

**ISAAC and DENE
EELES**
PO Box 6783
Wetaskiwin, AB
T9A 2G4

780-781-2785 Isaac
780-719-9002 Dene
eeles@naim.ca

NAIM OFFICE:
PO Box 499
Sumas, WA 98295

PO Box 220, Stn A
Abbotsford, BC V2T
6Z6

1-888-942-5468
office@naim.ca
www.naim.ca



May 2023

Dear Friend,

(Dene) This last little while has been so precious with our new addition of Owen. He weighed in at 9lbs 3oz, on March 18 at 1:19am. Isaac's birthday is March 17, and I was in labour the entire day for his birthday. I wished I could've given him a birthday buddy, but I guess Owen didn't want to share a birthday. It is with joy we have been fortunate with a baby with SO much hair again! He is just the sweetest, most observant little fellow. He's more settled and quiet now that he's been put on reflux medication. He's feeding well, and Otto loves him so much. He brings him rice crackers and his toys. He is very sweet to Owen and calls him "bah-bee". He took forever to learn how to say "mom" and "dad" and within a week of Owen's arrival he learned how to say baby. Compared to having Otto, my postpartum recovery has been incredibly easy. I felt well enough the day after having Owen to go to church on reserve. Isaac had lifted him up to show everyone in the congregation. It was like having Rafiki lifting Simba up in the Lion King movie! I have met with a few young adults in the last month since having Owen. I'm pretty tired these days with 2 under 2. I'm trying to take it a bit easier. That being said, we have still been able to go to life360 on Tuesdays and be with the youth. We bring Otto and Owen, and every youth just loves to hold and love them. Otto is getting fancy with his feet during worship time at life360. It has encouraged the youth to praise God in a fun way with him while worship proceeds. I also still go to girls group on Thursdays, and I bring Owen. I have discussions with some of the girls that also bring their babies there. It's been so neat to walk alongside them to encourage them as young parents, and to share in their struggles. God has been so good to me in this new chapter of beginning life with two children. We pray our boys will come up to know God, and be men of His love and truth.



(Isaac) As my wife has already stated, we had our second son, Owen. It is a transition and chaotic household with 2 under 2 and I can honestly say we are having some difficulties. I know it's difficult now but I really do look forward to when they are

old enough to play, learn and wrestle together. So if you have a moment to pray for our family I suppose this would be one topic to consider.

Apart from family life lately I helped facilitate a vet



clinic run by the Christian Veterinary Mission here in Maskwacis. It was plenty of fun but very busy. This clinic had a small animals group of vets which saw roughly 125 small animals and a large animals group which saw at least 70 horses over the two day period.

Apart from running back and forth to help the vets with settling in the church, I spent most of my time visiting and getting to know the rodeo people of Maskwacis. I heard stories of the glory days of the Panee Agriplex here in community. I also listened to stories of some of my wife's relatives which was a fun surprise. Now I know visiting and just getting to know people doesn't always sound like effective ministry, but I will tell you this, if we all did it, so many people would see the loving community that we have in Christ. To give you an example; there is a lady from community who helped schedule in the rodeo people's horses who last year she was just around and volunteered to help things run smoothly. This year she ran the horse scheduling while I ran the small animals. Now there was a horse who last year was skin and bones on its last legs. After the vets helped its condition, the horse improved and it was one very healthy 30 year old horse. This lady points this horse out to me and says: "This horse is a testament to what you guys are doing." She then proceeded to tell this story to many others coming and going throughout the day. These are the stories that will improve our relationships as people and help to get to the real heart of where reconciliation takes place, a heart reconciled with God. As a Christian I intend to respectfully earn the right to be heard, so that the Gospel can come across gracefully, passionately, and freely.



Trusting God,
Isaac and Dene

To support this ministry financially, checks should be made out to NAIM with **Project #403** in the memo line. Donations can also be made online at www.naim.ca/donate

Prayer requests:

- For our family adjusting to two under two
- For the young moms of Maskwacis and the difficulties they face
- For the young adults that find themselves in a tough transition from teen years to adulthood on reserve

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