

Spring 2017

Greetings & Blessings Faithful Followers of MissionAccess.org!

As we Spring into Summer 2017 I am thankful for Faithful Followers like You who “Like” what we do and support us exceeding abundantly throughout the year. Since our incorporation as a 501-C-3 non-profit organization in October 2008 our Mission Statement has been and remains:



To create an accessible mission field through a network of local churches where Able-Bodied people work alongside people affected by Disabilities to Evangelize ALL people in a warm, welcoming environment of compassion, praise and service For the glory of God.

However our Vision is larger still as reflected in our Vision Statement:

Mission Accessible, Inc. is a Disability Ministry Magnifier/Multiplier that envisions a future where ministry to people and families affected by disability is an accepted, established and integral part of all churches small and large.

Figure 1 Image Source: BBT Archive

And we simply couldn't do that without the generosity of People Like You! ☺

This Season It's All About LEGACY

This Season I ponder the concept of Legacy and how best to honor and continue the efforts of the countless brave souls who have gone ahead of us to forge that kind of Legacy for People & Families Affected by Disability worldwide.

Speaking of Legacy...Meet David Brainerd

I truly believe it was NO accident that I came across a book The Hidden Smile of God that talks about a fascinating yet relatively obscure Christian missionary named David Brainerd who lived in pre-revolutionary Colonial America.

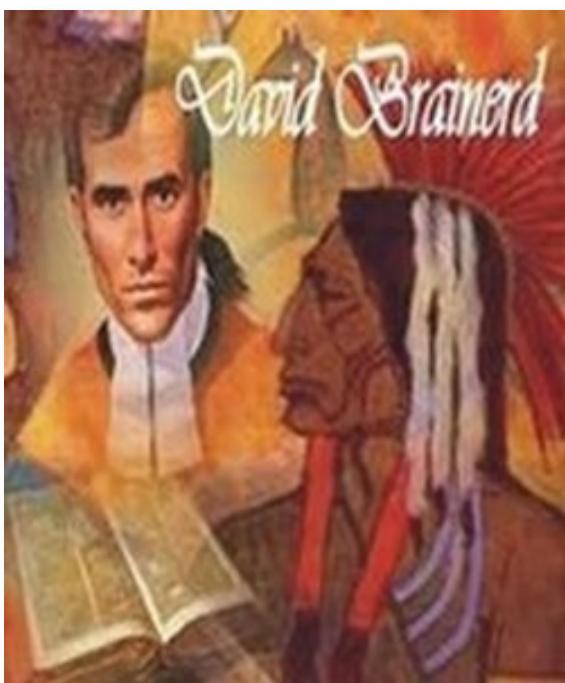


Figure 2 Image Source: goo.gl/kpIOub

Born April 20, 1718 the sixth child of Hezekiah and Dorothy Brainerd, David loses both parents before he turns 14. Now living with his sister, David becomes a Believer at age 21. He inherits a farm but feels called to attend Yale to become a minister. A careless comment concerning one of his professors gets him expelled from Yale without hope of reinstatement. Heartbroken yet determined to toil for the glory of God he becomes a missionary to the Delaware tribe of New Jersey in November 1742. Sadly David contracts TB and dies October 9, 1747 in the home of his mentor and

Great Awakening pastor Jonathan Edwards (whose 17-year old caregiver daughter Jerusha dies four months later). David was just 29 years old.

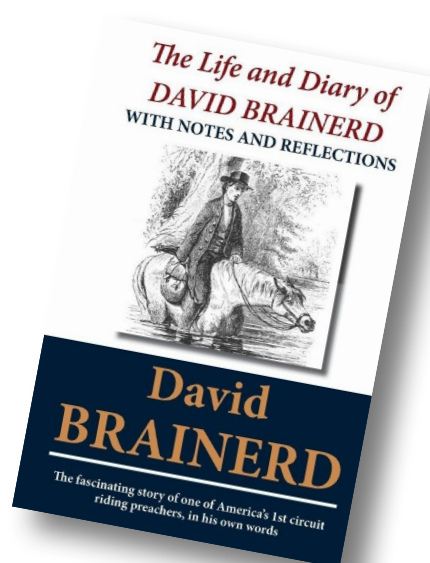


Figure 3 Image Source:
goo.gl/8fTyxw

Thankfully Edwards published David's personal diaries in 1749. In these timeless, priceless pages we discover someone who struggles with almost constant sickness, recurring depression and loneliness. Nevertheless he stayed true to his calling to the very end.

“Brainerd’s life is a vivid, powerful testimony to the truth that God can and does use weak, sick, discouraged, beat-down, lonely struggling saints who cry too Him day and night to accomplish amazing things for His Glory.”¹

So Why Should *You* Care?

How thrilled I was to discover how Our Awesome God used someone like David who despite his plethora of challenges and disabilities managed to change destinies forever! However today nearly half a century later, People & Families Affected by Disability remain one the largest, relatively untapped mission fields in the world.

¹ John Piper *The Hidden Smile of God* (Crossway Books 2001) Wheaton p.132

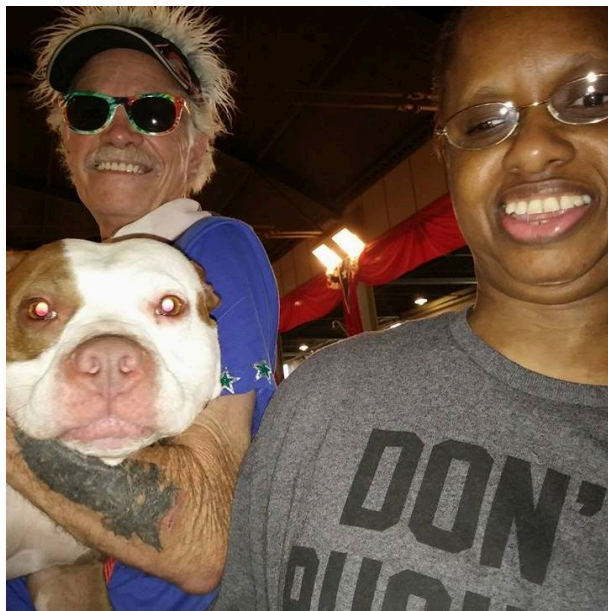


Figure 4 Image Source: BBT Archive

According to the US Census Bureau, 1 out of every 5 people is considered disabled. And 8 out of 10 of those good people do not have a Relationship with a local church.

Yet only 1 out of 10 churches nationwide make any effort to reach them.

But didn't the government solve that with the Americans with Disabilities Act?

HARDLY. In fact, 25 years after the ADA, People & Families Affected by Disability are significantly less likely to go to church. And far more likely to NEVER go to church. Why not?

Because “in most cases religious entities are exempt from ADA requirements.”

Which means that though newer churches built after the ADA was passed in 1990 are required by law to be accessible to all people, sadly it still leaves the majority of churches built before 1990 nationwide largely inaccessible to People Like Me.



Figure 5 Image Source: BBT Archive

Together Let's Forge A NEW Legacy!

Beloved (aka my husband Larry and I are humbled to serve at our Home Church: Bartimaeus Baptist Temple (www.BBTemple.org). Nowhere has the importance of Legacy been made clearer to us than here! I truly believe that we were led right to the front door after my graduation from DTS in 2007.

Hard to believe but 2008 will be a Diamond Jubilee year for BBTemple!

How Blessed we are to celebrate 60 years in ministry with our BBT Fam &

Friends! And what an incredible Opportunity to continue to work alongside them to help Transform Disability Ministry worldwide.

Your Generosity Helps Us Leave A Legacy in 2017...& Beyond!

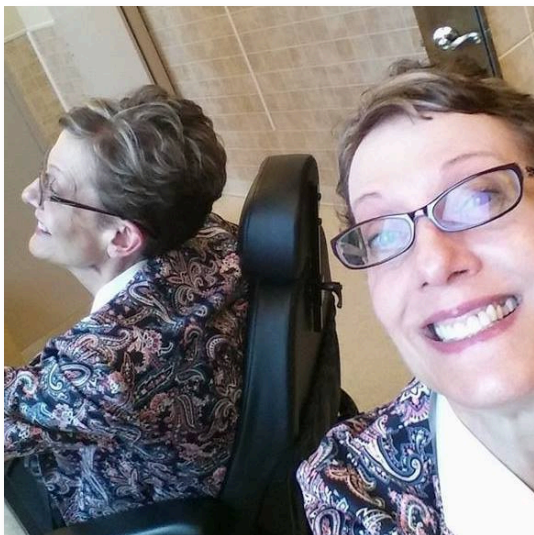


Figure 6 Image Source: BBT Archive

Making a safe, secure donation to Mission Accessible is a quick and easy three-step process:

- ▶ **Step #1: Simply Go To The New & Improved: www.MissionAccess.org**
- ▶ **Step #2: Click On The *Support Our Mission* Tab & Click *PayPal Donate***
- ▶ **Step #3: Use Your Credit Card to Make a Secure Donation ASAP**

High-tech not your style? No problem! Please send your check or money order payable to "Mission Accessible, Inc." to:

**Mission Accessible, Inc.
ATTN: Leave A Legacy Spring 2017
2004 Custer Parkway
Richardson, TX 75080**

God Bless You For Your Generosity! Blessed To Have You On Board! 😊

In His Accessible Grace,

Linda Thacker
Executive Director

We Are A 501-c-3 Non-Profit Organization