



" What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? " James 2:14 (NLT)



TAL AND CHRISTINA JAMES

JUNE 2014

News Update

Dear Friends,

Tal and Tim have two **survival camping trips** coming up, one this week with Grade 8 & 9 of the Stz'uminus Community School and one next week for the Grade 5-7 Penelakut students. These times are always excellent opportunities to deepen relationships and share Christ with students and staff alike. *Pray for those openings and that Tal and Tim can be used by Jesus to touch hearts, minds, and souls.*

For the **summer** Tal and Tim are again working together with the H'ulh-etun Health Society, offering healthy cultural perspectives and activities in two communities two days a week throughout the summer. H'ulh-etun is going to cover gas and ferry costs as well as food expenses, which greatly helps us out and is a great deal for them as they do not need to hire instructors. This will be on top of other summer activities and the guidance of the volunteers coming in from Indiana. We are very thankful for all the support we receive from many different directions and the openness that we encounter from the Indian Bands and First Nation organizations to share Christ. We are always very clear that while we do this because we want to give back some of what has been destroyed in the name of Christ we will also share about Jesus when the opportunity arises. We count it as a miracle that this openness exist after all that the First Nations have suffered by those calling themselves Christians. *Give thanks with us!*

About two months ago a friend asked me if our children ever have to deal with **prejudices** against them because they are First Nations. "Not really" I answered

spontaneously. "They don't look very First Nations, so most people don't know or think about them as being Aboriginal." And then I started thinking ...

Often it is exactly because they do not look it, that people make racist remarks in front of them. I remember Connor getting into a fight at school when he was 7 because another student made Corbin cry making derogatory comments. And the time Corbin came home mad about a teacher that insisted on having superior knowledge about First Nation traditions, even though it was incorrect. And those many comments that I do not want to repeat here. People often say demeaning and insulting things about First Nations front of the kids and me because they don't realize who we are and who our family is. And both kids confirmed how upsetting it is to hear these things said about their family, friends, and people.

And then there are some First Nations (not many) that don't fully accept them because they are only part First Nations, don't look it, and don't live on reserve.

So, yes I guess Corbin and Connor have to deal with prejudices. And I don't think anybody that is not part of a people group that has been consistently and for a very long time been the target of prejudices understands how deeply these general remarks hurt personally. *Please pray for our children that these experiences will help them to seek their strength and identity in Christ and for wisdom for Tal and I in how to teach them to deal with those experiences. In fact pray for us that we can deal with racism in a Christ-like manner – something especially I struggle with.*

In joyful news: Julia, one of the girls that committed to Christ back in 2011 lately shared how Jesus is always with her no matter what: *When I went to Him He changed my attitude, my life, and my heart! I feel a lot better when I pray to Him. He's always with me and now I don't feel completely alone, I am more confident then I was before!* While we do not see a lot of Julia, we sometimes spend time with some of her family members and a few of the volunteers are in touch with her, as well as some staff of the Bible Center on the neighboring island. *Pray with us, that Julia keeps seeking and trusting Jesus.* It is not easy to be a Christian teenager in this world in the first place, but it is especially hard for First Nation kids as they are often the only ones their age on their reserve. *Also please pray that Ronda, the girl that decided at the same time as Julia to trust Jesus finds her way back to Him.*

May you let Jesus lead your path everyday!

Huy'ch g'u Siem (Thanks to all of you! / I raise my hands to you!)

Tal and Christina with Corbin and Connor

P.S.:

Don't forget, you can check for new pictures, videos etc. at

<http://roots4naim.weebly.com/>

Password: **TEAM**

We also appreciate blogs or emails letting us know how you are and what you would be interested to hear about. After having been in ministry for such a long time we sometimes are a bit out of touch of what would be interesting for our team .

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