



# People of Faith

## The Power of the Written Word

Many people dream of writing the great American novel, but few would ever dream that their personal diary would become one of the greatest and most powerful things they would ever write. During David Brainerd's early years he suffered great loss. Both his father and mother died before he was 15 and many were not surprised that he was inclined to be melancholy. Farming, reading the

Bible, and praying occupied most of his childhood. After being offered two pastorates he chose his own path, one that led him to preach the Gospel to the American Indians.

Unable to speak the native language did not deter Brainerd, he was committed to believing in the power of prayer and chronicled his experiences in a personal diary. Whole days were spent in prayer for the Indians.

Petitioning God to send the Holy Ghost upon him so that the Indians would not be able to refuse the Gospel message.

He remained open to using what God provided to reach the Indians, including a drunken interpreter. Scores were converted through that sermon. He died at an early age after being plagued by ill health brought on by the hardships of his primitive living conditions. After his death, William Carey read his diary and went to India. Robert McCheyne read it and went to the Jews. Henry Martyn read it and went to India. Though it was not written for publication, his diary influenced hundreds to yearn for the deeper life of prayer and communion with God, and also moved scores of men to surrender for missionary work.



If you could go anywhere in the world to be a missionary where would you go and why?



What books have you read that has had an impact on your Christian life?