

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP  
INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

Elizabeth J. Sandell

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March 26, 2011

Date: March 26, 2011

Interviewer: Elizabeth J. Sandell

Interviewee: Jimmy Andrews, Resident Assistant, Alaska Christian College, Soldotna, AK.

EJS: Please tell me about your family.

JA: Do you mean my family in Kenai, AK? Or my family in the village?

EJS: Let's start with your family in Kenai, AK.

JA: I live in Kenai with my wife, Sylvia, and our daughter, Janeva. We are Christian.

EJS: Please tell me about your family in the village.

JA: My family lives in the village. They are very cultural.

EJS: What does "very cultural" mean?

JA: They live in the old ways. They hunt and fish. They gather berries. They live off the land. My dad and brother are major hunters. They support 15 people. I miss them a lot.

EJS: What is the name of your village?

JA: Kwigillingok, Alaska.

EJS: How many berries do you gather each year?

JA: about 100 gallons.

EJS: Tell me about your spiritual family.

JA: When I was growing up. I had to go to church. Everyone in my family is Moravian. My wife's family is Baptist or Friends.

EJS: Please tell me about your culture.

JA: Each village is different. There is some alcohol and some drugs used in my village. The first main language is Yup'ik. We use English in school and we use Yup'ik in the family and in the community.

EJS: Please tell me how your family makes decisions.

JA: Elders decide everything. Now, for my family in Kenai, AK, it's me!

EJS: Who are the elders?

JA: The parents and grandparents.

EJS: How do you support the elders?

JA: Listening and helping them with stove oil and honeybuckets.

EJS: How did you decide to leave the village to go to college?

JA: My mother did not mind. My grandfather did not want me to leave. He wanted me to live in the traditional ways. So, I told my mother. My mother told my grandparents. About one month later, they were okay. They forgave me. I am the first in my family to leave the village to go to college.