

Timothy Sam of Arctic Village Draws Attention at his School

Timothy Sam of Arctic Village is making quite an impression at the Cook Christian Training School on Linden Lane in Tempe, Arizona.

A personable young man of 26 years of age, Timothy is the talk of the campus as he is the first Alaskan Indian to enroll in the school at Tempe.

"We are most happy that Timothy is with us," said Alonzo Spang, director of the school. "We are learning from him—about his homeland and environment. He is a very serious student, a fine Christian and a hard and dedicated worker. He has been out of school for nine years and is finding it a little difficult to re-adjust to school, but we have no doubts he will make a good re-adjustment."

An Athabascan Indian from the south edge of the remote Brooks Range near the northeast corner of Alaska, Timothy's first three days at the Cook School were rather difficult ones because of the impact of a severe change of climate.

He suffered headaches and a tendency to fall asleep easily. Due to the heat at Tempe, Timothy was permitted to attend class in a dampened T-shirt to help him stay cool and awake.

Timothy was asked why he came to the training school and he answered:

"I am trying to learn something about the Word of God. I want to be a minister to my people. I've always read my Bible and Cook School is the only place I know of where I get to read my Bible and gain knowledge and meaning about Christ. It gives me a chance to work with other Christians."

Timothy was born in Arctic Village with the current population of about 90 people. He is one of ten children and is currently a member of the Alaska National Guard.

An Episcopalian, Timothy became a lay reader in his village and in 1965, helped his local priest with various duties.

Homesick at first at Cook School, he has now made many friends among the students and the staff and this has helped him overcome much of the initial loneliness.