THE Watchword

"On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen;
All day and night they will never keep silent
You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves,
And give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth."

Isaiah 62:6-7

VII

The purpose of this newsletter is to encourage prayer and passion for a true revival of apostolic Christianity.

The following material is offered in the hopes of provoking zeal and providing a vision of what the church could be if we would fervently pray.

PRAYER MAKES HISTORY

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." (Deut. 6:5)

By the grace of God, David Brainerd obeyed this first and great commandment. He prayed with sacrificial passion, pursued perfect holiness and called sinners to repentance; all because he fervently loved the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brainerd's diary states, "Thirsting desires and longings possessed my soul after perfect holiness. God was so precious to my soul that the world with all its enjoyments appeared vile. I had no more value for the favor of men then for pebbles."

For the sake of Christ, Brainerd embraced a life of self-denial and sacrifice. He spent as much as twenty hours a week on horseback. His diet consisted of hasty pudding, boiled corn, bread baked in the ashes, and sometimes a little meat and butter. His home was a small log room complete with a heap of straw laid upon boards for a bed.

David Brainerd consistently and fervently interceded for the lost souls of the American Indians. Often he would travail with such earnestness that when he rose from his knees he could hardly walk straight.

Like the persistent widow in Luke 18, David Brainerd's prayers were finally answered. Entire camps of Indians were converted by the power of God as he proclaimed a message of repentance and grace.

"Old men and women who had been drunken wretches for years, and little children not more than six or seven years of age appeared in distress for their souls. There was almost universal praying and crying for mercy. Many could neither go nor stand."

Immediately Brainerd saw a remarkable change in the lives of the Indians. "I know of no assembly of Christians where there seems to be so much of the presence of God, where brotherly love so much prevails..."

David Brainerd poured a lifetime of holy passion, prayer and preaching into four short years. He ministered from 1743-1747, dying of tuberculosis at the age of 29.

PRINCIPLES OF REVIVAL

"Strange though it may seem, there are distinct similarities between the ways of God in revival and in judgement. Throughout the prophets the thought of a divine visitation is used to describe blessing and revival on the one hand (Jer. 27:22) and a season of judgement on the other (Jer 50:31). Likewise the rain could picture a time of spiritual revival (Ezek 34:26) or of judgement (Gen 6:17). Another figure used of the operation of the Spirit in revival is fire from heaven (I Kings 18:38; Acts 2:3), but it is also typical of the judgement of God (2Kings 1:10)...There is an element of judgement in every revival. But it is also true that judgement is the alternative to revival. The purifying and quickening of the people of God are a moral and spiritual necessity. Because of His very nature, God cannot and will not permit spiritual decline to continue unchecked. He is ever halting and reversing the trend of the times by means of revival - or judgement. Where His people are not prepared for the one, they shut themselves up to the other."

Arthur Wallis - In the Day of Thy Power
Christian Literature Crusade

BOOKS WORTH READING

The Life and Diary of David Brainerd
Edited by Jonathan Edwards
'an intimate look at Brainerd's pursuit of holiness, devotion and revival.'
Baker Book House

Flame of God
Gilbert Egerton
'an excellent introduction to the principles & history of revivals.'
Schmul Publishing Co.

A TIME TO PRAY

Mon-Fri 6 am auditorium
Sat 8 am basement
Sun 8 am auditorium