

September 2023

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Summer camps are always fun and a lot of work. The kids do enjoy the experience if they are comfortable. However, if the weather is cool then it isn't uncommon to hear a phrase along the lines of "this is the last camp I am coming on." A phrase I'm sure I heard every day of the hike this week; yet at the end of it all every one of them said thank you for the trip.

We all need a chance to test ourselves, a chance to wrestle and overcome the lies that say, "this is impossible" or "I am too weak." There comes a time in us all where we want to know if we can reach the summit - if we are capable. This last week we focused on the story of Elijah. Where he was surrounded by many who hated him and wanted him killed. In his journey he ran into the dessert and hid under a bush and told God he just wanted to die. God understood him in that moment and provided for him, and an angel of the Lord told him "Get up and eat for the journey is too much for you." 1 Kings 19:7.

We want to know if we have what it takes to stand up even if being a Christian is unwelcome. Jesus knows we can't do it on our own. That's why we need him. Yet, like Elijah we have a responsibility to be faithful in the midst of adversity.





Being faithful requires an honest and humble relationship with God. A real relationship where we can tell God I don't think I can make it to the peak. A friendship with God who is with us the whole time speaking in His gentle voice telling us "Just one step at a time, you will make it. You can rest soon."

### Isaac

Over the summer I have been meeting with a few young adults and talking with them about where they're at in their walk with God. I had the privilege of also being invited to a high school graduation for one of them.

When I met with a young adult, she told me about her struggles with wanting to go to Bible school but not knowing where or how to start. This has been something that a few young adults on reserve have wanted to look into. Unfortunately, many reserves don't allow funding for schooling related to religious institutions.

I have had the idea that many young adults have the option of getting their taxes done which could help kickstart the process of getting a car/putting funds towards Bible school. I am in the process now of helping a few of them to get their taxes together.

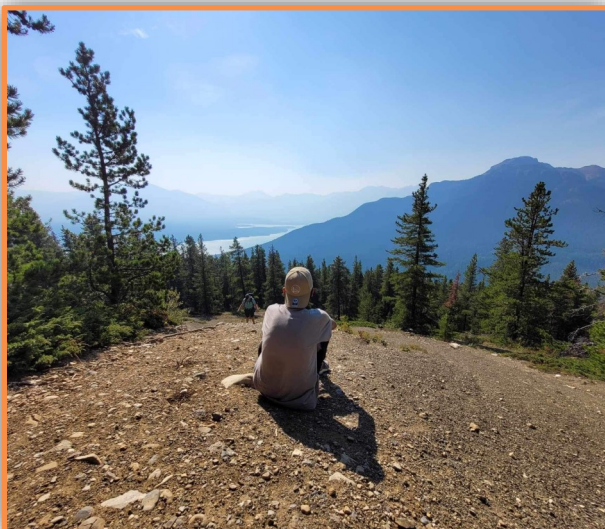
This month I am coordinating with people we serve with here in Maskwacis to do an info session on FASD. There is a well-known woman here in Maskwacis that facilitates sessions about it. I'm looking forward to our team here in Maskwacis, as well as with some other NAIM staff, and other members from different organizations to learn from a community member on this topic.

On a more personal note, my mom's ashes will be spread this month. This year has had so many moments I wish I could've shared with my mom. She was always a huge advocate for us as her children. More than that, I loved how she always pointed us to God and His faithfulness to provide and trust him. I've had to do that more this summer with Isaac going on camps and praying to find the patience, wisdom, and energy to manage our two little ones while he is away. I know this stage is busy in parenthood, I will miss it I'm sure.

We thank God for each one of you that pray and support our ministry in different ways. May His peace and love wash over each one of your lives as you go about your daily life.

### Dene

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