

family potlatch

As our family group performed the traditional songs of prayer and praise to God, I realized that these songs and dances were now twenty years old! They were a life changing thing to create within the community when we began the ethnomusicology journey all those years ago. Helping people to create culturally meaningful songs to God. Many of these songs are requested and performed at cultural gatherings and have become an integral part of potlatch music up and down the coast.

Kristy and I are also thankful watching our grown up kids and their role in cultural events. Brian, Anna and Beth are some of the best mask dancers on the coast. Now their children are beginning to learn and perform as well. Brian and Ricci's little 5 year old Emma always says "I'm going to be a mask dancer just like daddy". This potlatch was important for our Nicolaye family in that a family member was placed in a hereditary chief's seat that belongs to the family.



in community

"Do you know anyone that can install a stove?", the message read. My First Nations Auntie needed to move into the basement of her daughter's home and wanted some way to cook her own meals. The vacancy rate here in Campbell River is less than 1% and she could not find a place to rent after she needed to move from her current home. I went to their place and we quickly realized that more than a stove was needed. So I juggled things around to free up my schedule and installed a small kitchen for her. She absolutely loves it! Elders who live here in town are often in need of support and assistance with many things, especially repairs. I am thankful to be able to meet some of these needs. Many of the key people who taught me so much and have been such a blessing in our lives are growing older and passing away. The time spent together is precious.

counseling

I am moved by the amount of people of all ages that are struggling with overt attacks and manifestations from our enemy, especially when some of the victims are children. It is so affirming and uplifting for them to see the power and authority of Christ applied in their lives, and for them to experience His healing power. We all need to be vigilant because we are in a spiritual battle!

dad's with strokes

Kristy's dad and my dad both had strokes on the same day this October. What a challenge for our families. For my dad it was his first one and he is rehabilitating fairly well, even able to do stairs. I was able to go out and visit for a week. It was wonderful to be with them. Kristy's dad's stroke was another in a fairly long line of strokes. His mobility has again been seriously affected. We are very thankful that in addition to family, they now have home care workers coming in to help two times a day which has been an enormous help. This has been a hard year for Kristy's parents. Her dad went into the hospital with a stroke/seizure last Christmas eve and has been in and out of the hospital numerous times since.

house details

Yes, there are lots and lots of bits that go into finishing up our little laundry and mud room addition. Its moving forward, albeit slowly. I'm in the insulation phase now, all of the outside was finished just before our mega rains started up. We are thankful though, and Kristy is thrilled to have a washer and dryer after a year of laundromats even if it's in an unfinished addition at this point! We love our little house. It's in a beautiful place and is definitely feeling like home now.

Jim and Kristy

*Thank You
CRBC, you are truly a blessing to us!*

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