

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Title: History Of Waaps Nagwaadm Church

In May of 1989 God spoke to Pastor Dan Starlund in the Sm'algyax language and told him to plant a church in Terrace and to Name it Wilps Nagwaad in the Gitksan dialect of Sm'algyax. After speaking the name, He then proceeded to tell Dan "Not Now". At this time Dan and Starlene were pastoring Kitwancool Pentecostal church. 18 months later they took the Pastorate at Haisla Pentecostal Assembly, and pastored there for nearly 7 years, and still God was silent About Wilps Nagwaad (Gitksan dialect). It was while they were pastoring in Haisla that Starlene and Dan were in a terrible car accident that took them out of ministry for 2 years. In August of 1999 the pastorate of Prince Rupert Native Revival Church came available. While pastoring there in May of 2002 during an alter prayer time at the national Conference of the PAOC Dan heard God clearly say "It is time." and he knew immediately what this meant. Upon returning home Dan made contact with Pastor Jim Barber of TPA, and cast the vision of Wilps Nagwaadm. Morris Mason, being a man who was fluent in the Tsimshian dialect, under the consultation of Mildred Roberts proposed that we would call this new church plant Waaps Nagwaadm (Tsimshian dialect) Over the next few months Dan began to build relationships with the Leadership of the Aboriginal outreach group from TPA. (Irene and Bob Starkie, Ed and Vesta Brown, Morris Mason, Danny and Jeanne Leighton, Ron and Bergitte Bartlet and others) over all there were 11 that had Membership at TPA that were willing to be a part of this new ministry. On Saturday April 12, 2003 the Starlund family moved to Terrace to their home in Jackpine. On Sunday April 13, 2003 they attended the morning service of TPA and at 2:00 PM they had the first service for the new church plant of Waaps Nagwaadm in the sanctuary of TPA. Pastor Barber gave them the office which is now the finance office with a separate line for their own Phone 250-615-3105. This is still Waaps Nagwaadm Church's Office number. The attendance increased as Dan & Starlene continued to direct ministry to the indigenous peoples of the region. In the Fall of 2004 Waaps Nagwaadm acquired a rental space, so they no longer had office space or used the sanctuary of TPA. In the Late Spring of 2005, Waaps Nagwaadm Church purchased the building on Walsh Avenue that they continue to meet in to this day. Waaps Nagwaadm is so thankful for the vision, support and partnership with such a great congregation as TPA.