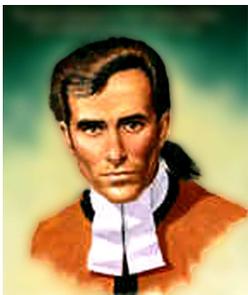


# "HEY KIDS, REMEMBER"



David Brainerd said, "NOTHING SEEMS TOO HARD FOR GOD TO PERFORM, NOTHING TOO GREAT FOR ME TO HOPE FROM HIM." Do you agree?

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**GREAT COMMISSION KIDS** aims to **nurture a love for missions** that will encourage children to be active in the Great Commission throughout their lives.

This **quarterly** publication is mailed **free** to individual children or adult leaders of children. To financially **contribute** to this project or for other matters, **Contact the editor** at: [elinor.young@worldteam.org](mailto:elinor.young@worldteam.org).

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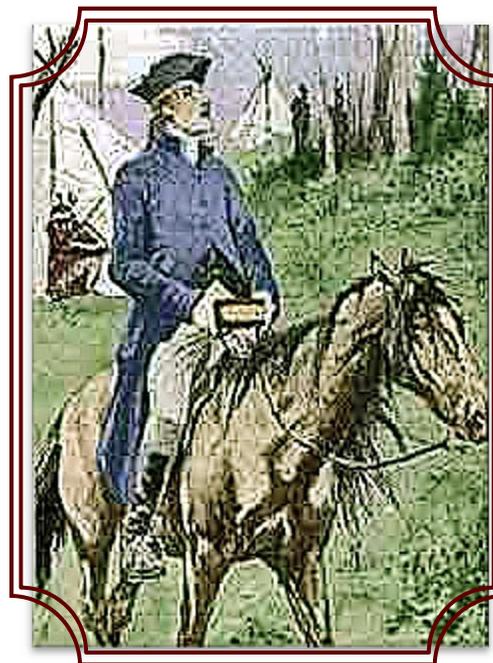
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Issue 44: **David Brainerd**

## David Brainerd

Short Life,  
Eternal  
impact



*Fear* pushed up inside the missionary as he walked along the banks of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania colony. It was early 1744, thirty-two years before the thirteen colonies joined and became the United States of America.

David knew he was the only white man for miles around and he was walking in Indian territory. Half an hour ago he had seen a distant Indian village. He knew stories about how the Indians had killed men like him. But here, in this spot, birds twittered and chirped in the treetops above him. Beavers flapped in and out of the waters. Small forest

# The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 and more

animals darted about. It was almost dusk. He dropped his pack to the ground and said to himself, "I will stay here for the night and visit the Indian village tomorrow."

David spread a blanket on the ground and got out his knife, his Bible and some food. As he ate he watched the sun turn red. It sank out of sight as David prayed. He thanked God for his safety so far, and

prayed for the Indians. David prayed a long time. He

knew he could trust God for whatever would happen the next day.

Before sunrise the next morning David entered the Indian village. His heart beat fast and sweat dotted his face. He thought, "How will the Indians react toward me? They did not know I was coming,"

The women looked at David and went on working. The children looked curiously at him and kept playing. The men made no move toward him.

They watched him calmly.

"Am I having a dream?" David asked himself. "Are they waiting for a signal to rush at me and kill me?" As he walked toward the chief's tee-pee style wigwam, David did not show how scared he was.

At last, the chief slowly raised his head and his hands in a friendly gesture. David let out his breath in relief.



That village was David's home for three years. First the Indians learned to trust him. Then he was able to begin to teach them Bible stories and the way of life God explains in the Bible.

But one question always puzzled David. "Why did the Indians accept me so easily? They killed many white people before. Why did they let me live?"

One day while he was hunting with a young man, David asked, "Why did you not treat me as an enemy

"All people are like the grass.  
And all their strength is like the flowers of the field.

The grass dies and the flowers fall.



But **The Word of the Lord** will live forever."

1 Peter 1:24-25 International Children's Bible.  
A quote from Isaiah 40:6-8

What do these verses say about David Brainerd's life?  
(Hint: Think about how weak his body was and how short his life was. Then think about the strong eternal Word of God that David taught the Indians.)  
Write your thoughts here:

"(God) who calls you is faithful, and he will do it."  
1 Thess. 5:24  
**Even someone with weakness can be an effective missionary. True or False?**

Like all of us, David Brainerd was strong in some ways and weak in other ways.

Draw a happy face beside the strong things that made him a good missionary. Draw a sad face beside the weak things that would make people think he couldn't be a missionary.



David Brainerd prayed a lot, both by himself and with other people.



He was often so deeply depressed he could hardly do anything.



He loved God with all his heart.



David was sick all the time.



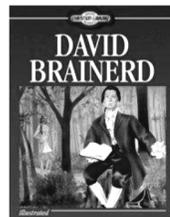
David relied on God to keep him safe in dangerous times, or to give him the joy of going to Heaven.



He kept going even when he was afraid.

### Learn still more.....

By Richard Hasler. Young Readers Christian Library. For 8 - 12 year olds. Each small page of text is faced by a nice black and white illustration. From \$0.01 at Amazon.com.



**David Brainerd: Missionary to the American Indians** - video, 56 minutes. Good coverage of his life and ministry. Parts are over the head of the younger ages, but interesting visually. Buy DVD or download at [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com)



when I first came to your village?"

The young man stopped walking then said softly, "The night before you came into our village, we saw you. We hid in the forest to jump out, capture and kill you. But first we watched what you did. You prayed to the Great Spirit. You closed your eyes. Only your lips moved. You did not see a big rattlesnake ready to strike you. We watched as it turned its head and for no reason glided away as you prayed. That is when we knew you were a friend because the Great Spirit is with you. We left and waited for you to come the next morning."

David was so surprised he couldn't speak for a moment. He thought, "God did something special that night. He watched over me, protected me from the rattlesnake and guided me to make the right move."

"Yes," David said to his friend, "How thankful I am that the Great Spirit is always with me."

\*\*\*\*

David Brainerd lived only a few more years after that.

During David Brainerd's life as a missionary, he

Story adapted in part from "Unfolding Miracle" by Margaret N. Freeman in the "Gospel Herald" and other publications.. Public Domain

traveled over 3,000 miles on horseback and often slept in cold, rainy woods.

Often David was weak from lack of food, and from spitting up blood from tuberculosis, a disease of the lungs. Sometimes he was so miserable that he wanted to die. Yet he knew God was with him.

Finally too sick to take care of himself, David was taken to the home of the famous preacher Jonathan Edwards. There David died at the age of 29.

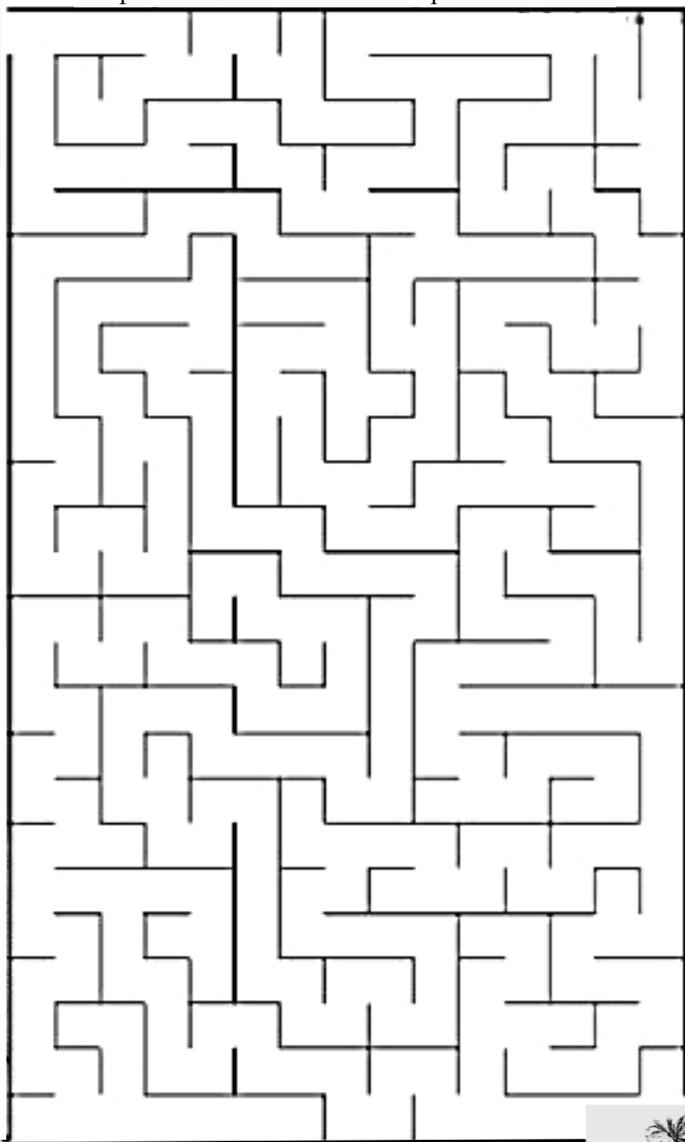
Jonathan Edwards wrote a book about David's life which has inspired more people to become missionaries than any other book. ■■■

"Work faithfully for God. Not to grow rich and great, but to glorify God, and do all the good you possibly can." — David Brainerd





Help David Brainerd find God's path for his life.



Provided by: TheTeachersCorner.net



**Use crayons or colored pencils (not markers) to color this picture of David Brainerd asking God to help him preach to the Indians.**



"I saw that I could do nothing, even in those affairs that I have sufficient natural faculties for, unless God should smile upon my attempt."

—A quote from David Brainerd