



## **My Testimony**

by Brody Naknakim

I grew up with two brothers from the Cape Mudge Band in the community of Campbell River, BC. In grade two, my mom switched me into the Christian School and then began my training in the Lord as a young child. I would say that it was not

until I was about 12 when I heard in chapel what it meant to have faith in the Lord, and I felt complete.

Until that point I had been wondering if I had to ask God over and over to forgive my sins to be saved. When I was 12 a pastor came to the chapel service at the Christian School. I don't remember his exact words but what I understood that day was that I could stand firm and have faith that Jesus Christ gives us life. Not only that but it only took once for me to accept Christ and start that personal relationship to grow spiritually, and that God would never leave me. God would lead me through difficult times but as I grew in my 20's my future began to be revealed.

Although alcoholism was all around me with those I knew and in my family, this was not the path for me. I was protected from all that by the grace of God. Things for me got interesting after I started on a path toward education after a 2-week traditional carved canoe journey.

I went to college in Nanaimo BC and started my journey in the teacher program. I was unexpectedly led to a native church in Nanaimo where I interned as their youth pastor. God continued to grow in me, giving me abilities for ministry such as leadership and worship. I transferred to UBC and that is where God led me to meet my wife Alison at worship practice at the native church in Vancouver.

Long story short we dated, got engaged and married in Prince Rupert in December 2007. Recently in September 2009 our son Josiah was born. After getting married the Lord led us to minister in the Campbell River Native Christian Fellowship in my hometown community. We continue to conduct services, using the Lekwala and Kwakwala language, as well as worship so that God can be glorified.

We have appreciated those who have been prayer warriors, and have supported us both financially and with good words of encouragement. Without God as our center we can be more than challenged. But with God as the guide and the promise keeper, He faithfully sustains us through many challenging times.

We have been blessed with many prayers, financial support and encouraging words over the years. We are encouraged as we see God work in the Native community of Campbell River and throughout Vancouver Island who together have many connections as relatives.

I will soon complete my BA of Education at UBC and I can now see how God can use hardships and any level of skills for His glory. Over the last few years we hear that many have prayed for a native minister to come to Campbell River, my home community. Although I did not picture that I would pursue Native ministry when I was young, God has given the abilities along with blessings such as a Godly wife and our baby son Josiah. I know God works mysteriously and has a lot of good things planned for our native people. I pray that God will continue to grow not only in me but my family. I have been encouraged in the middle of spiritual challenges over the years by passages such as Romans 8, for we are more than conquerors and nothing can separate us from God's love. Amen.

Gelikasla Gigumey Ump  
(Thank-you Chief Father)  
Umyakala ki  
(Glory to His name)

Brody, Alison, and Josiah Naknakim