

“This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; He is my God, and I trust Him.” Psalm 91:2



TAL AND CHRISTINA JAMES

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News Update

Dear Friends,

In the middle of February Tal met with Chief and Council (C&C) to propose the implementation of a Drop in House on Penelakut. As mentioned before we (and you probably as well) have been praying about this step for a long time and were quite nervous in how C&C would receive “our” idea. Well, they were very enthusiastic and fully supportive, immediately grasping the purpose and need for such a place and starting to dream alongside with us.

These are the potential uses R.O.O.T.S. proposed and got support for:

- Safe place for hanging out, talking, crying, etc.
- Small group programs under our supervision (e.g. youth group)
- Allows for providing more regular and independent services from our side
- Ability to “seize the moment” (e.g. take youth out to learn fishing when they are around)
- Offer small workshops like drum making, etc.
- Allows us to be more present, taking turns with our colleagues to stay overnight and provide activities and a safe zone
- Not our house, but a place to serve the community better
- Construction would be largely based on skilled volunteer work and donations from within as well outside of Penelakut. In this we hope to potentially connect local Penelakut craftsmen with businesses elsewhere (future employment?)
- We are open and request the input, ideas and guidance of C&C and the community



C&C is aware and supportive of the fact that this would be a place providing peace in a physical as well as in a spiritual way. They all know that we are Christians and that R. O. O. T. S. is a Christian Program.

In order to understand the great need for such a place it helps to know that one of the main obstacles for any kind of community services on reserve is the lack of space. There are simply not enough facilities to run programs out of, which has been a challenge not only for our ministry, but for other services as well. For example it took me (Christina) the longest time to be able to offer a playgroup on Penelakut (as part of my job for Kw’umut Lelum) because there was no time slot or place available to do so.

Together with C&C we established the steps that have to be taken in order to make the dream of a Drop in House a reality:

1. Establish a possible location: Either renovating an existing place or building a new place, if possible with easy access to hook-up services. Direct access to the ocean would also be of great benefit.
2. Receive Letter of Endorsement for fundraising
3. Establish legalities and ways of fundraising (Grant Applications, Donations, etc.):
4. Find contractor volunteer to lead project
5. Find donors (materials & funds)
6. Find skilled volunteers from Penelakut as well as elsewhere

We are now, together with a council member, in the process of finding a suitable place on Penelakut, unfortunately a very complicated process, as we have to make sure no family is claiming or has the potential to claim the land or building (though there is no private property on reserve, there are traditional family use areas that should not be used by anyone else). The best would be if we could find a place on band land, however even then it can be challenging.

We are also waiting on a Letter of Endorsement from Chief and Council (“The white people have all the watches, the Indians have all the time” as a lot of our First Nations friends like to say... ☺) and are looking into the legalities.

As neither Tal nor I am trained to write grant proposals (often an unbelievably complicated process if done properly), we are also looking for a grant writer that would be willing to volunteer his/her services. Please let us know if you are able to help or know of someone.

Once the first 3 steps have been established we will have to start some serious fundraising — a daunting undertaking. However we know that with God’s help everything is possible. Please pray with us that Jesus opens doors and closes the ones He does not want us to go through. This project is definitely a venture of faith and we ask you to step alongside the Penelakut people, ourselves and many other believers to make it happen.

In other news:



- I love my job at Kw’umut Lelum and the fact that I can support different First Nations communities while deepening and establishing relationships with many First Nations caregivers, elders and children while learning more and more about the local culture and Hul’qumi’num language. I am in the funny position of having the most local cultural knowledge in our team of 3 ECE Workers as one colleague, though First Nations is not from this area and the other is neither (it is incredibly hard to find cultural ECE workers).
- In the summer we will have a ministry volunteer coming from Germany for 6 (or more) months. Micha is the oldest son of one of my best friends in Germany and we are very excited. We remember Micha being a newborn at our wedding ... But of course we have been in touch since and are looking forward to his input and building of connections.
- Tal has been spending more time hunting and fishing for the Penelakut community. A couple of weeks ago he caught a 30 pound halibut, his first ever ☺

He led me to a place of safety;
 He rescued me because
 He delights in me.

Psalm 18:19 (NLT)

Huy'ch q'u Siem

Thanks to all of you! / I raise my hands to you!

Tal and Christina

with Corbin and Connor

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