they might find eternal hope in Jesus Christ
- ♦ We continue to pray for Christian Fellowship Church, that it would be a light to the community of Gold River. Pray for the leadership as they seek a new pastor that the right candidate for the job will be found.
- ♦ Pray for our end of year financial goal, that the required shortfall for next year will be raised so we can focus our time and energy on ministry here.
- ♦ Pray that God guides our hands and feet as we move, talk, and plan in the community for Kingdom impact.

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into the straps of their life jackets and prayed the whole way back. All four kids sat like little soldiers the whole hour long ride back. Lucy and Caleb even fell asleep!!!!

NAIM Family Staff Conference: A few weeks after getting back from our final summer trip, we were able to go to NAIM's annual family staff conference. This year, it took place in Kelowna, BC. Jacob and I appreciated being able to connect with other staff members and receive some training and encouraging messages about the importance of Sabbath rest. The kids had a lot of fun being able to connect with other missionary kids. NAIM paid for all the kids to go on a field trip to a kangaroo farm which ended up being a major highlight of their summer.

Other News: I (Chelsea) got a chance to pop into a women's event at our Lynden church, via FaceTime, which was so much fun! Thank you, Lord, for technology!

Family Update: Once coming home from all our trips (and with my proper paperwork) we were able to get doctor, dentist and vision appointments set up for us and the kids. We also were able to get Lucy set up with speech therapy, which is a huge answer to prayer!

We began another year of homeschooling, which so far has been our sweetest year yet. It's been a comfort to have a familiar rhythm. I (Chelsea) started a small playgroup with other homeschooling families in Gold River. Including us, there are four families in the group so far. We are especially thankful for two little boys about Judah's age who come. We've been praying for good friends for him. He gets along quite well with both of them.

We celebrated our first Canadian Thanksgiving! Our church had a pie potluck after service which we all enjoyed. Later that day, we had our Thanksgiving dinner and were able to invite a single father and his young daughter over to join us for the meal. We are so thrilled they came! We also spent some time on the reserve on Thanksgiving day and had more pie!



Chelsea speaking at a Women's Event

Jacob — Ministry at CFC

Since I first came to Gold River 20 years ago, Christian Fellowship Church has been a big supporter of the work we have been involved with on the reserve. They have provided resources, encouragement, and even space for an office for me to work out of. We have been tremendously blessed by them!

In many ways our coming to Gold River was at an opportune time for the church. Last December they lost their pastor, which left a lot of gaps to be filled at the church. The whole church takes turns helping with various parts of the church service, helping with refreshments, and cleaning duties. In addition, mainly because all but one of the kids in the church are our own, we have taken on a bit of the responsibility with teaching Sunday School. Although our group is small now, we see value in getting that going so that we can invite other young families into the church.

One thing we identified as a deterrent to families was the Sunday School classrooms. Though fully functional, they had not been updated in decades. With approval, we did a light remodel, which involved removing old heating systems, everything from the walls, and then painting and adding new trim. We have completed one of the two rooms and hope to begin on the nursery in the next week or so. It has been fun serving the church in this practical way. **Please keep the church in your prayers as they search for a pastor and strive to be a light to the community.**

Chelsea — We are Learning: Understanding Loss in a New Culture

There is one family in particular on the reserve Jacob has been very close to for about twenty years. The head of that family—a beloved husband, father and grandfather to many, unexpectedly passed away from on-going health issues. His death truly had blindsided friends, family and medical staff. He had just moved from the ICU to the normal wing of the hospital the day before his passing.

Jacob was able to go to his prayer service and funeral. Their cultural practices do not allow children under the age of twelve be around anything to do with someone passing away, so the kids and I stayed home.

Both the prayer meeting and funeral were well attended, and surprisingly more Christian in nature than First Nations cultural. The wife of the man who passed asked Jacob and one other friend to stand with the family at the reception following the funeral. One of their sons spoke and introduced Jacob and the other man to the crowd. He said while Jacob and the other man were not blood relatives, they were adopted by them into their family and how they had the right to stand with them.

I couldn't help think of verses like Ephesians 2:19: *"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household."* **We pray that one day, they will stand before the Lord—loved, chosen, and adopted.** Please be praying for the family as they navigate this challenging time. Be praying for us as we seek to be a light and encouragement to this family, while also respecting their cultural practices surrounding death without affirming things that are misguided.

This is one of three deaths that have occurred in the community in the six months we've lived here.

Jacob – What's Next?

We get this question a lot! We made it through the chaos of summer which felt like one trip after another and have enjoyed settling into more of a routine this last month as the school year has gotten into full swing. Lately our time has been split between the church and the reserve.

At the church, we've remodeled one of the Sunday School rooms and have the nursery to do next. We're really trying to make sure the rooms look inviting and are a space that we can feel proud to invite people into. It's amazing what a fresh coat of paint and decluttering can do! We're also alternating teaching the Sunday School class, which at this point is our kids plus one other girl.



Sunday School Craft Time!

On the reserve, we have not gotten any programming going yet. We're continuing to build relationships, attend events, and living life with the people we encounter.

Although crisis can be deemed an event to avoid if possible, it has ended up being a great, unintentional tool that has given us opportunities to meet and connect with people that we otherwise would not. For example, our trip out to Friendly Cove that Chelsea wrote about previously. On one hand, that trip could be measured as a failure because it was hard, a lot of stress, and we really had little opportunity to even talk about

God or share any of the Bible stories we had prepared. But on the other hand, through all the coordinating, phone calls, and relying on the tribe in various ways, we had the opportunity to interact with people and respond with patience and kindness.

Another example of crisis, which Chelsea also mentioned, was the death in the community. We are close to this family, and I was requested to be involved in the various meetings and events that took place. Which, by the way, was a huge learning experience and I (Jacob) felt myself leaning on God constantly. But through this crisis, again, I had the opportunity to meet and connect with many people, share why we are in Gold River, pray, and be a light in the midst of darkness. I also learned areas I need to grow in personally to be better equipped to serve in the future.

In First Nations culture, relationship comes first. It needs to be established before a program can be started or the Gospel can be shared effectively. People need to know who you are, where you are from, and who you are connected to before they listen to what you have to say. Our goal for the time being is to continue to focus on relationship, and in the background exploring programs that we can utilize in the future.

Thanks again for your prayers and partnership. We are totally dependent on God for the work we are doing, and we are thankful that God is using you in this endeavor as well! Blessings, and until next time,

The Alsum Family in Gold River

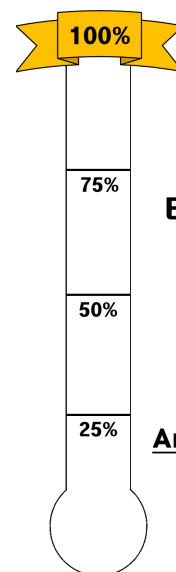


Financial Update: End of Year Financial Goal for 2026 Budget

Thank you for your financial partnership! We have been blessed with a very steady stream of support for the six months we have been on the field. Being fully supported means we can focus more of our time and energy on ministry, which is a great thing!

If you look at our support structure, about 90% of our support comes from monthly gifts, while about 10% comes from one-time, end of year donations. This 10% comes to about \$7250 USD/ \$10,150 CAD, or equivalent to about \$600 USD/ \$850 CAD Monthly. **Our goal is to raise \$7,250 USD before January 1st.** Donations can be in the form of one time gifts or new monthly donations. We will keep you updated over the coming months on our progress!

Matching Grant: As a reminder, NAIM currently has a grant program where they are offering to double all new donations up to \$1000/month. So, when you give a one time gift, start giving monthly, or increase your monthly giving, your gift automatically gets doubled! How great is that! We are thankful that NAIM has provided this opportunity and wants to support us in being fully funded.



Help us Reach our End of Year Goal!

Total Goal:
\$7250

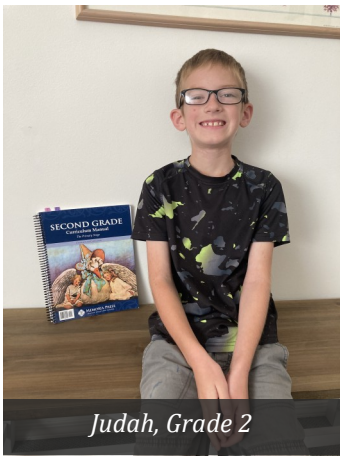
Amount Raised:
\$0 or 0%

Donations should be given directly to NAIM by mail or on the NAIM website at:

www.naim.ca/donation/jacob-chelsea-alsum/

NAIM staff and the ministries they represent are solely funded through and fully accountable to North America Indigenous Ministries

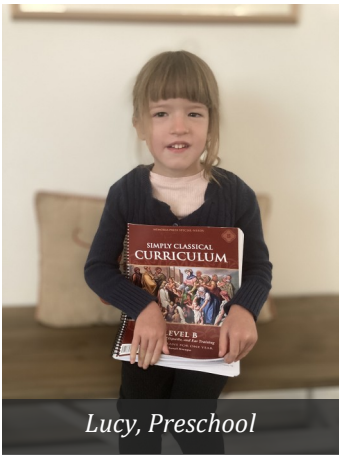
Kids Homeschool Pictures 2025 – 2026



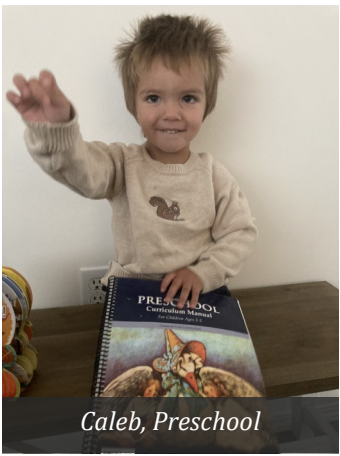
Judah, Grade 2



Emma, Kindergarten

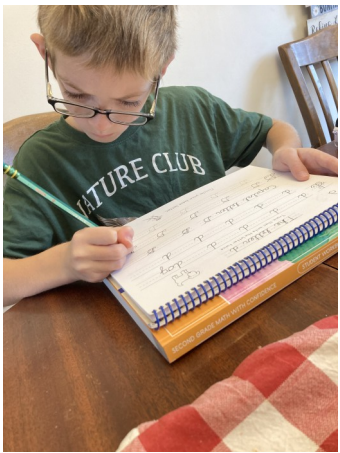


Lucy, Preschool



Caleb, Preschool

Life in Gold River



Camping at Friendly Cove



Fun at NAIM's Annual Family Staff Conference in Kelowna, BC

