

THE *ALSUMS*

NAIM Serving With First Nations To Reach All Nations



Hello!

We're Jacob and Chelsea Alsum and we're excited to begin serving with NAIM among the Mowachaht and Muchalaht First Nations. We have four children Judah (6), Emma (4), Lucy (3) and Caleb (1) and are currently living in Lynden, Washington, north of Seattle, near the border of Canada. We love being involved in our church, visiting with friends and our extended family, enjoying a good cup of coffee, and spending time in the outdoors as a family exploring the wonderful world that God created.

Our Story

Jacob grew up in a Christian home and accepted Christ at a young age. In 2004, he went on his first mission trip to Gold River, BC, Canada to work with Mowachaht Muchalaht First Nations/Native American kids. He was challenged in so many ways, but also fell

in love with the place and the people. After graduating high school in 2007, he attended Ecola Bible School for a one-year Bible certificate program. In 2008, he, along with a small group from his home church, partnered with North American Indigenous Ministries (NAIM) for a summer ministry program. It focused on building relationships in the community while also organizing children's programs. Afterwards, he went on to learn a trade and worked as a John Deere technician at a local dealership.

While he was successful in his field, in 2013, he felt a tug to return to Gold River. He partnered again with NAIM—this time, for a one-year internship. He continued to work with kids on the reserve and volunteered in his local church. He came away with a strong sense of calling to Gold River, along with two other convictions. First, he needed more formal Bible education if he was going to do ministry long term.



Jacob's First Mission Trip to Gold River in 2004

Second, he really wanted a wife and children to do ministry with.

In 2014, he enrolled in Ecola's second year program that was focused on Christian ministry. During Christmas break, he and a friend from church led a small group to Gold River for a week-long outreach opportunity. While the trip itself was last minute, and not many signed up to go, God still worked a miracle—Chelsea signed up to go and thought both Jacob and Gold River were awesome!

Jacob and Chelsea were married in 2016. While they were engaged, they began Moody Bible Institute's Distance Learning program. They finished their degrees in 2017 and 2021. After welcoming their second child in February 2020, they decided to take a leap of faith and begin working towards fulltime ministry in Gold River...only to have the world shut down six weeks later.

After adding two more to the crew, they are confident and expectant to see God work through them and can't wait to get to Gold River.

About Gold River and Tsaxana

The two communities we will be serving are the town of Gold River and the nearby reservation of Tsaxana. Gold River is an incorporated village nested in the mountains in the heart of Vancouver Island with nearby ocean access off the Muchalaht inlet. Historically, the town was built in the 1960s and served the timber industry until the late 1990s when the pulp mill, which the industry served, was shut down. Since then, the town has looked to other industries, such as fisheries and adventure tourism, to attract people to the area. Currently, approximately 1200 people live in Gold River including approximately 150 First Nations people. The town has about 600 houses, three churches of various denominations, a gas station, police station, fire station, library, recreation center, hardware store, several restaurants, and other small businesses.



The Gold River

The nearby reservation of Tsaxana is home for the majority of the Mowachaht Muchalaht people. Historically, the Muchalaht people lived inland along the Gold River leading to the Muchalaht inlet and were hunters and fisherman. The Mowachaht people had several villages along the coast and lived primarily off the sea. Both the Mowachaht and Muchalaht were relocated to one reservation next to the pulp mill when the village of Gold River was established. They were then relocated inland in the 1990s due to pollution created from the pulp mill to the current reservation of Tsaxana. In addition to approximately 60 houses, there's a recreation center, administration building, and a longhouse used for community gatherings. As of 2024, about 200 are currently living on the reserve.

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The Mowachaht Muchalaht First Nations people face a variety of obstacles that challenge disciple making. The biggest issues stem from the physical, emotional, and sexual abuse encountered by many in the historical Canadian residential school system. The goal of the schools was forced assimilation, stripping children of their native language and culture,

in the name of Catholic or Christian faith. It also kept children from their families and damaged their overall family unit. While the schools seem so far removed from today, the last one to close on Vancouver Island was in 1983. To cope with abuse, many turned to drugs and alcohol, which continued cycles of abuse to the next generation.

Building relationships and trust is vital before the Gospel can be shared and accepted.

Our Hopes for Future Ministry

When it comes to First Nations, building relationships and trust is vital before the Gospel can be shared and accepted. We aim to be involved in the community in whatever way we can. We hope to begin by doing ministry with children and youth, lead evangelistic Bible studies for adults, and work with mentoring young families. The end goal is a church of First Nations believers worshipping God in a way that is culturally relevant to them.

About NAIM

North America Indigenous Ministries (NAIM), is a missions organization that has specialized in making disciples among First Nations/ Native American Communities for the last 75 years in the United States and Canada. The members of NAIM are involved in about 40 different projects and comprise a multicultural team that serve in a variety of capacities all with the



Gold River is an incorporated village nestled in the mountains in the heart of Vancouver Island with nearby ocean access off the Muchalaht inlet. To drive there from the United States, it is a 30 minute drive from the Lynden border to the ferry terminal near Vancouver, BC. From there, it is a two hour ferry ride across to Nanaimo. Driving from Nanaimo, it is about a three hour drive up the island to Campbell River and then inland through the mountains to Gold River.

mission to “glorify God through building the Church by making disciples among North American Indigenous peoples, to reach the world for Christ.” The vision of NAIM is to be committed to the growth and maturity of the First Nations Church, resulting in vibrant ministry to its community and beyond. NAIM desires to see strong healthy First Nation/Native American believers connected to strong healthy local churches.

How To Support Us in Prayer

We would love for you to join us in prayer! Right now, there are several big things that we are

praying for. First, we are praying for individuals, churches, and even businesses to support our ministry with NAIM financially so that we can go and begin ministry among the Mowachaht Muchalaht People. Second, we



Mowachaht Muchalaht People in a Canoe Near Friendly Cove, BC



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Project #214



are praying over all the little details that come after we are fully supported and are getting ready to move. This includes immigration paperwork, moving details, and finding a place to live, which is highly competitive in Gold River. And third, we are praying for the communities of Gold River and Tsaxana that God will be preparing the hearts of the people for our arrival and that we would quickly find opportunities to get plugged in.

How To Support Us Financially

We would love to have you partner with us financially! We need to raise \$7525/month US to be fully funded. That covers our salary, ministry expenses, insurance, and retirement. NAIM staff and the ministries they represent are solely funded through and accountable to North America Indigenous Ministries. NAIM is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization and an accredited member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. Donations are given to NAIM and designated for specific projects. Gifts can be sent by mail to the office or set up online by visiting our project page at naim.ca/donate.



Sign up to give financially
naim.ca/donate

How To Stay Connected

We would love to add you to our contact list! We send out updates every one to three months either to your mailbox, or by email. For easy signup, feel free to use the QR code below, or you can also utilize our contact information and send us a note if that works better for you!



Sign up for our newsletter
<https://forms.office.com/r/uVGAXkB8f6>

Thank you so much, and we look forward to connecting with you!

HOW YOU CAN PRAY FOR US

- ♦ Pray for financial supporters to come alongside us and join in the work God is doing among the Mowachaht Muchalaht
- ♦ Pray for all the details associated with relocating and immigration
- ♦ Pray for our family as each member navigates the changes with moving
- ♦ Pray for open hearts and opportunities in the communities of Gold River and Tsaxana
- ♦ Pray for perseverance as we continue to support raise